

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting October 5, 2017

I. Call to Order

A. Welcome

- President Marcia Block called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
- Board members then recited the AAUW Mission Statement: “AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.”
- Marcia thanked the day’s hostesses: Susan Fenwick, Linda Roberson, and Julie Triplett.
- Governance Parliamentarian Marcia Weppelman confirmed that we had a quorum.

B. President’s Remarks: Marcia Block

- Welcome to new board member, Carol Greenaway.
- Marcia encouraged members to consult their board folders, which contain a lot of useful information.
- The deadline for submitting articles to the newsletter is in flux.
- Marcia asked who needs tables, and how many, at the branch meeting. The response was the same 7 tables as at the prior meeting + 2 for the book sale.
- The Webster-Kirkwood branch is once again selling pecans. Orders are needed by Oct. 12. Marcia passed around order forms.
- Marcia passed out a summary sheet of attendance at branch meetings and events that she developed. She has asked Membership to continue recording meeting attendance. We can study why attendance has dropped in some cases, even with total branch membership hovering around 250 throughout. Interest groups also seem to be shrinking some. Doris Nistler remarked that this summary is very good, as it will allow us to look for reasons for trends, and maybe poll members for explanations.

II. Elected Officers

A. Secretary/Archivist: Susan Fenwick

Minutes of the September, 2017, board meeting are on the AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield website. No corrections or additions were proposed. The minutes were accepted as posted.

B. Finance Officer: Pat Shores

- Pat gave the following asset report: Operating Fund, \$35,841; Leadership Development Fund, \$4,468; Dollars for Scholars, \$4,771; Schnucks, \$2,721. Total assets stand at \$47,800. A donation was sent in memory of Becky Kruse.
- The Budget Committee and Board have approved this approved budget, so now the budget will be presented to the membership for approval at the October branch meeting. There will be a brief overview, followed by a call for questions, before the vote.
- Form 990 has been filed with the IRS.
- A new Financial Planning Committee has been established, that will have its first meeting on Oct. 16.
- Our tax letter is out of date. Pat looked into this, and was told "it is on the way."

C. VP Membership: Mersine Kallaos and Michele Mangnall

- Mersine reported that as of the September brunch, we had 240 members. Eight (8) people joined, but we lost one member with death of Becky Kruse, so total membership now is 247.
- Membership is making final arrangements today for the New Member Tea on Oct. 19 at home of Gloria Champion. Twenty-two (22) new members are eligible to attend, but Membership has heard from only six (6) of them, two of whom replied that they cannot attend. Michele is going to send out another reminder, and the committee will consider making phone calls if no more responses are forthcoming.

D. VP Program: Marilyn Fletcher and Sage Taber

- Speakers are all set. For the next meeting, the speaker is going to run off a resource handout.
- Pat White, our own member, will speak in November.

E. Immediate Past President: Barb McQuitty on IBC

- AAUW B-C is part of the Interbranch Council (IBC), composed of five affiliates from the St. Louis metro area. IBC will hold a fundraiser on Dec. 17- 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. This will be gift wrapping at the Barnes and Noble store in Ladue. Proceeds will help with NCCWSL. Barb asked B-C members to sign up for three (3) hours at a time on a sheet she passed around. B-C could cover a whole day, or just support various shifts on different days. Wrapping is free but we get tips. In past years, we provided 3-4 volunteers for each 3-hour shift.
- This year the IBC Spring Fling is on April 21, 2018. AAUW B-C is responsible for the site and the luncheon. Barb McQuitty and Karen Francis are checking various venues. Prices seem to be a little higher than last year. We could have lunch catered

in at a community center or other site. Barb asked for suggestions, which included the Foundry Art Center, the Des Peres community center, the Ballwin golf course, and Glen Echo. It was mentioned that one of our members belongs to Meadowbrook Country Club, so that might be a possibility. 60-80 people are expected to attend.

III. Elected Directors:

A. Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF): Marian Bauer and Judy Stagoski

- Marian thanked everyone for their good wishes during her surgery and recovery.
- A question was raised: where did the Becky Kruse memorial donation go? Pat Shores responded that it was donated to the AAUW Fund. National will send a card to the family.
- 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.
- Panera cards are still on sale; the bean soup packets are gone. The book sale, a very important part of our income, begins this month.
- Our four (4) local scholarship recipients are all in school and doing well.

B. Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF): Doris Nistler and Judy Triplett

- Julie explained that LAF is cooperating with EOF on a joint effort. In the past, two Individual Giving months were held for separate funds, but with LAF and EOF fully funded at the national level, these committees will combine and hold a single Individual Giving month in November. This month was selected because finances are on a calendar-year basis, so this will allow donations to be counted for Century Club, etc. This will be the only fund drive of the year for National, for the AAUW [unrestricted] Fund.

MOTION

Julie Triplett made a motion on behalf of the Legal Advocacy Committee to hold a single fundraiser in November, rather than separate LAF and EOF Individual Giving events.

Results: The motion passed.

- Joyce remarked that there is a very short video on what the AAUW Fund covers. She will try to get ahold of it, to show at the branch meeting. There is an AAUW Fund budget each year, published in *Outlook*, which indicates how money in this fund is allocated. Also, members can earmark donations to this fund for specific allocation. Karen Francis offered that it would be advisable to highlight that this will be the only “ask” this year from National. In our publicity, we should be sure to direct people to whom to make out their check.

C. Public Policy: Barb Butchart and Eve LaJeunesse

- Doris Nistler reported that the U.S. Department of Education has suspended the Title IX guidance contained in the Q. and A. letter. The department is supposed to be developing a new letter.
- Barb Butchart explained that EOF, LAF, and several other committees, including oversight of Title IX, branch off of the Public Policy ‘trunk.’ AAUW sent out a report on Sep. 22, indicating disappointment in the Department of Education withdrawing the “Dear Colleague” letter and Q. and A. This is a blatant rollback from earlier strong guidance. The more than 10,000 comments from AAUW on this topic were ignored. AAUW remains committed to defending Title IX, and schools are urged to dedicate themselves to continue upholding civil rights and equal access to education. When you receive 2-minute Activist notices in your email, please respond.
- Karen Francis stated that the AAUW Advocacy Network provides timely notifications from National. It takes just one button press to contact representatives and senators on Public Policy issues. Colleges are still way under-reporting sexual assaults on campus. Please respond! Sexual violence on campus and the pay gap issues have been hit hard this past month. A new issue of “The Simple Truth” has just come out. The federal government does not want to fund tracking of numbers.
- Pat Shores, co-chair of the Missouri state Public Policy Committee will share some comments on Title IX at the branch meeting.
- Joyce Katz asked about the application for receiving texts, which does not seem to be working. She was advised to go to the website, rather than signing up via phone.

IV. Appointed Directors:

A. Branch Development (Auction): Suzanne Couch and Karen Francis

- This year's auction, "The Winter Soirée," will be held on December 14. Suzanne said the people on the committee are a pleasure to work with because they willingly take on tasks and get the job done.
- We need to let members understand that the auction is critical to raising funds to keep our branch running. We need to have members there and contributing. If they cannot attend, they can simply make a donation. People should be encouraged to bring a friend.
- Please be thinking about what we can sell for large auction items, or get a group together to do things.
- Karen Francis added that people also should think about who is going to chair the winter auction starting next year, as Karen and Suzanne will reach their term limit.
- Joyce Katz raised a question whether Individual Giving in November will clash with the publicity for donations to the Winter Soirée. Marian Bauer responded that we always had this November fund drive; we are just dropping the March one.

B. Directory: Marilyn Beiter, Joyce Katz, and Leslie Wier

- Leslie reported that a large numbers of directories already have been distributed, so the committee is doing well this month.

C. Dollars for Scholars (DFS): Janice Buckhold and Phyllis Oakes

- Phyllis passed out two sheets, the DFS Events page that will be handed out at the branch meeting, and a St. Louis museums sheet. Jan Horner and Susie Teicher are taking the place of Jan and Phyllis at our branch meeting. Marcia has their talking points to speak at the meeting. The Victorian Tea buffet is full, and names are being taken for a waiting list. Phyllis is irritated by women who bring no check to pay when signing up for Dollars for Scholars, or they bring one check and want to write it for multiple events. Could this be mentioned at a meeting?

- Sage Taber commented she would like to make it easy for people to pay electronically (e.g., the square). Pat Shores will investigate this, especially for payment at the auction. Joyce Katz pointed out it would require internet access, which currently we do not have available in the gym. Could we have a hot spot?
- Board members, please sign up to sponsor an event if you haven't already done so.

D. Newsletter: Sandy Brody, Joan Davis, Mary Jermak, and Jean Light

- Mary Jermak said some newsletter deadlines are being revised, so please don't assume a date of the 14th of the month; the deadline will be specified if you receive a contributor notice. The new newsletter staff configuration is working well, but there is some confusion about which newsletter editor should receive materials. If an article is sent to the wrong one, they will get it to the right person.
- Mary issued an appeal to please help out the newsletter editors by making sure people's names are spelled correctly.
- A privacy policy removed addresses, directions to people's homes, and phone numbers from the newsletters. In a general cover note, Mary will include the instruction to consult the directory for this information. The note will not appear in individual articles.
- Susan Fenwick observed that, in spite of a few minor errors that people have pointed out, AAUW B-C has an excellent newsletter! Mersine Kallaos added that personal pride sets high standards.

E. Fall Brunch: Susan Fenwick, Linda Roberson, and Barb McQuitty

- Board members expressed their appreciation for the successful Fall Brunch. Barb reported that the co-director's efforts are complete, with the financial accounting finished and final report written. Susan added that the co-directors had help from a very fine committee that pitched in on the work. Receipts were submitted for reimbursement, and checks were received promptly. Finance Officer Pat Shores was thanked for responding so quickly, even in the midst of all of the budget planning activity.

V. Standing Committees

A. Eleanor Roosevelt Walk: Jean Elliott

The walk will be held on Oct. 17 at Des Peres Park. If unable to walk, members can sponsor other people or just make a donation. The money goes to fund AAUW research reports, like "Deeper in Debt." It is important to contribute to the discussion of national issues.

B. Interest Groups: Julie Triplett

- Four (4) dates are set up for a new activity, a series of luncheons, "Munching Matters." The first one will have Sandra Murdock as speaker. Julie's son is willing to videotape it. Thirty-one (31) people have signed up. Julie will send out a reminder that it will be held from 11:00 to 2:00 on Nov. 8 at the Walnut Grill.
- Related to the AAUW research report, "Deeper in Debt," Karen Francis wondered if we could find a young woman or man who has substantial educational debt, and can speak about the impact it has. This level of debt affects families, not just the student. Sandra said she just heard a discussion of this topic, related to extremely high medical school debt.
- The group is hoping that for the January meeting, they can have Shima Rostami, speaking on her experience as a young Muslim woman in the U.S. Marian mentioned possibly inviting one of the local women we support with scholarships, too. One is seeking a job in government because then her loans would be forgiven.

VI. Unfinished Business

None.

VII. New Business

None.

VIII. Adjournment

Marcia Block adjourned the meeting at. 10:55 a.m.

Follow-up Item

Following the meeting, Karen Francis emailed us information on the Missouri premiere of a film, "I am Jane Doe," that chronicles the battle waged by American mothers on the website Backpage.com. This is a story of victims of sex-trafficking. The flyer lists the date and venue for screening of the film and various associated activities, October 30, 2017, at Kirkwood High School. Tickets are complimentary, but registration is required.

Susan Fenwick,
Secretary/Archivist