

# AAUW Ballwin/Chesterfield Branch Meeting

## March 9, 2017

### I. Call Meeting to Order: Barb McQuitty

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

### II. Opening

A. Recitation of the AAUW mission statement: "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research."

### B. Thank you to Hostesses

Barb thanked coordinating hostesses Margaret Estes, Susan Haynes, Mary Lou Wilson, Alice Crippen, Joan Lunt, Barbara Tackett, and Bette Bude, Doris Nistler, Barb Tackett, Carol Anthony, and Linda Kridel.

### C. Agenda

Barb asked if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda. None were heard.

### III. Operational Reports

#### A. President's Announcements: Barbara McQuitty

Barb made a few brief announcements.

- Today is Immediate Past President Karen Francis' birthday.
- Check the gallery on the AAUW website for this year's art contest entries.
- Barb asked those members who are planning on going to the National Convention to raise their hands. There was a good show of hands.
- May 6 is the date of the Missouri state AAUW convention. Equity Action Day is April 4. Please plan to attend one or both of these events.

#### B. Minutes of February Branch Meeting: Susan Fenwick

Barb asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes, which are on the branch website. There were none. Minutes stand as posted.

#### C. Finance Officer's Report: Rita Hawkins-Page

- Rita stated that there has been no increase in dues in ten years, but an increase may be coming. Right now, the dues still are \$81. If there is an increase, it will not happen until 2018.
- It is dues payment time; dues can be processed any time after March 16. \$46 is deductible.

- Rita announced the following balances: Dollars for Scholars, \$4,988; Schnuck's, \$2,527; Leadership, \$9,612; Operating, \$38,931; Total Assets, \$56,058.

#### **IV. AAUW Priorities**

##### **A. Public Policy: Pat Shores /Barbara Butchart**

- Pat Shores: As a follow-up to the Women's Marches, yesterday women all around the world took measures to advance equity for women. In Missouri it was not a day off, it was a "day on."
- We are making weekly visits to legislators to ask for support for pay equity bills.
- Valerie Brinkman started the Women's March in St. Louis. She will be honored by the Women's National Political Caucus. Soon there will be a Facebook site where people can see all of the organizations involved in the Women's March. Valerie Brinkman and Margaret Johnson will speak to our branch in October.
- The Nevada Senate ratified the E.R.A. There is confidence that the whole body will ratify it. That would leave two more states needed to ratify this constitutional amendment. In Missouri, Judy Morgan files a bill for approval of the E.R.A. every year. Write to thank her, and Jill Schupp, too.
- April 4 is Equity Action Day in Jefferson City. There will be a bus whose cost is subsidized by the Missouri Impact Grant. The cost is \$30, and an additional \$11 to purchase a box lunch.
- SCCAT is going to hold another half-day conference at the main library on April 27. Members of AAUW B-C are invited. Shima Rostami has a fabulous group lined up as presenters. Refreshments will be provided by the AAUW-BC Community Action Grant.
- Flyers were distributed for a luncheon forum on "Pay Inequity: Root Causes" presented by the St. Louis Press Club and AAUW St. Louis branch. The event will be held on March 30 at the Missouri Athletic Club West.

##### **B. Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF): Marian Bauer/Vickie Jany**

- Marian: The EOF Committee is thrilled that book sales last month were the best ever. We now have \$700+ dollars for scholarships, and we still have today and April to bring in books and to buy books. The hope is to reach \$1000.
- Marian and Vickie will be attending an event at Maryville University where they will meet with the recipients of our scholarships. One of these students is graduating in May, so we will be looking for a new recipient.

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

Julie: This month is annual giving for LAF. Please be generous.

LAF helps women know their rights on campus and in the workplace, and how to find legal help. LAF supports cases that involve sex discrimination.

The LAF group described various LAF cases: (1) A Title VII case, that of Valerie Gossett: Title VII forbids retaliation by an employer against an employee who reports sexual harassment. (2) The case of Aileen Rizo, who filed suit under equal pay and sex discrimination laws after she discovered that she was receiving lower pay than a less experienced male co-worker. The issue here is injustice that results from basing pay on prior salary. (Aileen will be a speaker at our state meeting). (3) A Title IX case against Yale, that of Susan Burhans, alleging sex discrimination and unfair retaliation by the university when she was helping survivors of sexual assault on campus. (4) The case of service women assaulted in the military while on active duty. Each plaintiff tried to seek justice through the military system but did not succeed, so they filed suit under civil laws and under the U.S. Constitution. (5) Retaliation for reporting sexual harassment has been going on for years. Through LAF, AAUW has given support to whistleblowers in lawsuits for retaliation, as in the Feather River Community College case. An important victory was achieved in 2014 when a California judgment in their favor was upheld. LAF does not pay attorney fees, but helps with other fees important to plaintiffs in filing cases.

Members were advised to write checks to AAUW Fund, with LAF in the memo line. The entire donation is tax deductible. Checks were collected from members who wished to donate.

## **V. Branch Priorities**

### **A. Program: Judy Stagoski/Marily Fletcher**

No report.

### **B. Membership: Fran Reiland/Susie Teicher**

Fran: A reminder. When you see a green ribbon on the badge, that shows it's a new member. Please introduce yourself and welcome this new person.

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

- Phyllis: The DFS Committee is excited about the number of DFS events scheduled. April has five events, but May needs some more.
- Today is the last chance to sign up for Jazz at the Bistro.
- The Mad Hatter Tea Party will be held on March 30. Now we have enough participants to reserve the private party room. If you wish to wear a hat, there will be prizes for hats related to the mad hatter.
- Country Luncheon has a waiting list for the April event. A second such event may be held in the fall.
- Check your events sheet, available at the back table.

- Events \*are\* being planned for the summer.
- Tickler list: It's not too early to plan events for next year. In fact, we already have some events lined up for next year. Also we have ideas for future events, including the Boeing Museum, the Cupples House in Soulard, and the Thomas Eagleton Federal Court Building tour. Especially enjoyable events from the past can be repeated, too.
- DFS has received two donations, one from a group, and the other because individual wasn't going to be around in April to sign up for an event. You can always write a check without necessarily signing up to attend or sponsor an event.

D. Governance: Marsha Weppelman

- Marsha presented a Policy Change in Section IX. Conventions, Articles A and B, proposed by committee and recommended by the Board. The rationale is to amend our policy to be in line with the actual practice we are following for disbursement and use of branch leadership monies.
- Marsha read the current policy wording, and then the proposed policy wording. [A copy of this material is attached to the hard copy of these minutes, maintained in the Secretary's binder].
- A majority of members attending the meeting and voting was needed to pass this change. Members present at the branch meeting voted on this change, and the motion PASSED.

E. Newsletter: Mary Jermak/Bette Bude

No report.

F. Nominations: Vickie Jany

- Vickie thanked Suzanne Couch and Carol Derington for serving on the Nominating Committee with her.
- The slate of officer nominees is as follows. Co-President: Marcia Block; VP Program: Sage Tabor; VP Membership: Mersine Kallaos; Financial Officer: Pat Shores; Directors of Public Policy: Barbara Butchart and Eve LaJeunesse; Directors of Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF): Doris Nistler and Julie Triplett; Directors of Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF): Marian Bauer and Vickie Jany. Thanks to everyone who accepted a nomination. Voting will be at the April meeting, where nominations can be made from the floor.

G. STEM: Marcia Block

Marcia has the names of girls from two different schools for STEM Girls of Promise--Valley Park and Maplewood Richmond Heights. There will be a brief meeting after today's branch meeting to talk about providing breakfast for this event.

#### H. Named Gift and IBC: Karen Francis

- Karen is chair of the Named Gift Committee. At the Spring Luncheon we say "thank you" to the women, some working behind the scenes, who have made extraordinary contributions to our branch. A Named Gift nomination form is online. On it, you tell why someone has gone above and beyond to make AAUW B-C what it is. Six or seven applications have been received so far. You don't have to ask the person's permission to nominate her. The names of previous awardees are in your Directory. A prior honoree may be nominated again.
- Karen also is our representative to Interbranch Council (IBC). Suzanne Couch is chair of IBC this year. Karen will be president next year. Spring Fling will be held on March 25 at Glen Echo Country Club. This is a time for all AAUW members in the St. Louis area to get together, and also to present the Barbara Lackritz Award. The winner of the award this year is one of our members, a dual member, who has handled our Fall Brunch for the past two years, Kay Meyer.
- On Public Policy this year, pay equity is a primary issue. Last week Karen represented AAUW and gave testimony in one of the hearings about the gender pay gap. Four or five people spoke on this issue. In committee, it has had a hearing.
- Please join those on the bus for Pay Equity Day. You'll receive training and a packet with talking points. 16 representatives and 4 senators have been responsive to our advocacy efforts in Jefferson City over the last two weeks. We have the data. We will be with coalition partners on Equity Action Day.
- Suzanne Couch: She has signup sheets for the IBC Spring Fling. The speaker is Jessica Woolbright, giving on statistics on spousal abuse in St. Louis.
- June 7 will bring an All Games Day for LAF, at Friendship Village. Lunch is included in the cost of \$25. You can bring any game you want to play. You may get a group of four together, or come as a single and tell them what game you want to play. A signup sheet is with Carol Derington in the back of the room.

#### I. Spring Luncheon: Carol Derington/Carol Anthony

Spring Luncheon will be held on May 11 at Whitmoor Country Club. Reservations are being taken today and next month. Please pay by check; the cost is \$26. Details are in the newsletter.

#### **VI. New Business**

Doris Nistler: The LAF Committee thanks you for generous donations.

#### **VII. Adjournment:** Barbara McQuitty

Barb adjourned the business meeting at 10:30 a.m.

**Program Speaker:**

Mary Lee Stephens, Executive Director of GLXi, the Global Learning Exchange initiative, a literacy program. Ms. Stephens spoke about the success of this program in the elementary schools of Guatemala.

Susan Fenwick  
Secretary/Archivist