

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting
March 1, 2018

I. Call to Order

A. Welcome

President Sandra Murdock called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed the attendees, who recited the AAUW Mission Statement:

“AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.”

Sandra thanked today’s hostesses: Suzanne Couch, Marian Bauer, and Barbara McQuitty.

B. President’s Remarks – Marcia Block

- Marcia got a request for a tax exemption letter. There is a new letter, which is on the website. Marcia also brought some copies to the meeting.
- The St. Louis Branch will have a booth for Earth Day, and is seeking help from other branches to staff it. Marcia passed around a sign-up sheet.
- Marcia invited board members to talk with members who miss a lot of meetings to find out why they don’t come, and what we can do to enhance the meetings to attract them. We will discuss this topic at the next meeting. It is worthwhile every now and then to examine what we are doing. One suggestion was to publicize the branch meetings better. Joyce Katz is going to send out a notice for the next meeting, asking people to please come.

II. Elected Officers

A. Minutes – Secretary/Archivist: Susan Fenwick

Susan confirmed that the February 2018 board meeting minutes are on the AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield website. No corrections or additions were proposed. The minutes were approved as posted.

B. Program: Marilyn Fletcher/Sage Taber

- Sage relayed a message from Marilyn, who had surgery. She appreciates all of the cards and kindnesses, and she is getting better.

- Program results for the February speaker were generally favorable. A suggestion was to have fewer chairs set up at branch meetings. It makes a bad impression on speakers to see so many empty chairs, and people sit all the way in the back, where it is harder to hear.
- Program plans are coming along with speakers for next year.

C. Membership: Mersine Kallaos/Michele Mangnall

- On Mersine's behalf, Marcia Block reported that the branch now has 238 members.

III. Elected Directors

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

- Marian Bauer reported that we have \$730 so far from the Book Sale. The sale will continue for two more months, in March and April. Please bring books to help meet a goal of \$1000.
- Members enjoyed a very nice talk from Jaimie Tallir in February. She is so grateful for AAUW B-C educational assistance.

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

- Doris announced that this month's branch speaker is going to be Donna L. Harper, attorney in the same law firm as the original speaker, who cannot make it. Ms. Harper was with the EEOC for years.

C. Public Policy Priorities: Barbara Butchart/Eve LaJeunesse

- Barb said that Karen Francis and four others testified about ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment.
- April 10 is Equity Action Day in Jefferson City. Pat Shores will hold sign-ups for those who wish to participate.
- Title IX Delivery Project: Priorities are shown in the Public Priorities flyer. One is to support a strong educational system that adheres to Title IX measures. The project is to contact all of the Title IX coordinators in the public school systems to let them know that there are new resources from the Department of Education for them to follow. We will provide Quick Facts from AAUW. Recently, further incidents occurred with Olympic athletes, so it is still important to enforce Title IX protections.

IV. Appointed Directors

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

Jan and Phyllis said twelve (12) events have been held and four (4) more are on the books. Several more are on the tickler list. These numbers represent a bump from last year. Phyllis asked how many people, on average, attend group meetings. Marcia Block has attendance data—it's around ninety (90).

B. Nominating Committee and Bylaws: Marsha Weppelman

Marsha announced the new officer slate at last month's board meeting. She will announce it to the branch membership this month. The newsletter will contain biographies and pictures of the candidates. Voting will occur at the April meeting. Nominations from the floor can be made, with the permission of the nominee.

Everyone should have received an email from AAUW national describing three (3) amendments to the by-laws that will be presented to the membership for a vote. Members may comment online through March 22. Voting will be in April. Look for your PIN in April. Mary Jermak requested a blurb on this for the newsletter.

V. Special Events

A. Spring Luncheon: Carol Anthony

- Everything is moving forward. Table decorations and program design are underway.
- The Spring Luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 10. The committee is finalizing the menu today. Mary Jermak agreed to be photographer, but she needs a backup. Joyce Katz volunteered. Reservations will be taken at the March and April branch meetings. Cost is \$26 by check.

B. Named Gift Nominees and Spring Fling: Barbara McQuitty

- Barb is collecting Named Gift nominations; she has nine (9). They are due next week. A couple of them are lacking sufficient information. If you don't know a lot about the person, just ask her or a close friend of that person.
- Barb went to the IBC meeting. Two (2) NCCWSL scholarships will be granted through IBC. There was talk about giving the young women extra money for their trip, and inviting them to the Spring Fling. This luncheon costs \$35 and will be held at Glen Echo Country Club. You are encouraged to come, to make a good AAUW B-C showing. There will be a purse raffle, live music,

and delicious food. There will be surprise items inside the purse, as alluded to in a related poem. Donation of appropriate items will be appreciated.

- A possible gift wrapping fundraiser is in the works for Mother's Day and Father's Day at Barnes & Noble.
- The topic for the March International Relations session at the Ethical Society is human trafficking.
- There is a training opportunity, "Fast Democracy," at the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) on March 6 at 1:00. It is valuable and easy to understand. Contact Karen Francis for details.
- We will have a bus on April 10 for Equity Action Day. Karen Francis and Pat Shores are the organizers.
- The state convention is coming up. New CEO Kim Churches will be there. May 5 is the state meeting.
- The write-up for the Galaxy Award is done. Julie Triplett helped with this. The subject is Munching Matters. The ten-star award description also needs to be written. Barb will work on it and she may need some help with it.

VI. New Business:

A. Munching Matters: Julie Triplett

On Feb 14, the scheduled speaker was ill and Karen Francis filled in. Julie has four dates lined up for next year. She and Karen are pleased at how well it has gone. Susan Fenwick will speak in March.

B. Report on what's happening at AAUW National: Sue Barley

- Sue, who is in her third year (elected) on the national board, passed out hand-outs. She has one year to go on the board. She is a longtime member of AAUW. Sue also distributed two booklets, "The Simple Truth" and "Deeper in Debt." Both are online.
- Four subjects were discussed at a meeting in Washington, D.C., two weeks ago. These included: strategic plan, budget, opportunities for members to serve at the national level, and proposed by-laws changes. Kim Churches is reorganizing staffing at national. She hired Shannon Wolfe as Chief of Staff. There were fifteen (15) vice-presidents, and Kim has changed that. There are now four (4) groups with just one person at the head. They are supposed to

look at their group and devise how it will be organized and who will be in it. There may be some changes in appointments.

- The new Strategic Plan was put together by AAUW members from all over the country, as well as people who are not members of AAUW. It used to be three (3) corporations. Now AAUW is one non-profit. AAUW has lots of new programs, e.g., Work Smart and Start Smart. We do a lot of things other groups are doing, but we want to be the best at what we are doing, so by June this plan will be put together, in accordance with AAUW's vision and values.
- The budget is a deficit budget. Last year \$3.4 million was cut, but there is still a deficit. Kim asked every department to cut their budget by 10%. AAUW moved from top three floors to the top two floors in a wonderful building. Staff also will be cut. Regarding where revenue comes from: \$8 million is from investments. There are endowments for fellowships and grants. Contributions from members, branches, corporations, and dues (almost \$3 million from members, colleges and universities, national members) are another revenue source. Dues are going up next year. There has been no dues increase in 10 years.
- Sandra Murdock asked if the board is paid. The answer is "no." People were interested in knowing what the NYC Metropolitan Area Fund is. Sue will check on it. An outside audit is performed once a year. AAUW is a four-star rated charity. Contributions nation-wide are down, perhaps due to the change by AAUW to solicit donations to the unrestricted fund rather than a designated fund like LAF or EOF.
- Sue is the chair of committee appointments. Committees are made up of members, and the committees are described in her hand-out. Members must apply to be on a committee. Appointments are made partly in light of where the applicants live.
- Legacy Circle. Please consider this.
- A vote will be held on three proposed amendments. The sheet shows the key dates for this, including the date that voting begins. The board has fifteen (15) members, and it is possible that all fifteen members could be new. This explains the intent of Proposal One. The terms would be staggered, and would be for three (3) years instead of two (2) years. If this amendment passes, we will be voting every year.

- Proposal Two eliminates the requirement that board members be individual members of AAUW. Non-members bring valuable experience and ask good questions. The number of non-members would be limited to a certain specified number.
- Proposal Three eliminates the degree requirement for membership. The question being asked is, if we are advocates for equity, why are we preventing some women from joining, due to lack of a degree, who might be strong advocates for equity for women?
- It is important to convince members to vote, because we need a quorum (currently 5%).

VII. Adjournment

President Sandra Murdock adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Susan Fenwick, Secretary/Archivist