

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting
March 2, 2017

I. Call to Order

President Barbara McQuitty called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., and attendees then recited the AAUW Mission Statement:

“AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.”

Hostesses Suzanne Couch, Julie Triplett and Becky Ragan were thanked.

II. Operational Reports

A. President’s Announcements: Barbara McQuitty

- We need to set a date for a strategic planning meeting, so those on the planning committee are asked to meet briefly here, right after today's board meeting.
- Marian confirmed that she made a memorial donation for JoAnn Black. (See EOF section below).
- Barb asked, “Who is going to the AAUW national convention?” Quite a few board members responded in the affirmative. Barb had a note from Marsha Koch, who plans to attend, and would like to share a room and possibly make the same flight arrangements as another member.

B. Minutes

Barb asked whether there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the February 2017 board meeting. None were heard; the minutes were approved.

C. Finance Officer’s Report: Rita Hawkins-Page

Rita apologized for an error in reporting last month's Dollars for Scholars total. The total should have been \$6,094, instead of around \$4,000. There were expenses that reduced this total in February, so the current balance is \$4,988. Schnuck’s is at \$2,527. Please use your Schnuck's card! \$3000 was transferred into Leadership, because conventions are coming up, so the Leadership/Development balance is \$9,612. The Operating balance is \$38,931, and total assets stand at \$56,058.

III. AAUW Priorities

A. Public Policy: Pat Shores/Barbara Butchart

- Pat Shores: Pay equity efforts with legislators are ongoing. If you would like to participate, Pat can supply you with instructions.
- This morning it was announced that the Nevada Senate ratified the Equal Rights Amendment (E.R.A.) If this passes the House in Nevada, that will leave only two states needed to ratify this amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- In Missouri, Representative Judy Morgan files a bill for ratification of the E.R.A. every year. Contact her at Judy.Morgan@house.mo.gov
- Valerie Brinkman was one of the instigators of the Women's March in St. Louis. She is going to be honored on April 12 by the National Women's Political Caucus.
- Kay Meyer will be recognized as the 2017 Barbara Lackritz Award winner.
- April 4 is Equity Action Day; a flyer is coming out. There will be a bus going to Jefferson City from St. Louis. Equity Action Day will be informational. Our focus will be on the Pay Gap and Human Trafficking; other partners will target other issues. We will meet with state senators and representatives.
- We have a Missouri Lobby Corps going to Jefferson City on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The model is meet-and-greet only. Legislators are given a copy of The Gender Pay Gap, the Public Policy Program, and The Simple Truth. This Tuesday Karen Francis represented AAUW at hearings on Senate Bill 205), House Bill 261 (Human Trafficking), and House Bill 270.
- St. Charles Coalition against Human Trafficking (SCCAT): Owners of property the organization was interested in have decided not to sell it. SCCAT is sponsoring a small conference with community leaders in St. Louis.
- The first month of canasta donations raised \$905 for SCCAT. Also, \$160 was collected for AAUW.

B. Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF): Marian Bauer/Vickie Jany

- Marian shared a note from the family of JoAnn Black, expressing thanks for the remembrance donation to EOF. (A follow-on question was raised: Might we change the policy to donate to a different fund, given our other changes regarding EOF?)

- February was the best month ever for the book sale, bringing in over \$190. Book sales total \$700 so far.
- On March 9 Vickie Jany and Marian Bauer will attend a reception for scholarship donors and recipients at Maryville. Our branch has had scholarships there for a very long time.

C. Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF): Doris Nistler/Julie Triplett

- Julie: March is LAF Individual Giving Month. There will be a short presentation at the March branch meeting, and then LAF will collect funds at meeting.
- LAF requests a reminder of Individual Giving Month in the Friday reminder note. If Joyce is unable to do it this week, Barb McQuitty will do it.
- A LAF supported plaintiff will be speaking at our state meeting.
- We have only five active cases right now, but this will be increasing.
- Carol Derington: June 7 will be Game Day at Friendship Village, with a luncheon. It costs \$25 to attend, and includes lunch. \$15 is tax deductible. Sign-up will be available at the March branch meeting. Members are encouraged to sign up as tables of 4, but individual attendees will be placed at a table.

IV. Branch Priorities

A. Program: Marilyn Fletcher/Judy Stagoski

Marilyn: There was a brief meeting after the last branch meeting, to collect ideas. The Program Committee is still in need of ideas, though, for next year's programs, so another meeting will be called, to follow the March meeting.

To implement one of the ideas would cost more than the standard \$200 honorarium. Marilyn asked if the payment can be higher than this. The answer was that this is up to the Committee, as long as it would fit within their budget. Some speakers don't want an honorarium, so we suggest they take it and donate it to a favorite charity.

B. Membership: Fran Reiland/Susan Teicher

Fran reported that our branch has 252 members now. She passed out a sheet about dues. She is proposing a change in policy that does not specifically reference a particular membership incentive program. Marsha Weppelman said she would like to leave the current policy in, as it is now, but add Fran's last sentence, "If national or state

offer any dues incentive programs, those programs will be offered to our new members." Various board members felt that the emphasis should be on membership, rather than dues, i.e., the phrase should be "membership incentive programs," rather than "dues incentive programs."

Additional discussion: Mary Jermak observed that we've been applying national discount incentives, but we as a branch have not been cutting our dues by half or cutting state dues by half, and if we have a policy we need to make sure it is followed consistently. Note that if dues are not mailed in until the middle of March, the new member will not be in the database, so that person will not receive the newsletter and cannot vote.

Marsha Weppelman made the following motion to change the text of Policies, III. FINANCES, A.1, as follows:

[Keep] Dues are payable upon joining.

Add, "If national or state offer any membership incentive programs, those programs will be offered to our new members."

This motion was voted on by board members and APPROVED.

C. Dollars for Scholars (DFS): Janice Buckhold/Phyllis Oakes

- DFS passed out an events sheet that will go out to members. Two ideas that the Board can think about before our next meeting are: (1) "Defend Hers" is looking at a spring conference, with keynote issues of voting rights and the way judges are elected in MO. (2) Could we tap into stay-at-home moms for a letter writing campaign to senators and representatives?
- Aside from the newsletter and Friday reminders, was anything done in the past to publicize events during the summer? Suzanne Couch responded that she will send out something every month.
- The Country Luncheon Circa 1850 Dollars event is already filled up!
- By tossing out ideas from the tickler lists, about half have turned into events. So please turn in new ideas to DFS to be added to list, if you have them.

- Phyllis asked whether or not interest groups continue through the summer. Some do.
- When Phyllis was at the courthouse for jury duty, she picked up flyers to share with board members regarding the election of judges. Please pick one up. Governor Greitens wants to change the process.

D. Governance: Marsha Weppelman

- After the last meeting, we had an electronic vote in regard to a change in POLICIES Section 9, to amend the policy to be in line with what we actually do about reimbursement for attendance at AAUW conferences. The proposed change passed the Board, and Marsha will present it at the branch meeting. The branch will then vote on it.
- AAUW national provides guidelines for fundraising and rules for giving scholarships on their website, under "Fundraising." (Check with Marsha on details of where those guidelines reside or how you can obtain them). As an affiliate, our purpose is to raise funds for AAUW, not for other organizations.
- It was suggested that better record-keeping is desirable for EOF, with a single list that contains the names of scholarship recipients, STEM awardees, and Science Fair winners all in the same place. It was proposed that this list be kept in the Secretary's records.

E. Newsletter: Mary Jermak/Bette Bude

Bette is optimistic about the future leadership of the newsletter. She has been working with two women, and they have a meeting tomorrow. A third volunteer is in sight.

F. Nominations: Vickie Jany

At the March branch meeting, Vickie will present the slate of officers, and the branch will vote on them in April.

G. STEM: Marcia Block

- Expanding Your Horizons will be held on March 13. They still can use more adults to help. This event is for middle school girls at Florissant Valley. We are sponsoring twenty (20) girls.
- Marcia has the names of girls from both schools for STEM Girls of Promise. The event at Valley Park High School will be held at 7:00 a.m. on

Friday, April 28, 2017. The date of the Maplewood Richmond Heights event is to be announced.

H. Named Gift and Interbranch Council (IBC): Karen Francis

- As Past President, Karen chairs Named Gift. She hopes you've been thinking of nominees for Named Gifts. It's important! The committee will meet mid-April to make final decisions. Karen advises that you look at the people on your committees who have gone above and beyond, and then send applications to Karen via email or postal mail.
- March 25 is the IBC Luncheon. Please come! (Karen cannot be there). Go on our website to fill out the form to attend. Our branch was pleased to nominate Sandra Murdock for the Lacritz Award. All of the nominees were outstanding, and a dual member, Kay Meyer, is receiving this Award. The luncheon speaker will be Jessica Woolbright. Children's Program Director at St. Martha's Hall. She will present an overview on forms of domestic violence.
- We are asked to donate two baskets for IBC fundraising to send girls to NCCWSL. We have phenomenal applicants. Let Karen know if you'd like to put together a basket. \$100 is already budgeted for baskets. People love experiential activities, for example, a baby shower ready to go basket, or a car trip basket. We may offer a lottery board.
- Karen is in the process of putting together a Galaxy Award application (based on our Winter Auction), and a 10-star award application. We may be the only branch in the state that is able to fund attendance at AAUW conventions.

V. New Business

A. National Dues: Barb McQuitty

Barb brought up the Patricia Ho letter regarding a possible national dues increase. Karen Francis stated that she had talked with national, and she was assured that dues will be as posted on the website (\$81). This will not affect us until the national Board votes. They must give us 60-day notice (Patricia Ho's letter is the notice). If approved, the increase will go into effect for next fiscal year.

Until 8-9 years ago, dues went up \$2/per year every year for about eight years, and that stopped nine years ago.

Rita also talked with someone at national, and he said that dues are \$81. She asked if some members would pay \$81 this year and others, \$91 later this year. He said the new dues amount would go into effect as soon as they deem it to go into effect.

Although we elect the national board and they make the decisions, Barb McQuitty believes we should be able to have input to changes like this.

B. Spring Luncheon: Carol Derington

Carol passed around a signup sheet for Spring Luncheon. The cost is \$26, to be paid by check at the branch meeting. Board members are encouraged to spread themselves around at the various tables. This year's theme: AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Blossoms.

C. New Directory Binders: Leslie Wier

Leslie has run into some glitches while trying to order new directory covers, involving artwork and the cost of various types of binders. She needed some input to know how far she should go to save money. The majority let Leslie know they prefer to go with the small blue poly binder like we have had in the past, not a white and/or thicker binder.

VI. Adjournment: Barb McQuitty

Barb adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.