

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting

November 2, 2017

I. Call to Order and Welcome: Sandra Murdock

- Sandra called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
- Governance/Parliamentarian Marsha Weppelman confirmed that we had a quorum.
- Board members recited the mission statement: “AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.”
- Sandra thanked the hostess committee: Marilyn Beiter, Jean Elliott, and Marsha Weppelman.

II. Elected Officers

A. Secretary/Archivist: Susan Fenwick

Susan confirmed that the minutes of the October board meeting are on the AAUW B-C website. No corrections or additions were brought up; the minutes were approved as posted.

B. Financial Officer: Pat Shores

- Pat provided ending balance figures on all four accounts: Operating Fund, \$36,965; Leadership Development Fund, \$4,468; Dollars for Scholars, \$7,822; Schnucks, \$2,747. Total assets stand at \$52,002.
- At the Missouri state meeting last Saturday, Pat looked at the state AAUW policies. One of these, under Public Policy, says “Shall attend and assist the Missouri Women’s Network meetings in preparation for Legislative Retreat, Equity Action Day and Equality Day Brunch.” Other affiliates pay organizational dues of \$30 to support Equity Day and other collaborative events and activities. Pat Shores made the following motion. If passed, Pat would create a new line item under Public Policy called “Memberships.”

MOTION

I move that Ballwin-Chesterfield pay \$30 for an organizational membership in the Missouri Women's Network.

Results of the Vote: Motion carried.

- Marcia Block related that Sue Barley provided information about AAUW national's budget to the AAUW B-C Financial Committee. National is trying to be much more transparent about their finances.
- NCCWSL gets a lot of money from foundations. The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund is for research and projects. National is losing money (including some \$1,000,000 on conventions). They spend a lot on administration, and a large amount on "development." Marcia Block passed out a copy of the AAUW national budget sheet, organized by department. Karen Francis pointed out that the membership dues are going to be raised, and that will offset some of the deficit.
- Doris Nistler proposed that someone from national come to talk to the AAUW B-C board, and perhaps the membership, about the big changes going on at the national level. Sue Barley might be a conduit for this request.
- There is a chart that shows where money in the AAUW [unrestricted] Fund goes. The newsletter contains a live link to the chart. With Individual Giving month upon us, Joyce will put this chart up on the projector screen at the branch meeting, and will include a link to it in the Friday notes.

C. V-P Program: Marilyn Fletcher/Sage Taber

- Marilyn gave a report on evaluations of the program at last month's branch meeting. The committee received LOTS of feedback. With 105 members in attendance, 51 evaluation forms were received. 47 of these said the

program met the organization's goals. In the rating section, 23 of 51 circled '5.' Almost everyone wrote a comment. Many comments, about half of them, were quite laudatory. Negative comments stated that the speakers were "too political," or did not provide a good balance to address the concerns of the entire membership.

- The speakers' remarks got very personal, and we never heard about what is supposed to come after the Women's March.
- After today's meeting, there will be a short meeting on next year's programs. The committee welcomes people to offer suggestions.
- Karen Francis brought up "What's in Your Backpack," an extension of some of the issues brought up in the last program. One of our missions, new to Public Policy Priorities this year, is racial justice.
- Joyce would like for everyone to read the meeting summary that she put on the website (with pictures). Joyce has learned that if we set up a telephone hotspot, we can get internet access in the Trinity gym.

D. Membership: Mersine Kallaos/Michele Mangnall

- Mersine: Our branch has 248 members as of today. We got one new member, a visitor, in October.
- The New Member Tea was well attended, and many of the new members are quite excited about joining. We have some impressive new members, and they want to get involved. New members are informed of a buddy system, but generally they haven't taken us up on this, probably because they have come in with a friend. Also they are given an interest sheet, listing numerous opportunities to join committees. Out to Lunch sends an invitation to all new members to join in. Three people are appointed each month to be greeters and collect name tags. Maybe they also could reach out to new members at the meeting.

III. Elected Directors

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

- Marian reported the good news that in just the first month of book sales, EOF earned \$280. She encouraged everyone to keep on bringing in books.
- Panera Bread cards are still available; soup is not.
- Marian will speak at the November branch meeting about individual giving. There will be an envelope and a chart that Judy Stagoski made, on how to make a donation unrestricted, or designate it for a particular fund. Members who give \$100 in a fiscal year qualify for the Century Club; \$250 qualifies a person for Century Plus.

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

- Julie said LAF is tying in with EOF for individual giving, rather than holding a separate appeal.
- The next LAF article for the newsletter will be about a particular legal case involving sexual harassment.
- Doris stated that while AAUW at the national level has emphasized fundraising for LAF, her own emphasis has been on what is going on in Legal Advocacy.
- LAF contributions come from around 40% of members. Mary Jermak asked if most giving occurs at the meeting, or at other times, and the response was that it is at the meeting.
- When members donate online, national notifies the branch. If Julie Triplett, our fund chair, sees that there are members who are just \$5 or so short of qualifying for the Century Club, she will let them know. All the money in November will go directly to national, not through the AAUW B-C books.

C. Public Policy: Barbara Butchart/Eve LaJeunesse

Barb spoke about the reasons to support Title IX protections for students. The Patsy Mink Gender Equity in Education Act of 2016 is intended to ensure that schools comply with the landmark civil rights law, and it requires the Department of Education to establish an Office for Gender Equity. Barb urged members to participate in the Two-minute Activist to respond to our legislators on this topic.

IV. Appointed Directors

A. Branch Development and Leadership: Suzanne Couch/Karen Francis

- Suzanne says the auction is coming along beautifully. Jayne Kasten is doing all of the table decorations and is taking charge of getting reservations. Last month more people signed up for this year's auction than attended last year! There will be nine (9) people per table. The last two (2) possible tables are being filled. Those who signed up for a table, but haven't sent in their payment, need to do so by November 11. Otherwise, those reservations will be dropped.
- This is a fundraiser. Members can help by making a donation (including signing up to provide breakfast foods for people as they sign in). Joyce Katz is in charge of wine at the auction. A contribution will get you a glass of wine. Please donate a bottle of white or red wine; bring it to the auction. Joyce needs two other people to sell and pour wine. Leftover bottles of wine will be sold.
- Auction items will be taken at the door, or they can be dropped off at Trinity the night before, when the room is being set up.
- The snow date for the Winter Soiree is the following day.
- Karen Francis thanked everyone for all of their support. She and Suzanne are looking forward to a great afternoon.
- Pat Shores talked about making payment for auction items using "the square." Pat and Barb Butchart will be taking credit card payments using

the square. Cash payments will be handled separately. Joyce suggested putting a floor on the amount of credit payments, since the company charges a set fee per swipe. The payment goes directly into our account. People will go to the cashier by table. We need to remind people they have to wait until the cashiers are set up to accept payment, not attempt to pay during lunch. Lunch will be scheduled to be served at 11:45 a.m. The lunch offerings are really good.

B. Communications/Web: Joyce Katz/Linda Roberson

- It is possible to make donations to AAUW online. Instructions will be in the Friday note.
- The use of a hotspot allows us to gain access to the internet in the Trinity gym.

C. Directory: Leslie Wier/Marilyn Beiter/Joyce Katz

Leslie said a directory supplement is about to come out, and it will be mailed separately from the newsletter. Some printouts will be available at the branch meeting for those who are getting new directories.

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

- DFS event sheets were distributed to the board members.
- Year to date, we've had six (6) events. Seven (7) more are on the calendar to happen in the future. At the branch meeting, Janice and Phyllis will discuss suggestions for other events that could be sponsored.
- Friends should be encouraged to come to events, including MEN. Winter is a great time for events that do not require purchasing tickets for the event, because it is straightforward to cancel them in case of inclement weather.
- Some events bring in new people to interest groups. (Example: genealogy workshops). Interest group heads could consider this sort of event. An event built around a hobby is a great idea, like the glasswork bench. Keep a

waitlist if you sponsor an event. Additional events may come out of the original one, if the waitlist grows long enough.

- We need to address the issue of having events that already are filled before they are publicized. There have to be events that are open so people can sign up at the branch meeting. Certain events need to have limited numbers of attendees, so it is possible the signups for these events may not stretch out over several months.
- Sponsors need to call people who have signed up to ask people to drive.

E. Nominating Committee: Marsha Weppelman

- Members of this committee are Marsha, Bette Bude and Leslie Wier. You can nominate people using the online flyer or submit one in writing. Forms may be obtained at the November or December meeting and these can be sent in via postal mail.
- Mary Jermak will put an article in the newsletter, and Marsha Weppelman will announce the nomination process at the meetings. If you wish to nominate someone, be sure to ask the person you wish to nominate first. Also, you can nominate yourself.
- Saturday, January 20, 2018, is the deadline for submitting nominations. The committee will review the recommendations to find the best leaders for our organization. The positions to be filled are Co-President, V-P Program, V-P Membership, and Secretary/Archivist. No elected directors are reaching term limits.

F. Newsletter: Sandy Brody/Joan Davis/Mary Jermak/Jean Light

- We welcomed Jean to her first board meeting. She is handling the Interest Groups section of the newsletter.
- The deadline for submissions going forward, starting with the January issue, will be the twelfth of each month. If the deadline shifts, Newsletter will

announce it. The deadline may vary by newsletter department. Submitters have been doing very well, generally, in meeting the deadline.

- Sandy Brody is the main contact for the News section, but after this issue, she and Mary will be switching responsibilities.

G. Interbranch Council (IBC): Barbara McQuitty

- IBC includes all of the AAUW affiliates in the St. Louis area. For this year's Spring Fling, Ballwin-Chesterfield had responsibility for selecting the venue. The luncheon will be at Glen Echo Country Club, on April 21, 2018, as arranged with help from Karen Francis. Glen Echo offers an excellent choices of meals, and they fit within our budget. A cash bar will be available. The Spring Fling was held there last year, and it was lovely. AAUW B-C does not have responsibility for doing the program.
- Currently, the IBC Barbara Lackritz Award is given annually. This schedule may change in the future. AAUW B-C will be submitting a nominee, Karen Francis, for the award. Karen has done so much not only for our branch, but also for IBC, the state, and national AAUW. Karen said she feels honored to be nominated. Our affiliate nominations reader is Susan Fenwick.
- There will be a luncheon with speaker, Dr. Malaika Horne, University of Missouri, on December 1 at Mimi's. Dr. Horne's topic will be "Confronting Sexual Harassment."
- Quite a few people have signed up to do gift wrapping for a 3-hour period during the IBC fundraiser, but they can still use more volunteers. If interested, you must sign up for a particular time slot.

V. Standing Committees

A. Eleanor Roosevelt Walk: Jean Elliott

Jean thanked everyone who helped out with the walk, which raised \$1,698. It was a great day!

B. Publicity: Karen Francis

Karen continues to arrange publicity as appropriate.

VI. New Business

- Julie Triplett: It's not too soon to put the state meeting on your calendar. It will be held on May 5, 2018, in Columbia, Missouri.
- Suzanne Couch thanked board members for all of the auction sign-ups to bring food and wine. If the wine you are planning to bring needs to be chilled, please stick it in the refrigerator.
- Pat Shores said that our branch had a two-year AAUW community action grant that ended in June. Thanks to the grant, Ballwin-Chesterfield helped get the St. Charles Coalition against Human Trafficking started, and now SCCAT is firmly on its feet. SCCAT will be part of a teacher in-service event for the Fort Zumwalt School District, on the subject of preventing human trafficking. There will be five parts to the session, and law enforcement officers will be involved, too.
- "I am Jane Doe," is a film that chronicles the battle being waged by several mothers on behalf of their middle-school daughters, victims of sex trafficking in connection with the website Backpage. This documentary was shown recently and it was attended by some AAUW B-C members. Viewers found it interesting, but a bit long. It is available on Netflix. One of the survivors featured is from Florissant.

VII. Adjournment

Sandra Murdock adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Susan Fenwick
Secretary/Archivist