

**BRANCH MEETING MINUTES
AAUW BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD
JANUARY 13, 2011**

The meeting was called to order and led by Co-President, Bette Bude, at 9:30 AM. The AAUW Mission was recited by all.

The January Hostesses, led by Joan Hewitt, were acknowledged and thanked.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS

Quorum: There is a quorum present at this meeting.

Minutes: The minutes from the November Branch Meeting and the November Board Meeting have been read, approved, and are available from Secretary, Judy Stagoski. They are posted on the website under "Meeting Reports."

Treasurer's Report: Carol Thomas, Treasurer, reviewed the December Asset Report. The ending balance is **\$23,392.30**. Members are encouraged to make use of Schnuck's escrips. See Susan Haynes to obtain cards.

Membership: Yvonne Morrison reported that the current membership number is **248 members**. Two guests were present and acknowledged. It was announced later in the meeting that these ladies are becoming members which brings our total membership number to **250**

Members were reminded to take any available opportunity to participate in the "Give-a-Grad-a-Gift" Program. New college graduates can receive a free membership.

The New Members Coffee will be held on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at 1:30. Additional information will be included in the March Newsletter.

Directory: Dodie Barnes stated that the changes for the March Directory Supplement are due by February 10, 2011. Member photos will be taken at the February Branch meeting OR email photos to Joyce Katz or to Dodie Barnes. Retakes will appear only in the September Directory.

New members were reminded to pick up their Directories, and all members were encouraged to support the advertisers as their ads provide significant help in defraying the cost of the Directory publication.

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AAUW PRIORITIES

Educational Opportunities Fund: Jan Horner spoke about the fact that Dollars for Scholars funds go to local scholarship for women who are enrolled as “non-traditional” students. She introduced [two of the local scholarship recipients](#): Melanie Cole and Kathleen Wessel. Ms. Cole has completed her Bachelor’s Degree in English at UMSL and will begin her pursuit of her MS with the beginning of the spring semester which is next week. Ms. Wessel is pursuing a degree in Music Therapy. Her (Bachelor’s) course work will be completed in May, 2011 followed by an internship. She will then be certified as a Music Therapist.

Both of these ladies spoke briefly to the group. Each gave an update as to her progress. Both thanked Ballwin-Chesterfield AAUW members for the scholarships and said that receiving them was a great financial help.

Dollars for Scholars: Judy Green reported that the Branch will hold a Dollars Book Sale at the February Branch meeting. Members are encouraged to donate books. The list of the new Dollars Events was distributed and is included with the minutes.

Legal Advocacy Fund: Barbara Butchart addressed the group about the LAF fundraiser, attending the presentation of *Beehive* at the Rep on April 6, 2011. Detailed information can be found in the Newsletter.

Public Policy: Terri Miller spoke about an upcoming “webinar” on January 20, 2011. Everyone should have received an email from National regarding this event. Register on line, and one will be given a confirmation number to be used when she phones in. The event will begin at 7:00 PM that evening, and a large number of participants is hoped for...Nationwide. The purpose is to inform women how to make a difference with their legislators. Participants will receive a large amount of valuable information as to how to make their “voices heard”.

Terri then spoke about our member, Sandy Camillo, who is running for the position of Director-at-Large. (There are ten people running for [the ten](#) Director-at-Large positions, [so far](#). Terri urged all members to exercise their right to “one vote” and get behind Sandy. Paper ballots will come out on April 15, 2011. Electronic ballots will come out May 1, 2011. There is a deadline on both types of ballots as to when they must be submitted.

Sandy Camillo spoke about the Forum to be held on February 1, 2011, 7:00 PM, at Trinity Lutheran in the Parish Center. Members are encouraged to bring their daughters and granddaughters. This Forum is an opportunity for them to hear and learn what rights they have, as women, under Title IX. There is no cost to attend.

Bette concluded this segment by informing the members exactly “how” to become better

informed about Sandy and her positions on issues through accessing our B-C Website.

BRANCH PRIORITIES

International Relations: In Marian Bauer's absence, Bette highlighted the next International Relations lecture, "China: Race for Resources", which will take place on February 8, 2011, at the Ethical Society. Detailed information will appear in the next Newsletter.

STEM: Sandra Murdock reported on three prongs under STEM.

A. Expanding Your Horizons: A one-day conference/workshop is planned to encourage girls to expand their knowledge and comfort level in the area of science. Included are speakers as well as "hands on" activities.

B. Science Fair: Members of our STEM Committee will be going to schools to help girls with their Science Fair projects. This year four awards will be given for the most meritorious projects.

C. Why So Few?: Marcia Block highlighted the new "Kit" which has been assembled for distribution. Among the targeted recipients are School District Curriculum Coordinators and College and University professors in Education Departments. The goal (hope) is that use of the Kit will "trickle down" to faculties and parent organizations. Included in the Kit are a [CD of resources](#) and a [DVD](#) which will soon become available online on the Ballwin-Chesterfield website.

IBC: Leslie Wier highlighted this year's Inter-Branch Council's Spring Fling to be held on Saturday, March 19, 2011, at Norwood Country Club. All members are encouraged to save the date. Flyer information will appear in the next Newsletter. Cost to attend is \$25. One noteworthy change this year is that the winner of the Barbara Lacritz Award will be announced in advance of the date of the actual event.

Leslie highlighted an added fundraising opportunity that will accompany the 2011 IBC event. Each Branch will assemble and provide a basket for Auction. The B-C Branch Basket theme is "Celebrate Strong Women. [There will also be a money tree with the goal to raise \\$130 to match the Association's 130 year anniversary.](#)

\$tart \$mart: In Ruth Griffin's absence, Bette updated the report on this activity. \$tart \$mart's targeted audience is comprised of College/University Junior and Senior female students. Its aim is to help equip these women with the skills to be successful in negotiating salaries and benefits as they navigate the workplace. More details will be given at the February meeting.

SPECIAL MEETINGS

Important dates: Bette encouraged members to mark these important dates on their calendars:

March 19: SPRING FLING

April 20-May 1: MO STATE CONFERENCE – [Tan-tar-a, Lake of the Ozarks](#)

June 16-19: AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION – WASHINGTON, DC

Holiday Auction: In the absence of the co-chairs, Marcia reported that the Auction netted over \$10,000 due in large measure to the success of the raffle. Another raffle is planned for the December Auction of this year. At the March meeting, Harriett Hirschfeld will give more information regarding the success of the 2011 Auction.

Interest Groups: Linda Tinker encouraged members to join some of the Interest Groups and noted that the current year's book lists for each Literature Group are available on our website. She highlighted *Reading Reality*. Members of *Expressions* showed samples of the baby blankets they made last month.

The business meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM. After a fifteen minute break, Suzanne Couch introduced the American Red Cross speakers and their Program topic, "Prepare, Prevent, Respond: Your Red Cross in Action".

Adjournment was at 11:30 AM.

Submitted by

Judy Stagoski,
Secretary