

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Meeting February 9, 2017

Call to Order and Welcome: Sandra Murdock

President Sandra Murdock called the business meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone. This was followed by recitation of the AAUW mission statement: "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research."

Sandra thanked Hospitality hostesses: Janice Buckhold, Andrea Dedo, Helen Fick, Susan Heigel, Mary Jermak, Marsha Koch, Michele Mangnall, and Elaine Williams. Marian Weber, who was to have been a hostess, is in the hospital.

Elected Officers' Operational Reports

A. President's Report: Sandra Murdock

- Sandra said she is proud of women expressing themselves, via activities like the Women's March. Sandra told us she was in D.C., but did not march. She watched it, and met people from around the world.
- Barbara Kellams, a member of our branch, attended the Washington D.C. march and shared some observations. Barbara thought it was a fantastic experience. She had several opportunities to talk with people about AAUW and what we do. She congratulated those who marched locally, too.
- "Hidden Figures" is an excellent film. Many women were behind the scenes, helping achieve the successes of the space program, while not receiving much visibility.
- This is Black History Month. On February 12, 1909, nine women who all were members of AAUW helped found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

B. Minutes of January Branch Meeting: Susan Fenwick

Minutes are posted on the branch website and are available from Susan.

C. Finance Officer Report: Rita Hawkins-Page

Rita reported the following AAUW B-C fund balances: Dollars for Scholars, \$4,565; Schnuck's, \$2,491; Leadership Development, \$6,612; and Operating, \$41,430. Rita reminded members to please get a Schnuck's card if they don't already have one.

D. VP-Program: Marilyn Fletcher & Judy Stagoski

Marilyn said speakers and programs are the heart of our meetings. She asked those who have ideas or know a good speaker to please stay for a while after today's meeting to help out the Program Committee.

E. VP-Membership: Fran Reiland & SusanTeicher

We have 249 members. Today we had four guests. Fran asked them to stand and she introduced them.

AAUW B-C Elected Directors' Reports

A. Public Policy: Pat Shores & Barbara Butchart

Barb spoke for Pat Shores and Karen Francis, who were unable to be here today. The first goal of our branch's Public Policy Impact Grant was Get Out the Vote (GOTV), and that goal has been completed. The goal to work on now, Goal Number 2, is Equal Pay. Please email Pat Shores or Joyce Katz to get information on your state legislators and how to address the gender pay gap with them. Goal Number 3 is establishing a Missouri Lobby Corps to focus on getting a pay equity bill passed.

Please sign up for the 2-minute Activist. AAUW will be offering ten (10) actions from the first 100 days. You will receive an email containing information on the action. You click electronically to make your voice heard on the issue. Yesterday's 2-minute Activist issue concerned women's reproductive rights.

B. Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF): Marian Bauer & Vickie Jany

Vickie talked about marching in St. Louis. Others from the branch who also marched were asked to stand. It was an impressive number!

On the topic of EOF, Vickie filled in for Marian. So far, more than \$510 has been collected in the book sale. Thanks to those who are helping with the sale each month

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

Doris: March is LAF Individual Giving Month. LAF has been instrumental in the success of many gender discrimination cases. Your continued support is needed. Make checks out to AAUW Fund, with LAF in the memo line.

On June 7, LAF is holding a Game Day at Friendship Village West. Lunch will be served. A \$25 fee includes lunch and attendance prizes. Attendees are asked to bring their own games for their table.

After today's branch meeting, the LAF committee will meet.

AAUW-BC Appointed Directors and Branch Priorities

A. Directory: Leslie Wier, Marilyn Beiter & Joyce Katz

Joyce: They are working on the March supplement for the directory. There are not a lot of changes so far, but the supplement will include some new members. If you have any change in your contact info, you must get it in TODAY.

B. Dollars for Scholars (DFS): Janice Buckhold & Phyllis Oakes

Upcoming events already on the calendar: Jazz at the Bistro on March 16, Mad Hatter Tea Party on March 30 (Note: we need 50 people committed to reserve a private room), Budweiser Tour, Lustron Home tour on April 7, Country Luncheon Circa 1850 (maximum of 12) on April 21, Frank Lloyd Wright House tour on April 26, and Women Artists in the SLAM Collection on April 28. Coming in August, there will be a round trip trolley ride from the Loop to Forest Park, with lunch at Fitz's. Remember, events don't have to stop in the summer!

The Tickler List contains events with sponsors that do not have dates. Some are an Arch tour, visit to the Holocaust Museum, and tour of the Genealogy Museum in the main library. We need some events for May. Talk to Phyllis or Janice if you are interested in sponsoring one.

You can always check the newsletter on our website for events.

C. STEM/Science Fair: Marcia Block & Jean Elliott

Marcia pointed out that most everything in STEM occurs in the spring. One thing held over from last year is that we received thank-you notes from two of last year's Science Fair winners. Marcia read an excerpt from a one-page letter from one of the girls. We will again be going to Science Fair in late April and plan to select two projects related to interests that we all share.

This year we are sending twenty (20) young women to Expanding Your Horizons. On March 11, the Missouri Science Bowl will hold a trivia event for middle school students. They need adults to help.

STEM Girls of Promise will be held at Valley Park again, a wonderful event. We will also go back to Maplewood, Richmond Heights, for a breakfast; just AAUW will be there. See Marcia or Jean if you wish to volunteer.

D. Special Events - Spring Luncheon: Carol Derington & Carol Anthony

Carol Derington reminded us that the annual spring luncheon will be on May 11. Save the date! The committee is hard at work planning the event at Whitmoor Country Club. The cost is the same as last year, \$26. The committee will start taking reservations and checks at the March branch meeting. Carol Anthony will be in charge of reservations. If you can't be at the meeting, please contact Carol Anthony.

Standing Committees

A. College/University Partners: Deb McWard

We have AAUW members at the institutional level. At our October branch meeting, we met the two women we sent to the NCCWSL conference in Washington D.C. We will again send two young women to the conference in June. We have just enough money to send two students, but we really could use another \$100 or so to give them some spending money for meals, bus fare, etc. If you can spare a few dollars, please donate.

Deb got 6-7 applications over the weekend. They are outstanding candidates!

B. International Relations: Kay Meyer

February 14 at the Ethical Society, there will be a presentation on "Russia Today."

New Business

Suzanne Couch spoke on behalf of Karen Francis. Suzanne announced that it is Named Gift time again. This is a great honor and there are three different levels: Named Gift, Outstanding Branch Member, and Lifetime Achievement. You are encouraged to nominate someone who should be recognized for doing outstanding work. This can even be a newer member. Forms for this award are available on our website. Suzanne also has some printed out that she can make available. Email completed forms to Karen Francis. Nominations are due by March 18.

Unfinished Business

None.

Adjournment

Sandra adjourned the business meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Program Speaker:

Federal magistrate judge Patricia L. Cohen, from the Eastern District of Missouri, spoke on the topic "The Court System: How it Operates and How it Affects Us."

Next Branch Meeting: Thursday, March 9, 2017.

Susan Fenwick
Secretary/Archivist