

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Meeting November 9, 2017

I. Call to Order and Welcome: Sandra Murdock

- President Sandra Murdock called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone.
- Governance/Parliamentarian Marsha Weppelman confirmed a quorum.
- Sandra advised attendees that to find information about our branch activities, they should consult our wonderful newsletter.
- Members recited the AAUW Mission Statement: “AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.”
- Sandra thanked today’s hostess committee: hostesses Lisa Barks, Barbara Butchart, Gloria Campion, Elaine Eltomi, Jane Hemer, Eve LaJeunesse, Donna Ross, Pat White, and coordinating hostess Becky Ragan.

II. Elected Officers

Secretary/Archivist: Susan Fenwick

Minutes of the October business meeting are on the AAUW B-C website. No corrections were offered. Minutes are approved as posted.

Finance Officer: Pat Shores

- Pat reported on income and expense for each of our four accounts, and gave the following ending balances: Operating Fund, \$36,965; Leadership Development Fund, \$4,468; Dollars for Scholars, \$7,822; Schnucks, \$2,747.
- Pat encouraged everyone to shop at Schnucks using their eScrip cards.

V-P Membership: Mersine Kallaos & Michele Mangnall

Michele stated that as of today our branch has 247 members, and we added one today, Cheryl Fellner. Members welcomed Cheryl as well as two guests, who stood to be recognized.

III. Elected Directors

Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF): Doris Nistler/Julie Triplett

- Julie spoke for Marian Bauer, Judy Stagoski and Doris Nistler, as well as herself, since envelopes are on chairs today for Individual Giving. She explained that in the past we had separate LAF and EOF Individual Giving drives, but our board has decided to hold just one drive for donations to AAUW national. National recommends that you donate to the unrestricted AAUW Fund, which supports various projects. If you make out a check to AAUW, you may put on the memo line the name of a fund where you would like the money to go.
- Joyce Katz explained how to donate online. From the branch website, click on Give. On the AAUW national website, click on Donate. You must enter your member ID number. If you have established an identity in the Member Services Database, it will show you your donations to date for the year. To the left, there also is a button called Donate. Your member ID number is in the directory, right next to your name.
- Total donations to AAUW are computed on a calendar year basis. Members who donate \$100 to \$249 become members of the Century Club. \$250 or more qualifies a member for the Century Plus Club. The full amount is tax deductible.

Public Policy: Barbara Butchart/Eve LaJeunesse

- Eve encouraged people to join the AAUW Action Network to receive instant updates.
- Betsy DeVos has rescinded Title IX sexual assault guidelines. Representative Jackie Speier has sponsored a bill to stop rampant sexual abuse and harassment of women in academia, particularly in STEM research.

IV. Appointed Directors

Winter Auction (The Winter Soirée): Suzanne Couch/Karen Francis

- Suzanne Couch began by asking, “Are you excited?” The Winter Auction Committee is, because The Winter Soirée is going to be so much fun. There are eighteen (18) tables signed up already. Additional oral auction items are needed, and good quality items for the silent auction also are requested. Contributors should arrive at 9:30 a.m. with their auction items.
- Karen Francis said this event is “shopping with a cause.” Rita Hawkins-Page will be meeting with a designer, so that our branch can offer AAUW sweatshirts for sale. Advance orders will be taken. Maybe we can take this idea to other branches as well.

- The committee still needs volunteers to help with the auction on the day of the event. For instance, they need a couple of people to help with taking contributions for wine and pouring wine.
- Something new: you will be able to pay with your credit card. Pat Shores has been working on this.
- This is Suzanne's and Karen's last year to chair the auction, so we will need two other volunteers.

Dollars for Scholars (DFS): Phyllis Oakes/Janice Buckhold

- Phyllis went over several upcoming DFS events, as listed on the sheets that were handed out to members as they entered.
- Sponsors need to maintain a waiting list for every event.
- Please bring your calendar and more than one check to branch meetings. You may not write a single check to cover more than one event.
- Janice asked for more sponsors. Also she encouraged members to bring friends, spouses...men! And especially, guests.
- Sponsors for the coming year, please sign up. The committee has many ideas for events, if you don't know what kind of DFS to sponsor. Sponsor packets are available in the back of the room today.
- There will be no sign-ups in December, so please sign up now.
- You can make an event out of an interest group or hobby, like genealogy or jewelry making.
- The St. Louis Symphony is celebrating its 50th anniversary on January 20. This will involve a whole day of activities; it is a wonderful opportunity for a sponsor to pick up. It is believed the day will culminate with viewing of "The Sound of Music."

Nominating Committee: Marsha Weppelman/Leslie Wier/Bette Bude

- Marsha chairs this committee. The positions that need to be filled are Co-president, V-P Program, V-P Membership, and Secretary/Archivist. The AAUW B-C website has nomination forms, under the Flyers/Forms tab. After asking a member if she is willing to be nominated, send a form to Marsha at the email listed on the form. It is acceptable to nominate yourself. Forms are available today at the Directory table, and forms will be at the December meeting, a few on each table. Nominations are

open now, so please give this some attention. The committee cannot do it all themselves.

- Leslie spoke about the quality of our elected leadership. Since it is the members who know other members well, they are the ones who need to nominate people.
- Bette said they need all of us. Everyone helps everyone else. No special training is required. If you can step up, it will really be appreciated. If you look at a position title but don't know what doing that job entails, anyone on the committee can explain it to you. We have job descriptions for all of the positions.
- The deadline for nominations is Saturday, January 20, 2018.

Results of a Quick Tally: Julie Triplett thanked everyone for the \$2,145 in donations collected today.

V. Special Events:

IBC: Barbara McQuitty

IBC is the Interbranch Council, which encompasses all AAUW branches in the St. Louis metro area. The IBC spring event is the Spring Fling. This year it will be held at Glen Echo Country Club. Our branch is responsible for the meeting place and the menu. Karen Francis has been helping Barb with this. Glen Echo's prices are under the budgeted amount.

IBC is working on the Barbara Lackritz Award. Our AAUW B-C nominee is Karen Francis. Each branch supplies a reader. The reader from our branch is Susan Fenwick.

VI. Standing Committees

Eleanor Roosevelt Walk: Jean Elliott

Jean reported that three weeks ago, twenty (20) women walked in Des Peres Park, a beautiful place. The walk made \$1,698 for the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund. Jean concluded by citing an Eleanor Roosevelt quotation, "Beautiful young people are accidents of nature. Beautiful older people are works of art."

VII. Adjournment

Sandra Murdock adjourned the business meeting at 10:05 a.m.

VIII. Program: Marilyn Fletcher/Sage Taber

Marilyn introduced our speaker for the day, AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield member Dr. Pat White, whose topic was "Countdown to Stress Management: Handling Stress In Our Daily Lives."

Susan Fenwick
Secretary/Archivist