

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Meeting Minutes – October 8, 2015

Call to Order: Barb McQuitty and Karen Francis

Barb welcomed members and opened the business meeting with recitation of the Mission Statement, "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research."

Determination of a quorum: Doris Nistler

Doris confirmed that we had a quorum present.

Hostess Recognition: Barb McQuitty

Barb gave special thanks to today's hospitality team: Becky Ragan, Coordinator, and hostesses Marge Andersen, Linda Kridel, Yvonne Morrison, Marge Jurgenson, Bette Bude, Judy Stagoski, Betty Hogan, Eileen Krahman and Helen Pick.

Operational Reports

A. 2015-16 Budget & discussion: Karen Francis

Everyone should have a copy of the budget, as it was distributed in advance. The branch has four accounts. \$42,652 is our beginning balance, brought over from last year. Everything that comes out of Operating Funds is listed, so you can see where the money goes. Karen asked if there were any questions about the budget. None was heard.

Erlaine Eltomi made a motion to approve the budget.

Results of the vote: **PASSED.**

B. Membership: Linda Seibert/Marilyn Fletcher

Current membership is close to 250. There will be a new member coffee on Oct. 15 at the home of Gloria Campion.

We have no guests today because the three who would have been guests came in and signed up as new members! Marilyn added that we treasure all of our members, not just new ones.

We have members we need to be thinking about today, due to surgeries or other health issues: Leslie Wier's husband, Kay Meyer, Linda Evans, Barb Buchart, and Pam Valentine.

Branch Priorities

A. Educational Opportunities Fund: Marian Bauer

Marian reported that five local scholarship awardees are well into this semester. Involvement in Dollars for Scholars makes this possible.

Book sale: Books are being collected to take to the resale store, but if you'd like to buy a book in the back today, just put money in the box. The bean soup is gone, but Panera cards still are for sale.

EOF individual giving month is November. The money goes directly to national. Rachel Reed, a post-doc student at Washington University, is on one of our scholarships, and she will come to talk to us next month.

B. Legal Advocacy Fund: Julie Triplett

This part of AAUW helps women who have been discriminated against due to gender. Julie serves on a national LAF committee. AAUW allocated \$100,000 to legal cases for this year. Mollie Lam is holding a call-in on Oct. 15, regarding what to expect from the Supreme Court.

Our AAUW B-C LAF committee needs more members. The LAF fundraiser will be Trivia Night.

C. Public Policy: Pat Shores

Pat Shores: We have a wonderful public policy committee of twenty-one members, working hard on federal and state priorities. The AAUW Action Network works on national issues, and soon a similar network is coming at the state level.

Human trafficking: The St. Charles Coalition against Human Trafficking (SCCAT) held its first fundraiser, a music concert that raised nearly \$3000 from a freewill offering. Two St. Charles members were featured on KDSK with Farah Faisal, focused on what nuns are doing on human trafficking in our area. Pat has sent notices of our action grant to the media. SCCAT will be a featured track at St. Charles Community Services Summit on Oct. 27, focusing on internet crimes against children. Registration is \$25.

Announcements

Barb McQuitty issued a reminder: At the Fall Brunch we passed out a form, "Where do you want to be involved?" Only three came back filled out. These are not just for new people. We'd like to get everyone involved. Maybe you could find something that interests you to contribute to with your time and service. Forms will be left out on a table for you to pick up. Please sign up for a committee.

A. Trivia: Doris Nistler

LAF is a good fund, providing court case support, support of discrimination claims. It benefits all of us because it benefits those individuals.

Trivia Night is Oct. 24. Tables of eight are \$160, or \$20 per person. The first prize has been donated by Sue and Bob Barley-- eight open tickets to the Rep. Hope to see everyone there.

B. Dollars for Scholars: Barb Tackitt

Barb mentioned the list of activities coming up in the next couple of months, which is in the newsletter as well.

- The Talbot's Fashion Show needs models.
- Two spaces are open in the Genomes tour.
- An idea for an event is "Always Spring," where they help you create a terrarium. This event, which could perhaps be held in January or February, needs a sponsor. All money collected goes to scholarships.

C. Winter Auction: Joyce Katz, Erlaine Eltomi, Jayne Kasten

Winter Auction is a tradition, but also it is necessary to balance the budget. Have fun, play games of chance, enjoy fellowship, coffee and breakfast breads, and a delicious lunch. We all need to help with the Auction. If you can't be there, please make a cash contribution. Invite friends and guests. For each guest you receive a chance at a prize drawing. Please donate items to the auction. A paper with ideas for auction donations will be passed around.

D. Archive Materials: Joyce Katz and Susan Fenwick

Last year we were able to gather over eight crates of records of our branch's past and donate them to the MO Historical Society. Our records are now catalogued and stored at the archive center in Columbia, MO. They are available to us on request at any time. Susan Fenwick, as branch archivist, and the presidents have the list of records on file. If anyone has materials that ought to be archived, please contact Susan.

E. ER Walk: Jean Elliott

The Eleanor Roosevelt Walk will be held on October 13 at Des Peres Park. 10% of our members are signed up to walk. If you cannot walk or can't be there, consider sponsoring one of our walkers. It's not too late to sign up. The money raised goes to research.

Karen Francis added that this research includes issues such as: Why so Few? Hostile Hallways (harassment in schools), and Women in Leadership.

Out to Lunch

This group will meet on Oct. 21, at Mary Ann's Tearoom in the Central West End. Please sign up.

Woman on the Ten-Dollar Bill

Sue Barley: AAUW has been invited by the Treasury Department to a meeting about who should be the woman on the \$10 bill.

Today's Program: "Women in Transition & Prison Arts"

Judy Stagoski: Vice President of Program, introduced our speakers,

1. Laura Toledo, Executive Director of "Women in Transition."
2. Agnes Wilcox, Founding Producer of "Prison Performing Arts" which gives women a vehicle to express themselves and their personal issues.

Last year, AAUW B-C had a program on "Women in the Correctional System." This was followed by a trip to the women's prison in Vandalia. Today's program is the culmination of the trilogy.

Adjournment

Barb adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Susan Fenwick,
Secretary/Archivist