

AAUW BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH MEETING

November 12, 2015

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 Schaefer- Piet, Carol Berry, Diane Carezza, Becky Kruse, Pickett Lema, Joan Lunt, Linda Magre, Nance Roth, Susie Teicher, Mary Lou Wilson, and Mary Kay Wolfe.

Minutes

With no comments heard, minutes of the last meeting were approved as posted.

In Memoriam

Karen asked attendees to observe a moment of silence in memory of Sharon Carper. A contribution will be sent to AAUW in Sharon's name.

President's Report

- Attendees at the Missouri Fall Focus meeting learned more about the AAUW Fund and Start Smart. They are pushing for unrestricted donations to the AAUW Fund. Today is Individual Giving. We can donate to our favorite funds, but AAUW is encouraging us to make general donations.
- We received a request from another branch to share our three-part program on women in prison. We are doing good work!
- Thanks to the women who were able to make it to the movie "Suffragette." AAUW was approached about promoting the film and sharing information about the film. It is phenomenal. The real change happens with the "get out the vote" endeavors.

Elected Officers' Reports

Membership: Linda Seibert

Two brand-new members, introduced by Linda, were at this morning's meeting.

Financial Officer: Rita Hawkins-Page

- Dollars for Scholars has \$5,847; Schnuck's has \$1925 (reminder to please use your card); Operating Fund is at \$24,707. The big push for winter auction is because it supports our Operating Fund.
- Karen added that there will be state and regional conventions this year, and we pay for our members to attend out of our Operating Fund.

Elected Directors' Reports

Public Policy: Barb Butchart

- 2015 Public Policy focus: stopping sexual assault on campus. On July 1 amendments to the Clery Act took effect. The act spells out regulations that schools need to follow with regard to campus safety and crime reporting.
- Human trafficking is a Ballwin-Chesterfield 2015 focus. Pat Shores was recognized for writing an action grant good for two years. A flyer is available that describes a half-day symposium to be held at the Spencer Public Library on January 12.
- A shout out to Jill Norton: Her poem about a trafficked child, previously published in our branch newsletter, was featured on the AAUW Alumnae Exchange.
- The regional conference will be held at Great Wolf Lodge in Kansas City on June 3-4.

Educational Opportunity Fund: Marian Bauer / Linda Roberson

- November is EOF individual giving month. Marian introduced Rachel Reed, our American Fellow. She is a post-doctoral researcher at Washington University who did her Ph.D. at University of California Santa Cruz. Rachel spoke briefly about her work and her gratitude for the fellowship that is allowing her to continue.
- Linda Roberson observed that for 125 years women have benefitted from AAUW scholarships and grants. A \$35,000 grant honors F. Elaine Richardson. As of last November, the grant was just half funded. Grants can be used only if they are fully funded. As of October 31 of this year, the grant was short \$760. AAUW B-C was asked to contribute \$500, and we raised all of it. The rest will be collected by the St. Charles branch.
- Envelopes are on chairs because of Individual Giving for EOF. The whole amount of your donation is tax deductible.

Legal Advocacy Fund: Linda Evans / Julie Triplett / Doris Nistler

- Julia: One part of Public Policy is pay equity for women. AAUW has purchased the rights to Start Smart and Work Smart. LAF helps women who have been discriminated against. Our most recent case is that of Aileen Rizo. In 2012 a man was hired to do work similar to hers, and he had been placed higher in the salary schedule than when she started. Why? The reason given was that his salary was based on he was getting at a previous job. Ms. Rizo has filed suit in California for discrimination under Title IX. AAUW is helping women to shout for their pay.
- Doris: Julie and Linda came up with the idea of Trivia Night, and we raised almost \$3000. Doris thanked those who worked at Trivia Night, including Bette Bude and Pam Kulp, who were emcees, and Joyce Katz, who operated the computer.

Appointed Directors

Branch development for Leadership/Operating Funds: Erlaine Eltomi / Jayne Kasten / Joyce Katz

- STEM comes out of our operating budget, whose funding is from the Winter Auction.
- The Winter Auction chairs surprised the meeting attendees with "Angel Trivia."
- Subcommittee chairs will have meeting after this branch meeting. A list of items donated so far for oral auction was distributed. We also need items for silent auction. A sheet of suggested types of items was distributed, and it is on the website.

Dollars for Scholars: Barb Jowett / Barb Tackitt

- Tomorrow is the Talbot's Fashion Show.
- Panera Bread cards are still available.
- No Dollars for Scholars events are planned for January, so see the chairs if you'd like to host one.

New Business

- Thank you from Pam Valentine for cards and good wishes. Jane Miller is also on the mend.
- Suzanne Couch: She has been collecting items for St. Martha's Hall, a facility for women who are abused, but this has been not been done as an official AAUW activity. Clarification from AAUW National policy says we can donate items in kind to organizations whose purpose is in line with the AAUW mission. We will collect for St. Martha's Hall at our branch meetings in January thru April. Donations are totally voluntary.

- **Barbara Lackritz AAUW Service Award Nominee**

Karen introduced the Ballwin-Chesterfield nominee for the Barbara Lackritz Award, Sandra Murdock. We are honored to recognize Sandra. She does so much for STEM and in her work in the community. Yvonne Morrison will write her nomination.

- Karen: Please read your newsletter for Nominating Committee names.

Program Introduction

Suzanne Gellman spoke about the Start Smart and Work Start programs that are sponsored by AAUW. These programs were designed to empower women with the skills and confidence to successfully negotiate their salary and benefits packages and, ultimately, to reduce the gender wage gap for women.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Susan Fenwick
Secretary/Archivist