

**AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Meeting  
October 12, 2017**

**I. Call to Order and Welcome: Marcia Block**

President Marcia Block called the meeting to order at 9:30 and welcomed everyone. Attendees then recited the AAUW Mission Statement: "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research."

Marcia thanked today's hostesses: Coordinating hostess Becky Ragan; hostesses Karen Francis, Sage Taber, Sue Lancaster, Pat White, Joan Lunt, Kathy Brown, Linda Magre, and Pickett Lema.

**II. Elected Officers:**

A. Secretary/Archivist: Susan Fenwick

Minutes from the last business meeting were approved as posted.

B. Finance Officer: Pat Shores

Pat began by giving an asset report. AAUW B-C has four accounts, the balances of which are as follows. Operating, \$35,841; Leadership, \$4,468; Dollars for Scholars, \$4,771; Schnucks \$2,721. Total assets stand at \$47,800. Pat mentioned that anyone who shops at Schnucks and needs an eScrip card can pick up one at the back of the room today.

The 2017-2018 budget, which already was approved by the AAUW B-C board, was presented for membership approval. With a copy of the proposed budget attached to this month's *Branching Out*, every member had the chance to review the proposed budget and ask questions in advance of the branch meeting. Pat asked if anyone had a question today. With none heard, Pat made the following motion.

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**MOTION**

I move that the membership approve the budget for 2017-2018 as attached to the October newsletter.

**Results:** The motion passed.

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### C. VP Membership: Mersine Kallaos

- Mersine welcomed guests to today's branch meeting and asked them to stand.
- As of today, AAUW B-C membership totals 247 members. At the Fall Brunch eight people joined and paid, and we have one new member who joined today.
- Mersine explained that a green ribbon on a name tag indicates that this person is a new member. For her, this ribbon signifies "go to them," and make them feel welcome.
- Next Thursday is the New Member Tea at the home of Gloria Champion. Mersine thanked members of the committee for providing treats.

### **III. Elected Directors:**

#### Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF): Marian Bauer

- EOF supports educational grants. Katherine Meegan has received a Career Development Grant for 2017-18, to study at Logan College of Health Sciences. Her discipline is Health and Medical Sciences, M.S. Nutrition and Human Performance.
- The bean soup packets are gone, but Panera cards are available, as are books at the book sale.
- Our four (4) local scholarship recipients, two at Maryville and two at UMSL, are all in school and doing well.
- EOF and LAF are both fully funded at the national level. We are encouraged by national to contribute to the unrestricted AAUW Fund. The AAUW B-C board voted to hold just one Individual Giving month, in November, rather than separate ones for EOF and LAF. When donating to the AAUW Fund, on the memo line of their check, members may express a preference for where their donation is applied.

#### Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF): Julie Triplett

Julie spoke about the Century Club, which recognizes a member who donates at least \$100 to AAUW in a fiscal year. Members of the Century Club Plus are those who give \$250 or more in a given fiscal year. You may go online to check the amount of your contributions. Julie concluded by reminding everyone to bring their checkbook in November.

### Public Policy: Barb Butchart

- Barb recognized Laurie Levin for helping to pass out the new Public Policy Priorities pamphlets this morning. (Note: A copy of this pamphlet is attached to the hard copy of these minutes).
- Barb encouraged members to take a look at the Public Policy pamphlet, which was adopted in June of 2017 at the national convention in Washington, D.C. She particularly emphasized bullet number 4 in the section called Biennial Action Priorities, regarding vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education.
- Barb also pointed out the AAUW Action Network described in the pamphlet and encouraged everyone to sign up for the Two-Minute Activist. This is a way for us to make our voices heard. Title IX is being seriously challenged. Stand with AAUW to keep Title IX strong!

### **IV. Appointed Directors:**

#### Branch Development (Winter Auction): Suzanne Couch/Karen Francis

- Suzanne stated that this event raises money, but we have fun while we do it. She explained that the auction is the easiest way to raise operating funds with a single event instead of several smaller ones. If we did not hold this major fundraiser, we would need to raise our dues by \$48 to cover operating costs.
- For the event, we need large items for the oral auction, as well as interest group donations. Small items, food items, and handmade items for the boutique also are needed. If you are unable to attend, please write a check to support the auction.
- Karen advised that in the budget, under Operating, members can see all of the things that come out of this line item, including such things as National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).
- Last year, the auction added a wine bar. It will be back again this year, so please consider donating wine.

Directory: Leslie Wier/Marilyn Beiter/Joyce Katz

Members were reminded to pick up directories, for themselves as well as for friends who aren't here.

Dollars for Scholars (DFS): Marcia Block, for Jan Buckhold and Phyllis Oakes

You should have received two sheets of DFS events. Please sign up to attend. Friends and spouses are always welcome. The fall calendar needs more events, as do the winter months, so DFS need additional sponsors.

### **Standing Committees:**

Eleanor Roosevelt Walk: Jean Elliott

- The Eleanor Roosevelt Walk will be held next Tuesday, October 17, at 10:30 a.m. at Des Peres Park. Please donate \$25 or more to register.
- The last word of our AAUW mission statement is 'research.' The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund supports research, and there are so many reports on the AAUW website under the Research tab. These include reports on college debt and the gender pay gap. If you read one of these reports, you will be impressed by how it can help you to advocate for what you believe in. Eleanor Roosevelt said, "Do something every day that scares you." New members: join us at the E.R. Walk. We will welcome you. For those who cannot walk, please contribute.
- Yesterday was Eleanor Roosevelt's birthday. The committee is raffling off the cake seen on one of the back tables. [Follow-up: Congratulations to Susan Haynes, who won the cake!]

Interest Groups: Julie Triplett on new interest group

- Julie Triplett announced that she and Karen Francis came up with the idea of a new interest group activity, consisting of a series of four lunches, "Munching Matters: Lunch with Food for Thought." Luncheons will be held at the Walnut Grill. The room can accommodate forty (40) people, so please sign up. Sandra Murdock will speak at the launch meeting on November 8, and Shima Rostami will be with us at the following meeting. Please let Julie know if you signed up, but cannot come.
- Marcia Block added that if you have an idea for an interest group, you can talk to the co-presidents about it, or some other board member.

### Interbranch Council (IBC): Barb McQuitty

- The Interbranch Council comprises all five AAUW affiliates in the St. Louis area. IBC is going to hold a fundraising project, wrapping gifts at Barnes and Noble. The store provides the gift wrapping supplies, and AAUW does the wrapping and gets the tips. Barb is looking for volunteers from our branch to sign up for three-hour shifts, three or four volunteers per shift. See her for the sign-up sheet. The project runs from December 17 through 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- IBC will hold a spring event, the Spring Fling. AAUW B-C is responsible for choosing the place and the menu. Barb is working on this with Karen Francis. There will be a program and a small auction. If you belong to a country club, please let Barb know if your connection might allow the Spring Fling to be held there.

### **V. Adjournment**

Marcia Block adjourned the business meeting at 10:10 a.m.

### **VI. Program:**

Vice President of Program Sage Taber introduced today's speakers, Valerie Brinkman and Margaret Johnson, women's rights advocates. Their topic was "A Follow-up on the Women's March—How to Keep the Momentum Going." They provided two resource hand-outs (attached to the hard copy of these minutes).

Susan Fenwick, Secretary/Archivist