

I. Call to Order

Karen Francis called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., and the Mission Statement was read: "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research."

Karen encouraged members to contact her or Suzanne Couch with any suggestions or ideas they might have for making our meetings even better.

II. Thanks to Hostesses

Karen thanked coordinating hostess Linda Roberson and hostesses Marge Anderson, Carol Anthony, Marcia Block, Becky Kaley, Jill Norton, BJ Portas, Susie Teicher, and Doris Nistler.

III. Officer Reports:

A. Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the January branch meeting are available from Susan Fenwick and on our website. A motion was made to accept them as posted. The motion passed.

B. Financial Officer Report: Rita Hawkins-Page

This was the best month ever for Schnuck's card, providing \$45. Tax note: \$47 of the dues payment is tax deductible. Next month Rita will start collecting dues for next year (\$81). You may also pay online.

C. Membership: Linda Seibert

Dues are now half price until the end of the year (6/30). One member joined today.

IV. AAUW Priorities

A. Public Policy: No report.

B. Educational Opportunity Fund/Named Gift: Marian Bauer

Canasta donations through November, 2014, amounted to \$885. \$2,411 was collected for EOF. The book sale also will benefit EOF. Dollars for Scholars supports our local scholarships.

Reminder: Named gifts are given to honor members. Please send in nominations.

C. Legal Advocacy Fund: Linda Evans

On October 24 there will be an LAF Trivia Night at Trinity.

Human Trafficking in January: There was good news from Washington, D.C., as twelve pieces of human trafficking legislation were passed by the House. The Senate is not yet considering them.

The Women's Network is concerned about legislation that would cut Social Security benefits in Missouri. Also the Right to Work bill may weaken workers' rights to bargain collectively.

Karen Francis added: U.S. Senate Bill 130: The Victims' Economic Safety and Security Act (VESSA) will protect employees who are victims of domestic abuse, if they need time off work to go to court or see a doctor. AAUW supports this legislation.

V. Branch Priorities

A. Directory: Leslie Wier

New/corrected addresses and phone numbers have been entered in the Directory.

B. Dollars for Scholars: Barb Tackitt

Dollars for Scholars is offering new and exciting tours. Barb highlighted the upcoming events offered.

C. IBC: Suzanne Couch, on behalf of Erlaine Eltomi

The IBC Spring Fling is scheduled for Saturday, March 21 at the Highlands. The deadline for registering is March 6.

D. International Relations: Susie Teicher

Programs are held the second Tuesday of the first four months of the year at the Ethical Society. The next program is "Will 3D Printing Change our World?" with a speaker who works for Konica-Minolta.

Ray Martin leads Great Decisions each Thursday in March and April at 12:00 noon.  
March 5: Russia.

E. Spring Luncheon: Judy Stagoski

Spring Luncheon will be held at Whitmoor Country Club, from 11:15 to 2:00 or 2:30.

## VI. President's Remarks

- Karen Francis reported that there was a February 23 meeting with a representative from the White House (AAUW affiliated).
- On February 14 there is a program on domestic violence at Maryville University.
- To express interest in Board openings, contact Karen Francis or Suzanne Couch.
- Yvonne Morrison is taking out-to-lunch signups.

## VII. Unfinished Business

Go buy books!

PROGRAM: Special guest Jacqueline Lukitsch, Director of Advocacy, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), spoke on the topic "Mental Health: The Importance of Strengthening Medicaid of Missouri's Mental Health System."

CLOSING: Next branch meeting will be March 12, 2015

Minutes recorded by Marilyn Beiter, submitted by Susan Fenwick, Secretary