

MINUTES OF THE AAUW BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BOARD MEETING - OCTOBER 1, 2015

- I. Co-president Barb McQuitty called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with the recitation of the Mission Statement: *"AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research."*
- A. Today's hostesses were thanked: Susan Fenwick, Judy Stagoski, Marilyn Beiter, and Joanne Nelson.
- B. Barb asked whether there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. None was heard.

II. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- A. President's Announcements and Remarks: Barb McQuitty
 - Our branch received a request from National Council of Jewish Women to work with them on human trafficking. We are limited on this by AAUW policy, which does not allow us to share our funds with other organizations.
 - People need to fill out the form "How do you want to be involved?" Encourage your friends to do so.
 - The restructuring committee agreed to share their document "What does our Board Do?" with the Board to help in developing a strategic plan for our branch. It's phenomenal how many things the Board gets involved in.
 - Twenty-three (23) comments were received in response to a survey of branch members on the topic "Our branch would be even better if." Barb read the results aloud, including suggestions for keeping meetings and presentations shorter, placing less emphasis on money, and increasing diversity and participation in branch, state, and national AAUW activities.
 - Some members not here today are: Linda Evans, who is in rehab for her knee, and Leslie Wier, whose husband will undergo quadruple bypass tomorrow at MoBap. Kay Meyer is having ankle surgery next week. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.
- B. Minutes: Minutes of the September Board Meeting have been read and approved. Copies are available on the website or from Susan Fenwick. No comments were made, and the minutes were approved as published.
- C. Financial Officer's Report: Rita Hawkins-Page
 - Accounts are current. Some highlights: Dollars for Scholars: Brought in \$3265 this month with only \$63 in expenses. \$37 came in from Schuck's this month. Our operating budget stands at \$23,504.
 - Reminder: To be reimbursed for anything, Rita needs a copy of your receipt and the reimbursement form available online. She needs to receive BOTH.

- Joyce has copies of a tax exemption letter that can be given to businesses convinced to donate services to our branch for the Winter Auction.

D. Membership: Linda Seibert/Marilyn Fletcher

- The new member coffee will be held on Oct. 15 at Gloria Campion's at 10:00 a.m. Invitations were sent to 20+ new members. There will be a follow-up on responses.
- Our membership total now stands at 243 members.

E. Programs: Judy Stagoski/Jan Horner

- This month's program is a panel that addresses the re-entry of women from prison into society. This is the third part of a series. Board members, please help people get back to their seats after the break so the program can start.

III. Branch Priorities

A. Public Policy: Pat Shores/Barb Butchart

- Pat: We now have a wonderful public policy committee of twenty-five (25) people, and seven (7) are brand-new to the committee.
- The AAUW Action Network works on national issues, and soon we will have something similar for Missouri state issues.
- Pat passed out a 2015 Missouri General Assembly Roster.
- The first fundraiser, a musical program, was held by SCCAT (St. Charles Coalition against Human Trafficking). The musicians provided their services for free.
- Two AAUW B-C members were on TV, and Barb Butchart also was interviewed but didn't appear. 5 on Your Side (Farah Faisal) presented a segment focused on human trafficking.
- Internet crimes against children: St. Charles Coalition Against Human Trafficking (SCCAT) will be featured at the St. Charles Community Services Summit.
- A Kirkwood-Webster AAUW branch pecan order form is coming around.

B. Educational Opportunities Fund: Marian Bauer/Linda Roberson

- Marian reports that our scholarship winners are enrolled in school now. Rachel Reed is at Washington University, and she'll speak to us briefly in November.
- Book Sale now has proceeds of \$465. Please bring in more books. If you want to buy a book that is in the back of the auditorium, put money in the nearby envelope.
- About half of the Panera cards are left. The bean soup is all sold.
- Dollars for Scholars is doing well in bringing in money for scholarships.

C. Legal Advocacy Fund: Julie Triplett/Linda Evans

- Julie: LAF had its first national conference call last night for the committee. Julie gets to help choose the cases that LAF supports. The committee has lots to read to prepare for making these decisions. Mollie Lam is going to have a call-in program on Oct. 15 at 7:00 regarding what to expect from the Supreme Court. You are invited to Julie's home to listen in. Should be very interesting!
- Doris Nistler: On Oct. 24, at 7:00 p.m. there will be a Trivia Night fundraiser for LAF. Julie, Linda, and Doris are the committee. They need some helpers for things like selling raffle tickets and serving as runners. Also they would like to sell more tables. So far, there are eight tables with two more possible. The target is sixteen tables. Raffle tickets will give purchasers a chance at winning the entire scratch-off board, where the top prize is potentially \$55,000. The drawing will be done at Trivia Night. If you can't come, you can sponsor a trivia round for \$25.

D. Newsletter: Mary Jermak/Bette Bude

- Betty: Nine people are now accepting email copies, and seven will transfer to general distributorship with Joyce. This leaves us with just thirteen postal mailing members. Joyce is pushing the concept of clicking on a link rather than sending the newsletter as an attachment.
- Mary: Special thanks to Marcia Block, who stepped in to proofread last month. In the newsletter, at the top of page 2, some contacts have been added, e.g., Membership. Also in the general information section, there will be a reminder to consult the branch directory for addresses and phone numbers, since these are not published in the newsletter.
- Newsletter staff has drafted a note that solicits donations from those members who receive postal mailings, to the Winter Auction to cover the costs of publishing the newsletters. Mary passed around copies of the draft note to Board members and then made the following motion:

I move that a note as approved by the board be inserted in the postal mailed November newsletter. The note will state the board's effort to go paperless. It will mention that members might choose to give an optional, additional donation to the operating fund through the Winter Auction to help defray extra costs.

Results of the vote: **The motion PASSED.**

E. Dollars for Scholars: Barb Jowett/Barb Tackitt

- Barb Jowett: Dollars for Scholars co-chairs don't need to speak at branch meetings, if the president just points out their table at the branch meeting. New forms are online, in the Members Only section, as a part of the Dollars for Scholars packet. Discussion: Some members disagreed, saying that they need to talk about what Dollars is and how members can be involved, at every meeting. And they also should mention ideas for additional Dollars events, and ask who can do them.
- The upcoming Talbot's Fashion Show needs models. Call Mary LaRuffa.

- There was some discussion of whether or not Dollars for Scholars needs to put a piece of paper on every chair at the branch meeting. Various members said they liked having the written description of Dollars events and took it home to consult later. Also, Karen Francis pointed out that the mission statement is on the Dollars sheet, because new members need to be able to see it.

F. Fall Brunch: Joanne Nelson/Kay Meyer

The total cost was \$1,598. 50/50 brought in \$214 to offset this cost.

V. Unfinished Business

- Erlaine Eltomi: Winter Auction will be using same caterer as Fall Brunch.
- Joyce Katz: We need volunteers to help with the food, and to help greet. Please contact Joyce if you are willing to help. Do sign up and plan to attend, and invite guests.
- There are not too many oral auction items yet. Rita Hawkins-Page has some ideas for baskets; she will coordinate this.
- We have to be careful not to have conflicting demands on members' resources at the same time, so the publicity for fundraising events needs to be staggered.

VI. New Business:

A. Community Information Table: Karen Francis

- We are planning to reinstitute a Community Information Table at our branch meetings. If you are affiliated with an organization that is doing something worthwhile that might interest our members but that cannot be advertised at branch/board meetings, you can bring your flyers for the table. Example: Friends of St. Martha's shelter. You can put information on the table, but you may not talk about it at the meeting. Allowing flyers does not constitute an AAUW endorsement.
- Some members had a concern about unlimited access to the Community Table, especially when it comes to political causes. The issue was tabled for now.

B. National Speaker on \$tart \$mart and Work \$mart: Karen Francis

- Suzanne Couch: There is a state board meeting on Oct. 31 and Mark Hopkins from National, in charge of AAUW Funds, will be there. If you choose, you can come for free at 1:00, or come for lunch at Whitmoor for \$20 (pay at the door). Joyce Katz will send an evite to our board members. The meeting will be over by 3:00.
- Our November program is on \$tart \$mart.

C. Strategic Plan: Barb McQuitty/Karen Francis

1. Introduction of need for a plan: Barb McQuitty

National and State both have a strategic plan. It's a good way to achieve your goals for the next five years as it helps the organization grow and stay on mission. We will be working on a strategic plan for AAUW B-C. The goals will be specific, and will have action steps.

2. Introduction of first steps and Q & A: Karen Francis

What triggered the idea of developing a strategic plan for our branch was Julie Triplett's work on our 10-star application. There is a category of having a strategic plan and having it updated.

Karen and Barb handed out an AAUW (national) Strategic Planning diagram and a WHO WE ARE strategic planning sheet. This is going to be the year that we do a strategic plan. There will be a committee that will work on it and bring it to the Board. If you would like to be on this committee, please email Barb and Karen.

Note: National has just five (5) goals. Discussion: We must be VERY specific in stating our goals. Goals must be measurable. Action items should include how and when do we do them.

VI. Adjournment: Barb McQuitty adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Susan Fenwick,
Secretary/Archivist