

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Meeting

February 11, 2016

Call to Order

President Barbara McQuitty called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

This was followed by recitation of the Mission Statement: "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research."

Welcome and Thanks to Hospitality Committee

Special thanks went to coordinating hostess, Rebecca Kaley, and her committee: Marcia Block, Diane Correll, Alice Crippen, Carol Derington, Margaret Estes, Helen Fick, Elaine Frost, Joyce Katz, and Carolyn Pohlkotte.

Minutes

Minutes of the January branch meeting are available from Susan Fenwick and on our website. With no proposed additions or corrections, these minutes were approved.

Elected Officers' Reports

Financial Officer: Rita Hawkins-Page

Dollars for Scholars has \$4,694. Leadership has \$533 plus \$3000 transferred from Operating. Operating Fund has \$34,915.

Membership: Marilyn Fletcher

We have a new member who just joined this morning, bringing our total to 246 members.

Elected Directors' Reports

Public Policy: Barb Butchart

Good news: a Missouri state bill passed concerning back page ads for human trafficking. Also Missouri now has an address confidentiality bill, Safe at Home. This program is intended to help survivors and their minor children safe by keeping their abusers from finding them.

Volunteers are needed to contact legislative representatives on a weekly basis, for pay equity and lessening sexual assaults on campus.

Also, help is sought to register voters in connection with It's my Vote, my Voice will be Heard.

Karen Francis reminded us that April 12 is Equity Action Day. It is \$35 to ride a bus, shared with women from NCJW and LWV, to Jefferson City. This is the day in 2016 when white women's pay equals the pay earned by men by the end of December, 2015. There will be updates on twenty-five bills that are going through the state congress right now, and then a time for specific lobbying. Everyone who goes will be trained on how to lobby. Twenty different women's organizations will be in the Capitol that day. We hope for 200 supporters to be there.

Educational Opportunity Fund/ Named Gift: Marian Bauer

- EOF: Last month we had a wonderful visit from our scholarship awardee at Maryville, a student in Biology, Jamie Valentine.
- In January, our book sale made \$205; we now have more than \$800 from book sales for Dollars for Scholars.
- National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL): The EOF budget for this year is \$500. CU Partners, the Interbranch Council, and AAUW B-C are working together to find a student to attend NCCWSL in June, in Maryland. Thank you for your support, and please sign up for Dollars for Scholars events.

Legal Advocacy Fund: Doris Nistler

- Over the years, there have been changes in LAF for the better. Doris related some LAF history. In 1980 four former faculty members from Cornell sued the school for sexual discrimination in violation of Title VII and Title IX. The case was that women were paid less than males in similar positions, and there were many fewer tenured women at Cornell than men. The Ithaca AAUW branch decided to assist the case, collecting funds to help the plaintiffs with their suit. This made such a big difference, that AAUW decided to launch LAF support of similar cases. Prior to 2009 AAUW supported only cases in academia, but then expanded to add certain other types of cases.
- The LAF committee is meeting today, after our branch meeting.
- Next month is LAF individual giving month. Don't forget your checkbooks!

Appointed Directors' Reports

Directory: Joyce Katz for Leslie Weir

The final directory update is in March, with the next newsletter. Pictures will be taken today for new members or those who wish a retake. Please meet Joyce to do this.

Dollars for Scholars: Barb Tackitt

We have a full list of activities coming up. For Tea around the World, there are only sixteen spots left, so hurry and sign up for it. Dollars for Scholars still needs more help in setting up events.

Spring Luncheon: Carol Derington

Save the date: May 12. Cost of the Spring Luncheon will be \$26. There will be a table at the March meeting to take reservations (by check only). You may sign up with your friends if you wish to sit at the same table.

Leadership: Karen Francis for Julie Triplett

- The Leadership Conference is our state meeting. It will be held on April 30 in Jefferson City, and it includes lunch. There is information about it in *Branching Out*. You are encouraged to come, to interact with people from other parts of the state, hear what's happening at the national level, and hear about our Get Out the Vote Campaign. It includes Initiation of officers. Your registration is reimbursed.
- At the IBC Spring Fling in April, Jan Scott will be honored as the Barbara Lackritz AAUW Service Award winner. Our branch nominated Sandra Murdoch for this award.

Committees

International Relations: Marilyn Fletcher for Susie Teicher

International Relations will present one more speaker this session, on March 8. Meetings are held at the Ethical Society, and they always are very interesting.

Nominating Committee: Marian Bauer

- Thanks to all those who sent in nomination forms, and to Becky Kruse and Yvonne Morrison for serving on the committee.
- The slate of nominees for next year's officers are: Co-president: Sandra Murdoch; Co-VP of Program: Marilyn Fletcher; Co-VP of Membership: Susie Teicher and Fran Reiland, Secretary/Archivist Susan Fenwick. Voting will be in April.

Named Gift: Suzanne Couch

Nominations are open for these gifts that honor people who have been doing outstanding things for our branch. Suzanne has paper forms available. The form also is online and you may email it to Suzanne. The deadline for submitting nominations is March 18.

President's Remarks: Barbara McQuitty

- On Tuesday evening, Barb heard Mark Kelly and Gabby Giffords speak. There was a good quote from Thomas Edison cited at that event: "Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

- Increasing membership: We always want to expand membership and attendance. If each of you would call a lapsed member and ask them to re-join our branch, that person might be amenable to coming back. Also think of a member you know who does not attend often; bring her back into the fold by inviting her to come to a meeting with you.
- Karen Francis and Barb McQuitty are looking into board appointments. If you would be interested, or if you can share the name of someone who might be interested, please let them know.
- Charting the Course is an AAUW initiative to raise \$1 million in unrestricted funds, so that AAUW National can meet challenges facing women as they arise. For our branch, an unnamed donor will match donors at \$500, up to a total of \$10,000. Each branch has been challenged to make a \$25,000 donation. See Barb or Karen for more info.

Unfinished Business

None.

Adjournment

The business meeting concluded at 10:10 a.m.

Program

After a break, Joan Bray, former member of the Missouri House of Representatives and former Missouri state senator, who currently is Executive Director of the Consumers Council of Missouri, spoke on "Fighting for Missouri Consumers in an Era of Corporate Power."

Susan Fenwick
Secretary/Archivist