



The September AWIS-Chicago meeting was called to order at 6:50 pm on Sept. 11. The following officers were present: Heather Behanna (President), Silvia Novelli (VP Public Relations), Joy Ramos (VP Service), Sandy Pearce, Annette Gilchrist (VP Communications), Katie Buchanan (VP Finance). The next meeting will be October 16<sup>th</sup> and Silvia will host (given that Katie will be gone).

The first order of business involved the departure of two people from the Board – Annette Gilchrist and Katie Buchanan are both moving, to Wisconsin and Washington respectively. We discussed the need to find replacements as quickly as possible. Suggestions included advertising for people interested in the positions on the AWIS-Chicago website. Katie and Annette will each write a brief description of their position and duties for Silvia to post to identify people willing to take over the VP Communications and VP Finance roles. In addition, we decided to ask for women willing to help with each position to form working committees. This will be done by advertising on the website. Each officer is to write 3-4 sentences on their goals for the next year, and the proposed responsibilities of the committee members, and is asked to send to Silvia by next Monday.

As the next order of business we discussed sponsorship. Theresa has asked that a general sponsorship letter be drafted. Katie is working to finish this before she leaves office. Suggestions for targeting the letter included industry players in the Chicago area including Abbott, Decode, Argonne, and Baxter, as well as in neighboring states such as Covance, Lilly, Promega, and Invitrogen. It was also suggested that vendors such as Fisher, VWR, Thermo, Qiagen, Zeiss, etc be included in the mailing. The industry and individual sponsorship levels were then discussed, as well as what the money would “buy” ie the length of time for a link on website, tickets to an event, a year’s honorary membership, etc. It was noted that the American Chemical Society (ACS) meeting will be in Chicago in the spring and that a number of prominent women will be attending. It was suggested that someone contact ACS directly and see if they would consider sponsoring some kind of mixer or luncheon for AWIS members.

We noted there have been some delays with getting the first event launched. An alternative suggestion was made to have a wine tasting, and to get a sponsor so that the event would be free to those attending as a way to boost membership. We would write up of the event and thank those who sponsored us – Annette said she was willing to donate \$100 for the event. Heather said she would work on the wine tasting first event this week with a goal of having the event in October.

One of the hot topics for the evening was the still ineffective listserve that is currently being hosted at the Univ. Chicago. Annette is going to see if moving the website to a new server might allow for us to maintain our own listserve. Suggestions for resolution to this continuing problem are actively being sought.

Joy presented an update on the upcoming science week. Several AWIS and non-AWIS people had contacted her about being willing to talk on the various topics. Joy is currently working on a poster that Silvia can post to the AWIS-Chicago website.

Annette noted that the meeting in Nov. had been set (6:30 – 7:30 pm, Monday, Nov.6<sup>th</sup>). The topic to be covered is Entrepreneurship – there will be 4 people on the panel. We will begin with a 10 minute presentation from each panelist which will include the steps to starting a company, why one might chose to go work for a startup company, what are some specific challenges to working for a startup, etc. After the speakers have all presented, we will open up the floor for Q and A. Snacks and soda will be served post the meeting to give people the opportunity to network. The Nov. board meeting will follow the meeting (Joy is hosting). Suggestions for the meeting were (1) to be sure and advertise as much as possible before the meeting, hanging signs at local coffee shops, as well as elevators at NU, UIC, etc and (2) to take pictures at the event so they can be posted to the website. We decided the cost for the event would be Free to students with ID or AWIS members, and \$10 for non-AWIS members. We will try and pre-register people using the website, although all cash will need to be collected at the door. The meeting will be at 1801 Maple in Evanston, and Beth was nominated to man the front table (as she could check AWIS membership status), and Joy offered to help with Check In.

Some suggestions for upcoming meetings included checking to see if NU or UIC would donate football/basketball tickets and we could use the tickets for an auction to raise money – or host a tailgate party. This idea lead to further discussion of a silent auction as a means to raise money for the chapter. As a way to help introduce AWIS it was suggested we might hold a competition for a new logo or slogan in the spring. The sponsorship of a SWE event in about 6 weeks was discussed. The workshop is on feeling like you succeeded by accident, the sponsorship by AWIS-Chicago will provide us with a means to reach potential new members, and seemed to meet with a favorable response.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.