Minutes of Branch Meeting on 7/11/2023

The meeting was called to order by President, Jeri Rhodes. Dian Belanger moved to suspend the branch bylaws due to the lack of notice in the branch newsletter regarding the slate of candidates for 2023-24. The motion passed.

The proposed officers for 2023-24 are the following:

Co-Presidents- Dian Belanger and Maritsa George

Co – Vice Presidents - Anita Rosen and Bobbe Mintz

Co-Treasurers – Ella Iams and Joyce Graf

Membership – Ruth Spivack

Secretary – none

The officers were elected and Jerri Rhodes formally installed them.

Other branch leadership includes Marjorie Sullivan, Newsletter Editor and Janet Crampton, Montgomery College Liaison.

Dian Belanger stated that her goals for the coming year were to grow the branch and “to make herself dispensable”.

Following the election and installation of officers, Anita and Bobbe held a brainstorming session for program suggestions for the year. The suggestions include looking at programs sponsored by the Montgomery County Commission on Woman; working with existing programs at Montgomery College and or introducing students at Montgomery College to the AAUW Start Smart program which trains students to negotiate for better pay and working conditions; speakers on current events; a docent tour at the American History Museum, possible the exhibit of 100 items of pop culture or an exhibition on Latino immigration to the U.S.; the Equal Rights Amendment which is being highlighted by Maryland state and National; something involving “get out the vote; the underground railroad; the Sandy Spring Slave Museum; an interest group that goes to Montgomery County historical sites – possibly combined with lunch; and a look at NASA by a new member, Yvonne Simms.

Marsha Luce updated her attempt to start a project involving local women prisoners or newly released prisoners. This project does not appear to be a good match for the branch which wants to do more than giving money. A motion was made and approved to not continue with a prison project at this time.

A suggestion was made to have a “good and welfare” program or committee.

Ruth Spivack

Ad Hoc Secretary