

AAUW BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH MEETING

January 14, 2016

Call to Order

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

Welcome

Karen thanked our hostesses: Judy Green (coordinating hostess), Linda Evans, Judi Hart, Susie Heigel, Eileen Lesevoy, Barb McQuitty, Pam Miller, Linda Seibert, Sage Taber, and Marian Weber.

Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the November, 2015, meeting. With no comments heard, a vote was taken and the minutes were approved as written.

President's Report

- What pays for local scholarships is the Dollars for Scholars programs. We've made a commitment to five outstanding students to support them. It is imperative to continue our legacy that we meet our commitment, by arranging and attending Dollars for Scholars events. Part of that money also goes to scholarships, fellowships, and grants at the national level.
- We need nominations for appointed director jobs. Karen invited friends to consider volunteering together to head up the Winter Auction.
- We have a phenomenal branch. To continue to be an exceptional branch, we really need people willing to step up. The average age of an AAUW member is 71. Please think about what you wish to do for Ballwin-Chesterfield.

Elected Officers' Reports

Membership: Marilyn Fletcher

One guest joined the group at this morning's meeting. This is a good time of year to join the branch, since dues are discounted between now and March.

Financial Officer: Rita Hawkins-Page

Rita was away, but she submitted a report to Karen Francis, who says the branch is in great shape. We'll have a full report next month.

Past President's Report: Suzanne Couch

- Suzanne chairs the Named Gift Awards committee. These awards honor members who have gone above and beyond to support our branch. Think about people who have given a great deal to the branch this year. The nomination form is on our website and will be available at the February and March meetings. Please fill it out and give it to Suzanne. The committee, which meets just one time, needs an additional member. Nominations will be taken until March 18. It is okay for a person to get this award more than once. There also is a Lifetime Achievement Award.
- The Interbranch Council Spring Fling is held each year. This year it is to be held on March 12 at The Highlands in Forest Park. The entertainment will be provided by the St. Charles chapter of Sweet Adelines. Raffle baskets and other fun things will also be present. It is desirable to have a good turn-out at the Spring Fling from our Ballwin-Chesterfield branch.

Elected Directors' Reports

Public Policy: Pat Shores

- Everything we do in Public Policy comes from the national AAUW policy. We were awarded a \$10,000 two-year community action grant to fight human trafficking.
- A major event, Breaking the Chains of Human Trafficking, was held on January 12. It was planned for sixty people. One hundred showed up! Thanks to the Ballwin-Chesterfield members who helped make this event a success. There was representation from every branch in St. Louis. A description of the event will be in the newsletter.
- Marian Bauer observed that just two days after this Breaking the Chains event, two people in St. Charles County were arrested for soliciting and abusing an underage girl, so this is still a problem.
- Next up will be a Get Out the Vote effort. More about that soon.
- Equity Action Day in Jefferson City, where we talk with legislators is coming up, on Tuesday, April 12. There will be a bus for members of AAUW and other local organizations who are going. A box lunch will be provided.

Educational Opportunity Fund/Nominating Committee: Marian Bauer

- Marian introduced local scholarship recipient Jamie Valentine, who attends Maryville University. Jamie is majoring in biology with an emphasis on ecology and environmental science. Dollars for Scholars gives the money for recipients to finish their education. Jamie thanked the branch for her scholarship and for inviting her to speak today. She said there are not a lot of scholarships out there for non-traditional students like herself. Since she is happiest when outdoors, she wishes to work to preserve nature for the future. As a woman in a STEM field, Jamie feels empowered by her classmates and her instructors.
- Karen offered Jamie a membership to AAUW B-C, when Jamie graduates. She also mentioned that there are graduate fellowships available.
- The Nominating Committee is still accepting nominations for officers. Forms are on our website, and they need to be returned by January 21.

Legal Advocacy Fund: Linda Evans

- A new Legal Advocacy Fund case is Kurz vs. Trustees of Indiana University, East Branch in Richmond, IN. The case involves sexual harassment charges against the coach of the women's volleyball team. Nobody at the university would help these girls, who went to many administrators. There is no Title IX coordinator. The coach cut them from the team, and thus they lost their scholarships. How could they get help? They filed a lawsuit. That's where AAUW support comes in. What is so unsettling is the betrayal of trust this case represents. We must spread the news about Title IX protections and be there to help when there are violations.
- The presentation for the next meeting needs help, people to serve as readers. This is a short-term obligation. There will be a meeting today after the branch meeting to get organized.

Appointed Directors

Dollars for Scholars: Barb Jowett / Barb Tackitt

- The annual High Tea will be held at the Hearth Room (a three-course meal), on Thursday, March 31, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. The theme is "Tea Around the World." Cost is \$27. The committee has been at work already to make this event a big success. It supports the scholarship fund.

- The other scheduled event is the Kaldi's Coffee tour, on Thursday, February 25.
- We REALLY need to schedule additional Dollars for Scholars events!

Committees

International Relations: Susie Teicher

A series of four lectures on international topics is given. These take place on the second Tuesday of the month. This month's lecture dealt with water resources world-wide. Tuesday, February 9, is the date of the next lecture. Julia Triplett explained that the next lecture will be given by a retired computer analyst consultant with an interest in environmental issues who will speak on the subject of climate realities.

Winter Auction: Jayne Kasten and Erlaine Eltomi

Erlaine thanked all of the volunteers who helped make the Winter Auction a success--those who donated auction items, bought tickets and brought guests, and gave items to the boutique. Also thanks for the raffle cards, bingo and other activities on auction day. The Winter Auction netted \$13,273!! Joyce Katz was not present at today's meeting, but Erlaine expressed appreciation that the three leaders—Joyce, Jayne and Erlaine-- worked so well together.

New Business

A member asked how much more money this year's Winter Auction brought in, compared with last year. The answer was that it exceeded last year by around \$3,000.

Program Introduction

On the program was Bev Schuetz, giving a history talk with live presentations, "Three Women: The Treacherous, The Bold and The Brilliant," featuring the wife of Benedict Arnold (Peggy Shippen), Nelly Bly, and Marie Curie.

Adjournment

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Susan Fenwick
Secretary/Archivist