

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting May 5, 2016

Call to Order

Karen Francis called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Mission Statement

Attendees recited the AAUW mission statement: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

Minutes Motion

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

Financial Officer: Rita Hawkins Page

- Last month there was an error in Dollars for Scholars, with \$2500 incorrectly sent to National. It already has been returned and re-deposited in Dollars for Scholars, which now stand at \$6,966. Schnuck's has \$2,156; Leadership, \$8,304; Operating, \$32,393. We are in good shape financially.
- Please turn in any pending budget requests, with or without the form.
- Rita noted that there was an impressive AAUW commercial on TV last Saturday. Print ads also have been running in *Glamour* magazine.
- Creve Coeur branch may be disbanding, with several members transferring to B-C. There is some accounting work required to transfer from one branch to another. There are two types of lifetime members, honorary and paid.

Elected Officer's Reports

Past President: Suzanne Couch

- At the state convention, AAUW B-C received the 10-star Award and a Galaxy award. The Galaxy Award focused on the book sale (an activity other branches can duplicate).
- With regard to AAUW Fund donations, our branch was first in the state in total giving, and second in the state in per capita giving. The latter showed a big jump in the amount per person, compared with last year.

- We are proud to report that Pat Shores received a Woman of Distinction Award at the state meeting. This award is given every two years.
- Karen Francis: A highlight of the state meeting was a video presentation on how to give your "elevator pitch," telling people unfamiliar with AAUW what our organization is/does.
- Named Gift: At our May luncheon, there will be five named gift awardees, two outstanding branch member awards and one outstanding lifetime achievement award.

Program: Judy Stagoski/ Jan Horner

The programs for next year are set, with a good variety of topics. In February, the program will feature a female circuit judge.

Membership: Marilyn Fletcher

We hope we get more members; we're presently at 253.

Elected Directors' Reports

Public Policy: Pat Shores/ Barb Butchart

Barb Butchart just underwent surgery and is doing well. She is at home.

Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF): Linda Roberson/ Marian Bauer

Marian Bauer handed out an EOF budget sheet with two possible budgets, A and B, covering Local Scholarships, EOF National, and NCCWSL for the upcoming year. [A copy is on file with the Secretary/Archivist]. Discussion included pointing out that NCCWSL used to be under Leadership. Suggestion: The Finance Committee needs to meet again and possibly make some adjustments in how we allocate funds.

The EOF Committee recommends Budget A. We have supported 5 scholarships before; now we see our way to offer only 4 of them. Marian and Linda Roberson then moved that Budget A be approved by the board, as follows:

MOTION: We so move that the EOF budget for 2016-2017 be

\$4,000 local scholarships
\$2,000 EOF National
\$ 500 NCCWSL

Result: The motion PASSED.

- Sexual Trafficking of the Child bill, S804, is moving in the Missouri senate and needs support. Let your senators know that you want them to support it.
- Registration for the Midwest Regional Conference, to be held on June 3-4, 2016: It's time to register, to get the lower fee.
- Celebrate the vote: Please talk to Pat Shores about ways you can participate.
- Also coming in August: Equality Day.

Dollars for Scholars (DFS): Marian Bauer

- \$1,374 is the final total from book sales.
- Significant Dollars for Scholars information: In 2014, \$9,500 was raised; in 2015, \$8,000; this year it was \$6,500. Please consider how many Dollars for Scholars events you've attended and how many you have sponsored. The High Tea has made the difference. We need to replace the tea with events that bring in the same amount of money, if we want to do as much as before. The National Blues Museum will be a DFS outing in September. Everyone needs to think about other outings.
- Thanks to Barb Jowett and Barb Tackitt for all of the work they have done on Dollars for Scholars.
- Karen Francis: There is a push by AAUW for unrestricted funds. Charting the Course supports this. An offer of \$500 matching has been extended by one of our members. Karen posed the question of whether it is time to do away with individual giving months for EOF and LAF. Should we instead give to AAUW Fund? If so, how do we continue to give local scholarships? The need is so great! If we are going to make changes, we must develop an effective method of informing our members so we don't lose any contributions. Joyce Katz pointed out that we already have a good exhibit on our website that explains the AAUW Fund. A suggestion was made that perhaps canasta money could go to unrestricted funds.

Appointed Directors

Hospitality: Vickie Jany

No report at this time.

Newsletter: Bette Bude/Mary Jermak

Surveys: Results of the board and branch readership survey were distributed, and Bette highlighted the results. [A copy is on file with the secretary/archivist]. Results showed that the newsletter is the main vehicle for getting information about the branch for a majority of members of both the Board and the branch. Proposals: Newsletter editors will continue to work on how newsletter responsibilities can be divided up. They will work closely with the branch presidents and copy editors on this. Changing to a submittal deadline of the 14th of the month is regarded as a reasonable thing to do.

Special Events – Spring Luncheon: Carol Derington

87 people are signed up for the luncheon. Some problems have impacted this number: illnesses and graduations, which are falling earlier. Please sign up as a group if you want to sit together. The theme is "Plant your Dream and Watch it Grow." Table decorations will include live plants, which will be for sale. Doors open at 11:00. Greeters start at 11:15; luncheon will be served at noon.

Unfinished Business

- End of year reports need to be turned in.
- A Strategic Planning Committee recommendation is to use end of year reports as the basis for committees to show what you are doing NOW towards our strategic goals. When you have your summer meetings, talk about what you've already done as a committee and begin the dialog concerning what you plan to do in the future. The process will take time. Karen passed out what we used to have as our strategic plan. Each chair should look at what committee has already done that meets the criteria for success, and think about new measures. One example, [old] Leadership Goal 3: Is your event handicap accessible? Make this information known in the announcement of your event, or specify facilities that are A.D.A. compliant. Some committees will have all brand-new members; former members can aid in the transition.
 - Advice from Julie Triplett: Keep it simple!
 - Susan Fenwick will collect the information generated by the committees to compile a report for the branch. Every committee doesn't need to act on every single goal, but please consider all of them. Go over the goals with the new people on your committee. Turn in something to Susan by September.

New Business

- **2016-2017 Board Motion**

We are voting on Appointed Directors. All other positions have already been voted on; there is a separate motion for Appointed Directors. The one-year appointees, to finish out terms, are Vickie Jany, Phyllis Oakes and Doris Nistler. Note: From now on, Hospitality will incorporate Summer Picnic.

Results: Proposed Appointed Directors are **Approved**.

- Board Hostesses 2016-2017: A sign-up sheet was passed around with 4 slots per meeting.
- New item: All the presidents from Interbranch Council (IBC) received a note that there is a new film coming out called "Trapped." The note asked if we were interested in booking this film, similar to what was done with "The Invisible War." "Trapped" is a profile of abortion providers struggling to provide services in ever more restrictive environments. A couple of branches in St. Louis have said yes, others wish to think about it. Women's reproductive health is a hot issue. Do we want B-C to take a lead for the screening, or simply make people in the branch aware of it? We understand that not every member believes in every stance that AAUW takes. AAUW supports a woman's right to choose; AAUW is not pro-abortion or anti-abortion. The film's producer wants us to actually put the film in theaters. This is an outside item not generated by AAUW, so Karen will bring this up in the call with National. Certainly somebody associated with AAUW should view it before deciding.
- Thank-you Tuesdays?

How can we have a venue where members can thank the B-C community for help with problems? Perhaps not in Care Notes, but as an extension of Care Notes, as a single distribution once a month? This can be viewed as another way to be inclusive. Are Friday Notes the right place? Notes do need to be short, however! Joyce Katz says she's willing to send them, in something like an "In Gratitude" section of Friday Notes. It was suggested that we might just list the names of people who want to express their thanks, without notes, but this idea didn't seem very popular.
- Bette Bude received a letter from Dr. Matt Bailey, principal of Valley Park High School, thanking AAUW B-C for attendance at the STEM breakfast at Valley Park, celebrating STEM Girls of Promise.

Sandra Murdock received a letter from the Academy of Science for the Science Fair. It expressed thanks for fostering future generations of brilliant minds. Mary Jermak will put these items on the STEM page of our newsletter.

Adjournment/Luncheon

President Karen Francis adjourned the meeting at 11:31. This was followed by a delicious catered luncheon, to celebrate the year's accomplishments.

Susan Fenwick,
Branch Secretary/Archivist