

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Meeting

March 10, 2016

Call to Order

President Karen Francis called the meeting to order at 9:35 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 hostesses, Susan Haynes and Rebecca Kaley, and their committee: Lorna Anderson, Karen Fatzinger, Susan Fenwick, Julia Goodon, Betty Jo Hogan, Michele Mangnall, Carol Reed, Rosanne Swaringim, and Marian Weber.

Minutes

Minutes of the February branch meeting are available from Susan Fenwick and on our website. With no proposed additions or corrections, a motion to approve these minutes was made, and the minutes stand approved as posted.

Elected Officers' Reports

Financial Officer: Rita Hawkins-Page

We have a current balance of approximately \$46,000. There is around \$2000 in the Schnuck's card account, and this money can be applied wherever we need it, so please get a Schnuck's card. Just go online and designate that your dollars go to AAUW B-C. Joyce Katz is willing to help if you need assistance to do this.

Rita will be collecting dues starting this month. The dues, \$81, have not gone up since she joined AAUW in 2008, so membership is still a good deal. Make checks out to AAUW (no B-C). \$49 goes to national, \$46 is deductible. \$10 goes to state, and \$22 comes to AAUW B-C. You have the option of paying your dues online. Again, Joyce Katz can help.

Membership: Linda Seibert

Linda introduced two guests who were with us today. They heard about us, and about today's program, through the *West County Journal*.

If you are new to AAUW, having joined in January, you do not need to renew your membership now. Otherwise, you need to renew.

Past President: Suzanne Couch

Reminder: Named Gift nominations close on March 18. Suzanne has forms if you need one. We want to honor women who are doing exceptional things for us, so please consider submitting a nomination.

If you are signed up for the IBC Spring Fling, we will see you this Saturday at 11:00 a.m.

Of note: Monday is Pi Day (3/14/16).

Elected Directors' Reports

Public Policy: Pat Shores, reporting for herself and Barb Butchart

This is a busy time of year for Public Policy. Equity Action Day is April 12. Fourteen women's organizations will be going to Jefferson City for it. A bus is available, and with it you get a boxed Panera lunch and training. Flyers are at the back table for you to make arrangements to go.

One of our three AAUW emphases this year is pay equity. The legislature is in session, and we will be talking with our legislators on this topic. We also need people to email the legislators regarding the pending pay equity bills. If you volunteer for this, you will be sent materials that help you know what to say in your messages.

The purpose of the Get Out the Vote initiative is to sign up new voters at the local community colleges, from now until the national election. We need help with this.

Next Tuesday, please vote in the Missouri primary election. Be sure to check your polling place ahead of time, in case it has changed.

Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF): Marian Bauer

- The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) will take place in June, in Maryland. In cooperation with the Interbranch Council, we have been able to offer two scholarships to local women to attend this conference. There were five applicants. Both scholarship winners have excellent credentials, and we are pleased to be able to support them. Janet Kagoda is majoring in social work at UMSL, and Liz Koenig is a psychology and gender studies major at Webster University.
- The Book Sale has been a phenomenal success! We now have more than \$900 from book sales. Books can be found on the back tables at today's meeting. Buy them, read them, and bring them back next month to sell them again.
- The last book sale will be in April.
- EOF supports scholarships and action grants.

Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF): Linda Evans/Julie Triplett

The LAF committee presented a special short program developed by Julie Triplett, outlining a number of legal cases that illustrate LAF's efforts to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. LAF does not pay for legal actions, but rather, it informs people of their rights, and uses the legal system to achieve justice.

Several of the cases described involve violations of Title IX and in some cases, sexual harassment and retaliation when the harassment was reported. Other cases were associated with gender discrimination with regard to equal pay, sexual assault in the military and unlawful retaliation against whistleblowers.

LAF cases often take years. A case in point is the Feather River case, part of which is still not settled. This case involves an administrator who lost his job because he supported the women in the case.

LAF provides campus outreach grants of up to \$750 to host campus events where students are taught about the laws that protect them against unfair pay, sexual assault and Title IX violations. AAUW may co-host such events with student groups on campus.

AAUW does not provide legal fees and cannot provide legal advice or referrals, but may help victims find legal assistance.

Please make a donation to LAF. (It is tax deductible).

Appointed Directors' Reports

Special Events - Spring Luncheon: Carol Derington

You are invited to the Spring Luncheon on May 12 at 11:00 a.m. Cost of the Spring Luncheon is \$26. Officers will be installed and Named Gift honorees announced. You may sign up today. The Whitmoor chef has come up with a delectable menu. You may mail in your check to make a reservation or sign up at the table at today's meeting.

New Business

Harriet Hirschfeld: members and guests are invited to Out to Lunch on the third Wednesday of the month. Next Wednesday, lunch will be at Big Sky. You may carpool from the church. If you would like to go, you may sign up today.

President's Remarks: Barbara McQuitty

- Today is the last chance to sign up for the High Tea on March 31. Please see the ladies at the table in the back of the room.

- The Dollars for Scholars Herbarium and Library Tour at the Missouri Botanical Garden has a low number of people signed up. This event will take place on April 5, followed by lunch at Favazza's. Keep in mind that you could go back to the Garden afterwards to see the beautiful flowers.

Additional Announcements

- The Expressions interest group made forty (40) baby blankets that will be sent to Honduras, to families in need.
- Susan Fenwick was one of the winners in this year's AAUW national Art Contest.

Adjournment

The business meeting concluded at 10:20 a.m.

Program

After a break, dynamic speaker Denise Lieberman addressed our group on the topic "50 Years after Selma, Barriers to the Ballot Box."

Susan Fenwick
Secretary/Archivist