

The February meeting of AWIS-Chicago area chapter at Heather Behanna's home was called to order at 2PM on Feb. 18th, 2007. The following individuals were present at the meeting: Heather Behanna (President), Silvia Novelli (VP Public Relations), Beth Schubert (VP Membership), Joy Ramos (VP Service).

The next meeting will be held on Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in Evanston with the restaurant location TBD.

The first order of business was looking over the financial statements of AWIS-Chicago. It was decided that the funds in the money market account will be transferred to a high-yield savings account at Chase. This account will be linked to the checking account that Heather and Silvia had previously set-up at Chase so that transferring funds will be easier and not incur a penalty with every withdrawal.

Next, Heather discussed possible points she would address during the upcoming ACS meeting where AWIS will co-sponsor the WCC (Women Chemists Committee) Open Meeting and Celebration of 80 Years of Women in Science. It will be held in the Columbus EF room in the Hyatt Regency in Chicago on Mar. 24<sup>th</sup> at 5PM. Registration for the ACS meeting is not required but one must still register for the WCC to attend it (e-mail [wcc@acs.org](mailto:wcc@acs.org) by Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>). Heather spoke with Holly and found out about a recent study done by the National Academies on women's role in science. She commented that most of the findings from this study were already covered in a previous AWIS study done in 1998 (?). Heather hopes that through this panel discussion, collaboration between different groups within Chicago would enable implementation of the recommendations proposed in the NAS report. In addition, old AWIS-Chicago files turned over to Heather yielded a wonderful record of previous activities and mission statements dating as far back as 1979. Using these as inspiration, AWIS-Chicago's mission statement was loosely stated as follows: "to work with local and national groups to break down barriers to promote advancement of women in science; to enforce standards of equity as recommended in the NAS report; to cultivate communication and relationships between academia and non-academia". WCC is depending on the participating groups to advertise the event so flyers have been e-mailed on the listserve and will be posted in the different institutions that the members are part of.

Next, it was decided that another activity that can combine both networking and meeting more advanced peers would be a quarterly dinner featuring a leading woman scientist as guest speaker. The first such dinner will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup> (Mon). It was noted that the meeting held in Greektown in early 2006 was well-received and that this format or location can be repeated in the future. It was also suggested that the first dinner/meeting would be a good time to introduce an AWIS Distinguished Service Award. Holly Falk-Krzesinski as the first awardee was highly recommended by Heather and Joy due to the amazing support that Holly has given AWIS recently, through her input, feedback and time spent discussing issues and ideas. A call for nominations for this award will be advertised via the listserve and the newsletter, too.

The next order of business was planning the AWIS-Chicago newsletter which will hopefully be sent out on the listserve by Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. Beth showed a great template she created that featured announcements for future activities (Shamrock shuffle, Book Club, etc.). It was decided that a letter from Heather would grace the front page. Joy will put together a description of past and future service events. Position descriptions will also be included to encourage members to run for office during the June elections. New positions were created, based on existing needs. Heather will write a description of her current position as President. The following VP positions were finalized and the descriptions will be written accordingly: Programming, Membership, Sponsorship, Finance, Newsletter Editor (all written up by Beth), Service (Joy), Communications – which would involve website management and advertising (Silvia). The descriptions will be e-mailed to Beth by the end of next week (Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>). Beth will also create a poster from the newsletter which will be displayed at the WCC meeting on Mar. 24<sup>th</sup>. It can also be used, if desired, for the exhibit area in Argonne Lab's "In search of careers for women in science" event on Mar. 8<sup>th</sup>. (Joy is still waiting to hear back from Argonne on poster size specifications.)

Aside from sending out the newsletter electronically, postcards will be created by Beth that will have info about the upcoming ACS meeting, book club, dinner/speaker series and elections in June. Labeling/addressing these postcards will be done by the group at the next meeting in March.

The next topic discussed was the upcoming book club, featuring Ellen Daniels' "Every Other Thursday". Heather is currently working on putting together an online group at MSN. To log in to the MSN group she created, use [awischicago@yahoo.com](mailto:awischicago@yahoo.com) and "awis-womencan" as the password.

For the next meeting on Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>, the agenda would include ideas for the featured speaker for the quarterly dinner meetings, locations for the book club, and questions to put on the MSN groups site to start discussion. Heather will also try to get in touch with Victoria Medvec (from Kellogg) for ideas on whom to invite as possible speakers in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30PM.