

**AAUW BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BOARD MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 5, 2015**

**Mission**

President Karen Francis called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with recitation of the mission statement: "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research."

**Welcome**

- Karen thanked the meeting's hostesses: Doris Nistler, Linda Evans, Vickie Jany, and Darlene Harris.
- Doris Nistler confirmed that we had a quorum.
- No board meetings are scheduled in December or January.

**Financial Officer:** Rita Hawkins-Page

- The overall balance is \$37,814. Dollars for Scholars has \$5,847; Schnuck's stands at \$1925, with \$63 this month; Leadership has \$5,333; Operating Fund is at \$24,707.
- The money has been sent in to EOF.

**President's Report:** Karen Francis

- Suzanne Couch was asked to report on Fall Focus, sponsored by AAUW Missouri and IBC and held at Whitmoor Country Club. CFO Mark Hopkins from National gave a great presentation on Start Smart and Work Smart. Barb Butchart arranged it. Karen gave kudos to Barb and to Suzanne for wonderful planning.
- Karen reported that via the website, we received an email from a branch member in Texas who had met Suzanne and Karen at the national conference, requesting information on the three related programs our branch put on, dealing with women in prison and preparing them for re-entry into society.
- Dates to put in your calendar:
  - Equity Action Day: April 12
  - State AAUW Meeting: April 30 at the Doubletree in Jefferson City, a one-day event. Attendance is subsidized by our branch.
  - Regional AAUW Conference (happens in opposite years from national) June 3-4, 2016, at Gray Wolf Lodge in Kansas City. A flyer will appear on our website. 10 states will be represented.
  - Another Court Watch training session on November 13.
  - Training in Start Smart (a webinar) on November 19. AAUW bought the program and it has been changed some, so anyone trained before needs to go through training again. The session will last about 1-1/2 hours. AAUW members no longer have to pay for training, and more dates will be added. C/U partners get a discount. AAUW Missouri would like to be the first state to make a big push for this. Both men and women can participate when this program is offered on college campuses.

## **Elected Officers' Reports**

### **Programs:** Judy Stagoski

- Suzanne Gellman will present at next week's meeting on Start Smart and Work Smart.
- For future programs, Dr. Elaine Richardson is offering to come and make a presentation to our branch on her personal experience with human trafficking. After some discussion, it was suggested that we might wait a while before visiting this topic again at a branch meeting.

### **Membership:** Linda Seibert / Marilyn Fletcher

The New Member Coffee was very successful, with ten (10) new members attending. The new members are a diverse group, and expressed a lot of interest in things they want to get involved in right away. Comments have been heard that our branch is very welcoming. Nationally, branch membership numbers have been going down, but B-C is holding. National membership, however, has been rising.

Discussion: We should consider keeping track of branch meeting attendance numbers.

## **Elected Directors' Reports**

### **Educational Opportunity Fund:** Linda Roberson / Marian Bauer

Marian: Our American Fellowship awardee, Rachel Reed, will attend the branch meeting next Thursday to address us briefly. We now have \$536 from the Book Fair. Books will be on a table at the back of the room, for members to purchase. There will be no book sale in December, to avoid interfering with the auction.

Linda: There is only \$746 to go to fully fund the F. Elaine Richardson fund. Our branch has pledged to collect \$500. Next week donations will be collected for EOF individual giving month. Please tell Linda today how much you intend to pledge to F. Elaine Richardson, as she can't let the total go over \$500.

### **Public Policy:** Pat Shores / Barb Butchart

- If you're not participating in Action Alert, please sign up at [www.aauw.org/actionnetwork](http://www.aauw.org/actionnetwork)
- St. Charles Coalition against Human Trafficking planned a track for the St. Charles Summit meeting on October 27. Lots of not-for-profits and school districts, around 500 people, attended.
- A half-day symposium will be held at the Spencer Public Library in St. Peters on January 12. Our action grant is supporting this. Attendance is free. There will be a keynote speaker and break-out sessions. The closing session will present a trafficking survivor who has written a book.
- Jill Norton's poem about a trafficked child, published in our branch newsletter, has just been featured on the AAUW Alumnae Exchange.
- Two young girls were rescued from trafficking from the Bevo Mill district, and two juveniles from Kansas City were rescued as well.
- Pat thanked Barb for making the branch aware of this problem.
- June 3-4 is the Regional Conference in Kansas City. Reservations are being taken now. Our website will contain a link to the AAUW MO website for details.

### **Legal Advocacy Fund:** Julie Triplett

- Soon there will be news of two additional cases that LAF will fund.
- Trivia Night resulted in \$2,284 to go to LAF, which will be added to \$690 given in direct donations to LAF. We will send in \$3000 to LAF!! Thank you to the Trivia Night committee and to our emcees, Bette Bude and Pam Kulp, who did a terrific job.

### **Appointed Directors**

#### **Branch Development for Leadership/Operating Funds:** Erlaine Eltomi

- Thank you to those who are doing so many things to make the Winter Auction successful. Joyce and Jayne are great to work with.
- Ticket Sales: You get a raffle ticket for each guest who attends and is not a member. We now have about half the tickets sold to reach the minimum goal of 160 admissions to reach the base amount. Donations: We will accept items or money. The person who was going to solicit donations from merchants is no longer available. So far, restaurants are not responding to donation solicitations, so please ask at restaurants when you go there. Pat Shores' request went to all the restaurants where Out to Lunch had dined last year, but few are responding. Consider asking hairdressers, manicurists, dog groomers, and other service providers for a donation. We still need some big ticket items for the oral auction to reach last year's income level. Talk it up at interest groups, too. Subcommittee chairs will be asked to attend a meeting next week after our branch meeting to learn details. Soup will be served at this meeting.
- Remember that every penny we raise stays with our branch. The operating fund includes registration fees for events that train members to become leaders. We need to clear about \$10,000. We'd have to raise dues for members if we didn't hold the auction.

### **Giving**

A note from Joyce about donating online: You may choose to make an 'unrestricted' donation, or you may designate a particular fund. All the funds are listed, and you can donate using your credit card. You will get an immediate receipt, and the branch will be credited with the donation.

### **New Business**

- AAUW is involved with promotion of the movie "Suffragette." Forty (40) people from our branch are going to a screening tonight. Karen has a call in to National to raise the issue of AAUW not sharing news of such events very well.

- AAUW Fundraising Policy 501
  - Karen: The reason for sharing the letter with everyone on the subject of fundraising is because so many questions have come up regarding the new fundraising policy from a year ago. We know we cannot ask for money for other groups. The guideline (27) that struck Karen states that we can collect and donate in-kind items to another organization, provided that organization's purpose is consistent with the AAUW mission. There is no reason to not go public with donations to St. Martha's, a shelter for women. Doris Nistler clarified that "In kind" means "not money," and donating needs to be approved by the board. Our branch policy is clear on this.
  - "AAUW affiliated entities" includes branches, as we are affiliated with National.
  - Discussion: We have to be careful about donations to organizations represented by speakers at our meetings. If we have a speaker who represents an entity not affiliated with AAUW, G25 says AAUW cannot educate members about those organizations in order to convince them to donate. Also, we need to be careful in picking one charity over another. So how can we implement this policy? We can decide that as an organization, we are adopting a particular charity, or perhaps two, for a year. The board is in control of this, and it is consistent with our purpose of community outreach. Such a decision can be reached as the result of a motion.
  - Suzanne Couch made the following motion:

I MOVE THAT WE APPROVE THE COLLECTION OF ITEMS IN KIND FOR ST. MARTHA'S HALL AT THE BRANCH NOV., JAN., FEB., MARCH & APRIL MEETINGS.

Results: The motion PASSED unanimously.

### **Unfinished Business**

- Karen: The co-presidents are setting up a nominating committee. When the slate goes out, please "respond to all." This will be an electronic vote.
- Strategic Planning Committee: The work should take only 2-3 meetings. Additional committee members were sought, and Vickie Jany volunteered. The committee now has five members, and they will soon begin their discussions.

### **Adjournment**

Karen adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.