

I. Call to Order: Suzanne Couch

Suzanne called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with a reading of the Mission Statement: "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research."

II. Operational Reports:

A. Announcements: Suzanne Couch

Thank you to coordinating hostess Nancy Shepard and her Hospitality committee for the wonderful food items they provided for the meeting.

B. Minutes: Suzanne Couch

Minutes from the last branch meeting will be available on the website in the next couple of days.

C. Financial Report: Rita Hawkins-Page

Rita thanked Susan Zerjav and Judy Schaefer-Piet for all of their efforts in organizing the Winter Auction. This was a very successful auction. Our branch has cleared \$10,307 on it so far, and donations are still being accepted. The new boutique was a great idea, so think about how to get involved in the boutique next year.

III. AAUW and Branch Priorities:

A. EOF: Introduction of scholarship awardees: Marian Bauer

Thank you from Marian and Linda for EOF donations. In November, EOF received almost \$2000 for the F. Elaine Richardson Research and Project Grant, and \$450 for the regular EOF fund.

A reminder: the EOF book sale will be held at the next meeting. Collection of books is ending, but you may still bring books in February.

In a survey conducted last year, members reported that they were most proud of local scholarships. Two students who received scholarships from AAUW B-C were introduced and spoke. 1) Marisa Yoder, a student at UMSL. Marisa will graduate with a B.S. in biology. She is a non-traditional student with a husband and a child, and she is the first in her family to go to college. She is applying to the Ph.D. program, and wishes to do research in cell biology. (2) Sandra Van Berkel, Maryville. Sandra has recently returned to school at age fifty. She has one more semester to graduate, and will apply to the Washington University program for Immunology. Sandra is especially interested in this program because some of her family members suffer from immune system disorders.

Marian asks that you please sign up for Dollars for Scholars events. It is students like these that EOF supports.

B. Bylaws: Introduction, discussion and vote: Doris Nistler (motion)

MOTION: Proposed branch bylaws and policy amendments consistent with the recommendations of the Board Restructuring Committee were published in the January edition of Branching Out, and hard copies of the proposed amendments were offered to attendees prior to taking a vote on the motion to adopt the amendments. Voting at the meeting was conducted by written ballot.

RESULTS: The bylaws and policy amendments were approved unanimously by the membership.

C. Directory: Leslie Wier

The deadline is approaching for getting new information into the directory. Please email new data to Leslie Wier or Marilyn Beiter by February 8. Those who need/want a new photo in the directory are advised to see Joyce Katz today.

D. Public Policy: Barb Butchart

International Human Trafficking Day is Sunday, January 11. Last night a film was shown, "A Path Appears." Small group discussions followed. On February 1, 8, and 15, this film will be aired on PBS. Spencer Library will hold a human trafficking awareness event this Saturday hosted by St. Charles Outreach Coalition, the group our branch collaborates with. There will be a panel discussion. Girls are being solicited at the second and third grade levels. It is happening in our back yards! Hotel personnel are being educated on how to spot human trafficking in their hotels. Many other events are taking place in the month of January. Thank you to Pat Shores for writing another grant to support awareness events for human trafficking in our area.

E. Nominating Committee: Julie Triplett

Members of the nominating committee are Julie Triplett, Mary Kay Wolfe and Becky Kruse. They are accepting nominations until Jan. 20. Nominations are needed for President, Co-VP for Program, Co-VP for Membership, and Finance Officer, as well as for three elected directors. To nominate someone, fill out the online form, get the permission of the nominee, and submit the nomination to Julie or Mary Kay as soon as possible.

F. Named Gift Committee: Marian Bauer

We recognize our members at Spring Luncheon, honoring members who give of their time and talents to support the mission of AAUW. There are still many to be honored. We now have a form to fill out on the website. Hard copies are available at today's meeting. Forms need to be returned by March 20.

G. International Relations: Roz Marx

The Tuesday lecture series is coming up: Four talks, one per month, held at the Ethical Society. Schedules are available at today's meeting. "End of the Ottoman Empire" is the topic for next Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 10:45. The speaker was raised in Iran, and then studied and taught in the U.S.

Great Decisions is another interesting activity. One of their talks this year is on human trafficking in the world.

H. Dollars for Scholars: Barb Jowett

The upcoming Fox Theater tour needs twenty people to be able to go, so please sign up. Also, models for the Talbot's Fashion Show are needed. There are more ideas for Dollars for Scholars events, but the committee needs folks to sign up to organize these events.

I. IBC: Erlaine Eltomi

Erlaine will not be the IBC representative next year, as this role will transfer to the past president. IBC meets quarterly, and it's a wonderful way to network with other branches. Meetings are open to any members who wish to attend. IBC has a Spring Fling Luncheon on March 21 at the Highlands Clubhouse. You are urged to sign up. A flyer will be online next week. We have nominated Joyce Katz for the Lackris Award. Dianne Moran is a storyteller and actor, who will portray Rachel Carson for the luncheon program. January 15 is deadline for helping IBC with NCCWSL. Our branch provides support, but you may donate to this individually. If you want to attend the luncheon, the cost is \$28.

J. Out to Lunch: Harriett Hirschfeld

This is a great way to get to know people in our branch. Visitors are welcome. Out to Lunch is held the third Wednesday of the month. This month lunch will be at Edgewild. There is a sign-up sheet today, or you may call Harriet, who will turn in the reservation.

IV. New Business: (Suzanne)

A. Today's guests at the branch meeting were introduced.

B. Guidelines for attending conventions (Karen).

The national convention this year is in San Diego. Funds from Winter Auction are available to send attendees. Karen shared the convention reimbursement guidelines for the National convention: "We will reimburse members according to prioritized attendance at the convention at the early bird rate that ends 1/15."

C. Doris: The restructuring motion has passed!! Thank you to Pat Shores and the Restructuring Committee, and to the Governance Committee. Suzanne and Karen: thank you, too.

D. LAF: Linda Evans.

State legislators have decided not to expand Medicaid eligibility in our state. Over 14,000 Missourians fall into a coverage gap, where they do not qualify for federal aid, but make too much money to be covered by the state. Missouri loses \$2 billion each year from the federal government.

V. Adjournment of the business meeting: Suzanne Couch at 10: 25.

Today's program: "Boost Your Brain Power: Tips to Keep Your Mind Sharp," was presented by Diane Ray, VP and Chief Nursing Officer, St. Luke's Hospital.