

Minutes of the AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Meeting October 13, 2016

Call to Order: Barb McQuitty

Doris Nistler affirmed that a quorum was present, and then President Barb McQuitty called the business meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Mission Statement: Attendees recited the AAUW Mission Statement: "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research."

Welcome: Barb McQuitty/Sandra Murdock

Barb welcomed everyone and extended special thanks to our Hospitality hostesses: Pat White, Becky Ragan, Diane Carezza, Betty Hogan, Carol Greenaway, Doris Nistler, Lin Walther, Yvonne Morrison, Debbie McWard and Eileen Lesevoy.

Officers' Reports

Minutes

Minutes of the April branch meeting are available on the AAUW B-C website and from Susan Fenwick. A motion to approve this set of minutes was offered, and the motion PASSED.

Financial Report: Rita Hawkins-Page

Rita stated that the Board has approved the budget, and asked for questions from the branch attendees. There were no questions. A motion was made to approve the budget, and the motion PASSED.

Assets as of September 30, 2016, were as follows: Dollars for Scholars, \$4,420; Schnuck's, \$2,328; Leadership Development, \$6,612; Operating Fund, \$31,990. Total assets: \$45,350. Rita had a couple of reminders, first for everyone to please get a Schnuck's card, and also that this is Rita's last year as finance officer, so members need to think if they would be willing to take over this role.

Membership: Fran Reiland

Fran reported that the branch was pleased to be welcoming one new member today, Melissa Barks, as well as one guest. Fran introduced both ladies and asked them to stand.

Elected Directors' Reports

Public Policy: Pat Shores

- Pat, reporting for herself and Barb Butchart, stated that Get Out The Vote (GOTV) is over for the most part. More than 150 voters were registered on community college campuses, and around 500 applications were distributed. Also, a letter to the editor was published in the *Post-Dispatch*.

Mersine Kallaos wrote the first draft and others helped. This letter has been shared with all of the state Public Policy chairs and with AAUW national.

- In a win for protecting children, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that Backpage, a leader in sex trafficking advertising, must hand over documents to a Senate investigating committee. Claire McCaskill is chair of that committee.
- The St. Charles Outreach Coalition Against Human Trafficking (SCCAT) just held another John Denver fundraising concert, attended by 160 people. A second human trafficking conference is in the works, to be held on Tuesday, January 10. This year it will be nearly a whole day conference and will have an all new program. The conference is free, with complimentary food.
- Public Policy also is concentrating on Equal Pay. National asked us to send letters to Anheuser-Busch, which put out an ad on equal pay for equal work. It appears that it is possible to make headway by working through businesses.
- Be sure to VOTE on November 8!
- Karen Francis, co-chair of Public Policy for AAUW Missouri and Public Policy Committee chair for national, spoke about voting on amendments on the November state ballot.
 - Postcards that were on done in collaboration with organizations opposing Amendment 6 were placed on seats for the branch meeting. This amendment would require a voter photo ID. 40,000 cards have been distributed across Missouri.
 - Amendment 3 is officially opposed by AAUW. The amendment proposes a tax increase on cigarettes, to be deposited into the Early Childhood Health and Education trust fund. The Secretary of State website shows exactly what will be on the ballot. It is necessary to study the “fine print” in the four pages of what the measure really states. In a letter to editor of the *Post-Dispatch* and other state newspapers, the reason for opposing this amendment given, namely, that it states that the distribution of funds shall not be limited or prohibited by the provisions of Article 9, Section 8 of the Missouri Constitution. It would allow the use of these funds for private and parochial schools. Such schools are not free, and they do not protect student rights under Title IX. Home schooling parents could also apply for funds.
 - Please share this information with your friends.

Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF): Marian Bauer

- EOF is well on its way. Our four local scholarship awardees are in class, two at UMSL and two at Maryville. The posters displayed along the side of the gym were made by Sue Barley. They show the women who are profiting from national EOF grants.

- Bean soup sales are finished. Panera Bread cards are for sale in the back, and the book fair is in operation.
- November is Individual Giving Month for EOF.

Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF): Doris Nistler

Doris spoke on Title IX. The Summer Olympics in Rio witnessed notably increased participation by women, whose number was nearly half of the athletes competing. These achievements are partly due to the fact that Title IX, in place since 1972, requires equal investment in female and male sports. Studies have shown that girls who play sports stay in school longer and land better jobs. Supporting women in sports contributes to the economy.

Appointed Directors' Reports

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

Dollars for Scholars is off to a great start this year, with two successful events already held. Five more events are scheduled through the end of November, and some others are committed for after the first of the year. Information on how to sponsor an event can be found on the branch website. Signup sheets for upcoming events are at tables in the back.

Last month several suggestions were deposited in the Suggestion Box, and one of them has become an event. If you have an idea but don't feel you can be the sponsor, please deposit in the box. If you'd like to be a sponsor, but don't have an idea, put your name in the box. Janice and Phyllis will match up ideas and sponsors. Dollars for Scholars events are a great way to meet new people. You are encouraged to invite friends, neighbors and spouses. The money raised stays with our branch.

Branch Development: "Jingle Mingle": Suzanne Couch

Suzanne stated that the holiday auction signup has been brisk. You may go ahead and reserve a spot, and they will take your check at the November meeting. Reminder: this is about our operating fund. It is a charity event.

On the chairs in the gym is a Jingle Mingle survey. Forty-seven (47) people filled out a survey at the Fall Brunch, naming services and gift certificates as desired donations, as people don't necessarily need more items to decorate their homes. For gift certificates, we have a letter that can go to donors; it will be on the AAUW B-C website. Suzanne encouraged members to ask service providers, such as hairdressers and restaurants, to make a donation. We may have small baskets for the oral auction, and gift certificates can be inserted in them.

Suzanne will take donations left in the hallway outside the gym to St. Martha's Hall.

Eleanor Roosevelt Walk: Jean Elliott

The ER Walk is the closest AAUW B-C comes to doing sports! The ER Walk supports research on issues of importance to women and girls and reports like *Barriers and Bias*. The walk is next Tuesday, October 18. Those who cannot walk are asked to please sponsor a walker. It costs \$25 to walk at Des Peres Park. Jean raffled off an ER birthday cake to raise extra funds.

Newsletter: Mary Jermak/Bette Bude

The newsletter is distributed ten times a year. The October newsletter includes a special feature on page 11 that gives you links to the national website for AAUW Programs. All email addresses in the newsletter are live links.

Mary and Bette asked members to consider becoming part of the newsletter staff. It's fun, and Mary and Bette will be happy to find a good place for you on the expanded newsletter staff, and they will provide training.

Other - AAUW White House Visit: Karen Francis

AAUW got an invitation to participate in the first United State of Women summit at the White House in June, and she had the privilege of attending as one of eleven attendees representing AAUW. Of note was that AAUW sent a team of members, not their CEO's and executives. The meeting was hosted by Valerie Jarrett and Tina Tchen, and it attracted 5,000 people. The six pillars of the summit were violence against women; health and wellness; economic opportunity; entrepreneurship and innovation; education and civic engagement, leadership and visibility. AAUW is involved in every one of these. The theme of the summit was "Today we will change tomorrow."

In a breakout session regarding fair pay, it was reported that 88% of millennial believe they will see gender equity in their lifetime. 89% said that girls can do anything. President Obama said "This is the face of the feminists."

Also heard from were Jill Biden, Attorney General Loretta Lynch, and the Secretary of Labor. In a conversation between First Lady Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey, the statements were made, "When they go low, we go high," and "We surround ourselves with good."

President's Comments

Barb McQuitty thanked everyone who sent her cards and brought food over after her surgery. Doing those things helps so much!

Barb encouraged anyone who hasn't done so to go online to print off the form to indicate their interest in participating in interest groups and committees.

Barb showed off a banner she just received for our branch that displays the AAUW logo and slogan.

Adjournment

Barb adjourned the business meeting at 10:19 a.m.

Program

The speaker was Katy Keller, LCSW, of St. Martha's Hall, who gave an overview of the work done by this shelter for abused women and their children, the reasons for violence against women and children, and what can be done to help.

Next Branch Meeting

November 10, 2016.

Susan Fenwick
Secretary/Archivist