

I. Call to Order

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

- A. Suzanne thanked our coordinating hostess, Jane Clendenin, and the contributing hostesses.

II. Operational Reports

A. Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting are available on the website. Suzanne asked whether there were any additions or corrections. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as read.

B. Financial Report (Rita Hawkins-Page)

It's time to pay dues. Rita will start to collect them today, or you may pay online. Dues are still \$81 per year.

Since Rita had to write some checks on the account, Dollars for Scholars could use some additional monies, so think about setting up an event or signing up for one.

III. AAUW Priorities

A. EOF/Named gifts (Marian Bauer)

Thank you for donating books, buying books or both. We made \$661 for Dollars for Scholars.

Reminder: if you are nominating someone for a Named Gift, please use the form. Marian has a few here, or you can download it. Nominations are due March 20.

B. Public Policy (Pat Shores and Barb Butchart)

What we do relates to the AAUW National priorities set for 2013-2015.

1. Guarantee equality, individual rights and social justice for a diverse society. April 14 in Jefferson City is ERA Day; please join in. A bus will leave from Trinity. An ERA bill has been filed in the Missouri statehouse by Judy Morgan. Other bills filed that are supported by AAUW: One establishes Maya Angelou Day in Missouri, and another bill, filed by Margo McNeil, requires governors to keep a list of state appointments by sex.
2. Support a strong system of education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity. AAUW is supporting reform of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which expired. Barb's update: The voucher language has been removed from the ESEA bill by the Representatives. Thank you for contacting them about this issue.

3. Another AAUW priority is to achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women. Wal-Mart and Marshall's/Home Goods are raising their hourly pay rate. Of interest: Patricia Arquette's remarks at the Oscars and others' support of her statement.

Human trafficking. Feb. 8 was day that the Pope and our President recognized as international human trafficking day. At a February 15 prayer service, St. Josephine was named as patron saint of those who have been trafficked. A Lindenwood student has offered to build a website for the St. Charles coalition, at no charge. A lawyer moved back to St. Louis who has worked for a law firm that helped victims of human trafficking; she is joining the coalition. Jill Norton wrote a poem on this subject, included in the March issue of Branching Out.

SLEVAWN, a group of 24 non-profits, provides Court Watch. Volunteers go into Family Court because of a suspicion that judges are not giving women orders of protection when they seek them. Court Watch is monitoring judges and finding areas of concern. Their report has been shared with judges.

C. Legal Advocacy Fund (Linda Evans)

March is LAF giving month. There are envelopes on chairs, with instructions for donating to LAF. The donation envelopes were collected at the meeting.

Feather River Community College: A joint suit was filed by employees demoted or fired due to fighting sexual harassment or for equal pay. The case has been ongoing for eight years, due to many appeals. One of these petitioners is a man who stood up for equal pay.

Moshak v. University of Tennessee: Three staff members were fired or forced to retire over issues of equal pay and gender discrimination following the merger of the men's and women's athletic departments. Their lawsuit has a court date in June.

IV. Branch Priorities

A. Directory (Leslie Wier)

If you haven't gotten your directory, please pick one up today. This year we are doing something different, a signup to indicate if you want paper directory, electronic directory, or both. July 17 will be a firm cutoff to close the directory for print. Please don't wait to pay your dues until July or August. The directory has an ad section, and ads offset the cost of the directory, at \$30/half page. Members, families of members, or friends of AAUW members may place ads.

Marilyn Fletcher, membership co-chair, introduced two guests, both of whom are interested in joining our branch.

B. Communications (Joyce Katz)

AAUW Voting - Joyce handed out brochures. We need everyone's participation in voting at the national level. "One member, one vote" is an AAUW priority. Our voices need to be

heard. Outlook carries a special voting number on the back cover assigned just to you. Outlook has been mailed, and you also will get an email. A voter guide is online right now, and it will be in Outlook as well. Voting runs mid-April to early June. Online voting is encouraged, but you may request a paper ballot from National. There is an interesting proposal this time: eliminate all education requirements for membership.

C. Spring Luncheon (Judy Stagoski)

Spring Luncheon will be held on May 14. The theme is "And we Shine on like the Sun, the Moon and the Stars," a carryover from the fall brunch theme, "Reaching for the Stars." Tasting was held recently, and the chef at Whitmoor C.C. has outdone himself. Becky Kruse and Nance Roth are taking registrations (checks only). Please register by April 23.

D. IBC (Erlaine Eltomi)

March 21 is IBC Spring Fling at the Highlands. There will be a presentation by Diane Moran, doing Rachel Carson. Reservations are closed but you may give Erlaine a check today and still attend. Our branch is contributing two baskets.

A NCCWSL scholarship for women's leadership was given to a student from UMSL. She will be at the IBC event, as our guest.

E. STEM (Marcia Block)

Expanding Your Horizons was held on Tuesday. It was a one-day hands-on workshop for girls from seventh through tenth grades. This leads girls to think of STEM careers. Our branch paid for several girls to attend. Contact Sandra Murdock or Marcia if you would like to help next year.

STEM Girls of Promise is expanding this year to two schools. You are invited to either or both: Maplewood on April 9 (evening program) and April 30 (morning program) at Valley Park. It recognizes juniors in high school who have shown promise in STEM areas. They are given medals, gift cards, and recognition. This event is funded through our operating fund.

F. Dollars for Scholars (Barb Jowett)

Some upcoming Dollars for Scholars events are The Talbot's Fashion show, next Fri. from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.; George Caleb Bingham at SLAM; a summer tour of The Hill; a fall culinary tour of The Hill.

Check your email at 8:00 a.m. on the day of the event, in case of inclement weather, to know if the event is canceled or not.

High Tea (Erlaine Eltomi)

April 17 at Sisters Tea Room in Fenton continues the tea tradition. A patroness is absorbing some of the costs so the charge is kept to \$25. There will be a prize for someone who wears a hat. The money raised goes to Dollars for Scholars. A booklet will be distributed: Victorian Women of Achievement (women of the U.S. and U.K.) Attendance is limited to 60 attendees. A hostess at each table will talk about her Victorian woman.

G. State Meeting and Nominating Committee (Julie Triplett)

Our national meeting is in San Diego. Some national people are coming to Missouri for our state meeting. The cost of \$50 will be reimbursed from our leadership fund. The meeting is one day, food included. To sign up, use the online form or get one from Julie. We have around twenty signups already.

The Nominating Committee presented its list of nominees.

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Co-President | Barb McQuitty |
| Co-Vice President, Program | Judy Stagoski |
| Co-Vice President, Membership | Jo Ann Black |
| Finance Officer | Rita Hawkins-Page |
| Co-Directors EOF | Marian Bauer, Linda Roberson |
| Co-Directors LAF | Linda Evans, Julia Triplett |
| Co-Directors Public Policy | Pat Shores, Barb Butchart |

We will be electing these positions at the April branch meeting, and in addition to those listed above, nominations may be offered from the floor at that meeting.

H. Interest Groups (Michelle Mangnall)

Bridge groups are in need of players. Bridge groups are listed in the newsletter, along with a contact person for each one. You may join a group or sign up to be a sub.

I. Out to Lunch (Harriet Hirschfeld)

Out to lunch is the third Wednesday of the month. On March 18 it will be at Walnut Grill in Ellisville. Sign up today if you would like to go.

V. Unfinished Business

There will be a brief meeting about the Winter Auction after our speaker.

VI. Adjournment

Suzanne Couch adjourned the business meeting.

Today's program was "And Justices for All," on the subject of the U.S. Supreme Court, presented by Bev Schuetz.

Susan Fenwick, Secretary