

## **Minutes of the AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting - April 7, 2016**

### **Call to Order/Welcome**

President Barbara McQuitty called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. This was followed by the recitation of our mission statement: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

- Barb thanked our hostesses for the day: Barb Jowett, Barb Tackitt, Pat Shores and Carol Derington.
- Marcia Block, who has been away for a while receiving medical treatment, requested that her thanks be passed along to let us know that she is extremely appreciative of the way the AAUW B-C women have stepped up to help and support her during her illness. She feels truly blessed, and hopes to be back with us in a few months.
- Leslie Wier has knee surgery coming up next week. Erlaine Eltomi is recovering well from her surgery. We wish them both well.

### **President's Remarks: Barb McQuitty and Karen Francis**

- On the AAUW B-C website there is a document, Strategic Planning, which contains five goals that resulted from the work of the planning committee. The Board voted, in an earlier meeting, to approve these five goals. [Karen read the goals aloud].
- "Barriers and Bias, the Status of Women in Leadership" is a new program being announced by AAUW. Part of this program deals with implicit biases. You are encouraged to go out to the national website to take a test that gives you insights about how you may unknowingly view women and men differently in leadership roles. It was used for part of the research on "Why So Few." If you are no longer working outside the home, select Do Not Work as your status. Some of us have been shocked because even though we feel sure we are not biased, our test results show otherwise. It is an interesting test.
- Those who are on the Action Network, there is 2-minute Activist information about the vacancy on the Supreme Court. 15,000 emails have gone to President Obama, urging him to appoint someone to the Supreme Court. The Senate also is being encouraged to do their job. AAUW is political but not partisan.
- In the news was a ten-minute blurb on Work Smart, Start Smart in Boston. The mayor of Boston has had it with lower salaries for women.

- Our incoming branch president is Sandra Murdock, who was our Barbara Lackritz nominee. Sandra has contributed so much to the community. She has been a mentor to female students, and has helped students with computer and math skills. She is involved with My Sister's Keeper, and helps students enroll in college. Sandra has been instrumental in the AAUW B-C STEM program, Expanding Your Horizons, and the marine biology program with the World Aquarium.

### **Elected Officers' Reports**

#### **Secretary/Archivist: Susan Fenwick**

Minutes of the March board meeting are available from Susan and on our website. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Result: Motion PASSED.

#### **Financial Officer: Rita Hawkins-Page**

Rita reported the following balances. Schnuck's brought in \$34.22 last month, for a total of \$2,120. Dollars for Scholars has \$3,876; Leadership, \$8,334; Operating Fund, \$31,733.

### **AAUW Priorities**

#### **Public Policy: Pat Shores**

- Equity Action Day is next week. The bus to Jefferson City is nearly full. Many interesting topics will be discussed, including the pending pay equity bill, the Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA) and movement on one of the human trafficking bills. Everyone will try to meet with their state representative or senator. We will try to have an impact.
- An Equal Pay blast has been going out to legislators from nineteen AAUW B-C women who write a note to them every week. AAUW National has been a tremendous help to those participating in this effort, preparing them so they know what to say.
- Status of our AAUW Community Action Grant - Breaking the Chains. Almost all of the Year 1 money is spent. Pat Shores can make available a report that shows details of how the funds were used. The first year goals have been met! More meetings were held with other organizations, and presentations made, than the committee even thought they could do. And the St. Charles Coalition Against Human Trafficking (SCAAT) has an office and a director.
- One hundred years ago in St. Louis, 3000 suffragettes showed up at the Democratic Convention to demand that women's right to vote be included in platform. The League

of Women Voters is organizing a re-creation of this event at a Celebrate the Vote Festival at the St. Louis Public Library in September. AAUW sponsorship of this event comes with no funding, but you may consider giving a personal donation. If you do donate, please show your organization as being AAUW. Please help Pat to advertise this.

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

- There is good news from EOF. Two of our four scholarship winners from UMSL are graduating in May. They will receive a "Give a Grad a Gift" free membership to National. If you have relatives or friends who are graduating this year, go online to find out about this program.
- In April, Marian Bauer and Linda Roberson will begin work on the budget for next year. The universities need to know how many scholarships they can give out. By May, Marian and Linda will present to the Board.
- As of March 31, a total of \$1,125 had been made on this year's book sale. There is one more month to go. The approach taken to the book sale has doubled our income, compared with last year. Puzzles and books on tape, as well as books and DVD's, are accepted.

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

- \$1,815 was contributed to LAF through Individual Giving. Thank you! And thanks to those who participated in the LAF presentations at our branch meeting.
- Also, \$3000 has been received in contributions from Trivia and from sponsors. This means almost \$5000 was collected from our branch for LAF this year!
- Julia has suggested that a PowerPoint or a presentation by a plaintiff be developed as a meaningful way to explain to AAUW members why our legal advocacy matters. This is being considered. There will be a gentleman plaintiff at the upcoming Regional Conference.

### **Branch Priorities**

#### **Communications: Joyce Katz**

Joyce made three announcements.

- 1) It is time to renew your membership. One way to renew is to send a check to Rita Hawkins-Page for \$81, made out to AAUW (not AAUW B-C). It is also possible to renew online. Branch members should renew through the Members Services database, not from the Renew tab on

the main page. "Renew my Membership" will bring up your member info. As soon as you pay online, you will receive a receipt in your email box, and Rita will receive a notification. Please get your renewals done soon.

- 2) Joyce has a bunch of new Schnuck's scrip cards. Directions come with the card. You must activate the card by going to Schnuck's website or by phoning the number on the card. You may activate up to four (4) cards per family. Joyce had ten (10) cards with her to distribute at the board meeting and will take additional cards to the branch meeting.
- 3) Joyce is looking for someone who would enjoy the thrill of learning something new. The computer program WordPress, used on the AAUW website, is similar to Word. Joyce would like to work with someone who would like to learn this program and work on websites for a while and perhaps eventually learn the job.

#### **Newsletter: Mary Jermak and Bette Bude**

- Office Depot missed sending emails to our newsletter staff for a while, and it turned out there were several reward certificates. It pays to check, if you haven't heard for a while!
- Bette and Mary asked board members to fill out a survey about branch communications and their use of the newsletter. They also passed out a handout, "Proposed Branching Out Newsletter Re-configuration." There was quite a bit of discussion of the various proposals, and board members are generally supportive of the objective of streamlining the newsletter preparation and distributing the workload to more than two people.
- Next year, the way the dates happen to fall, there would be five (5) early deadlines for submittal of articles to the newsletter. Bette and Mary are proposing making the deadline a uniform 14th of the month. They are aiming for distribution on the fourth Monday of each month. Also they asked if we might consider going to six (6) issues per year, each one a dual issue.
- Considerations in making some changes are expense, amount of work for editors and writers, and dividing the workload. We now have one of the biggest newsletters of all the branches; of course, we are the biggest branch. Perhaps the results of the survey handed out today can point the way to which changes would be favored.
- Newsletter editors surveyed the bridge groups to ask the question: Do bridge groups and interest groups need to be in the newsletter EVERY time? The majority of the bridge chairs replied that it's motivational, that is, it provides publicity for our branch. It bears considering which newsletter sections are most time-consuming. What if we had a newsletter team, and divided responsibility for sections among the members of the

team? Bette gave a "for instance" on how to divide this up among four people. You would then need an assembly person who would bring together the four parts, and still have copy editors. Discussion on this subject will be continued at the next board meeting. Thanks to Bette and Mary for all the thought they've put into this.

- This is the first time in many years we've had to recruit people to work on the newsletter. The question was asked, if we are having a hard time finding people, is it possible to hire a person as an editor? (Plus volunteer helpers). What Bette believes is that it is important that the people who do the newsletter know and are dedicated to the branch.
- Joyce Katz takes newsletters from across the state and puts them on the website. She made the point that AAUW B-C people give their time, money, and dedication because they are welcomed and helped to meld into the branch. It's about COMMUNICATION. This gives them the information to know more about the branch. It might be better to increase the size of the committee instead of publishing just every two months. Also, we have a lot of members who can't make it to meetings, and they are very appreciative of the newsletter. It makes them still feel included. Vickie Jany observed that Hospitality would have trouble listing hostesses two months in advance.

### **Special Events/Spring Luncheon: Carol Derington**

Carol has 45 paid reservations, plus several people who have registered but not yet paid, for the Spring Luncheon on May 12 at 11:00 a.m. She will be signing up more attendees at next week's branch meeting. Payment is by check only, for \$26. April 29 is the last day to cancel and get a refund. Bring guests, and when signing up, please give their full names.

### **Membership: Marilyn Fletcher**

Nothing to report today.

### **Leadership-State Meeting: Julie Triplett**

Sign up! The state meeting will be on April 30 in Jefferson City. Our branch reimburses registration. Get your checks in early.

### **STEM: Sandra Murdock**

- Sandra has been in close contact with Marcia Block by phone. STEM Girls of Promise will be held at Valley Park on April 29, 7:00 a.m. The committee has met and the program is outlined. It will include continental breakfast and awards to five (5) girls. Thanks to Bette for getting the names of the girls at Valley Park.

- We are not holding a Girls of Promise awards event at Maplewood this year.
- April 26 is the Science Fair.
- On March 8, 390 girls participated in New Horizons. We sponsored girls from the St. Louis School of Collegiate Bioscience.

### **New Business**

- Karen and Barb have been working on filling the appointed directors' spots for 2016-2017, and only two spots are still open. We will vote on these nominees at the May board meeting.
- At the May board meeting, lunch will be furnished by Barb and Karen.
- The Missouri Ten-Star Award and Galaxy Award require a lot of work, but Julie has made it look easy. Immediate Past President Suzanne Couch reports that we have qualified for everything on the Ten-Star Award in multiple ways. The Galaxy award focuses on a single activity we do, and this year the book sale was written up.
- Named Gift: There is a meeting tomorrow at noon to choose the recipients.
- Job descriptions were updated at beginning of the year. At the May meeting, it is requested that everyone have bullets about what was accomplished. Please send end-of-year reports to Barb McQuitty, Karen Francis, and Sandra Murdock. There is no need to print out your report on paper. The due date is the day before the May board meeting. (A reminder will go out). Keep it simple.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Strategic Plan: Karen Francis**

- Strategic plan goals were voted on by the Board at the last meeting. The planning committee has a meeting at Vickie Jany's home on April 21. Committees will be working during the summer months.
- Karen mentioned the Barriers and Biases launch, a research project on why women still are not in positions of leadership. The big takeaway for her was to encourage you to take the IAT test. Even though we think we do not have implicit biases, are we biased without being conscious of it? Some barriers are of our own making. When women apply for a job and read the job description, they think they have to have every box checked, while men do not. On the website all kinds of information can be found on what we can do individually and as a group, including a lot of discussion of diversity, and

how to include people. As branch advisor next year, Karen is going to look at what can we do at the branch, state, and national level. The call has gone out to solicit people to serve on national committees. This requires a willingness to learn even more.

- You can watch the entire launch online. Karen will check on how they will publish their research. You can get it for free, just by paying postage. It's already in print.
- Another recommendation is to check out the Diversity and Inclusiveness webinar, available through the AAUW national website. It is eye-opening and VERY interesting.
- When you think about diversity, look at what the legislatures are doing all over the nation. They are taking steps backward! When action alerts go out, please take a moment to press the button.

### **Spring Meetings: Barb McQuitty**

1. April 30 is the AAUWMO Annual Meeting in Jefferson City.
2. June 3-4 is the AAUW Midwest Ten-State AAUW Biennial Conference in Kansas City, KS, at the Great Wolf Lodge.

### **Other New Business**

- Bette Bude says, "Sign up to be on the newsletter team. You all are qualified."
- Rita Page-Hawkins reported that she listened to a conference call with Elizabeth Warren. Rita found it exciting to hear the involvement and the reach of AAUW.

### **Adjournment**

Barb McQuitty adjourned the business meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Susan Fenwick,  
Secretary/Archivist