

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Meeting

April 12, 2018

I. Call to Order and Welcome: Marcia Block

- President Marcia Block called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone.
- Members then recited the AAUW Mission Statement: "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research."
- Marcia gave a special thank-you to today's hospitality committee: Suzanne Couch, Karen Wood, Judy Schaefer-Piet, Marian Weber, Barbara McQuitty, Margaret Estes, Linda Roberson, Sandra Murdock, Eileen Lesevoy, and Mary Jermak.
- Marsha Weppelman confirmed there was a quorum.
- Marcia announced that today is our Annual Meeting as specified in our branch bylaws. Later you will be asked to vote on the proposed slate of officers.

II. Elected Officers

Secretary/Archivist: Susan Fenwick

Minutes of the last branch business meeting have been read and approved and are posted on the AAUW B-C website.

Finance Officer: Pat Shores

- Pat reported ending balances for the following funds: Operating Fund, \$41,407; Leadership/Development Fund, \$6,468; Dollars for Scholars, \$6,695; Schnucks, \$2,942. Total assets stand at \$57,512.
- Last month, 50 members renewed their dues. Thank you to those people. On April 16 Pat will send out another email from national on easy renewal of dues.
- Those who are planning to attend the state leadership meeting, please give Pat a reimbursement form when you return with proof that you attended.

V-P Membership: Mersine Kallaos & Michele Mangnall

Michele announced that we have 238 members. At today's meeting we are welcoming four (4) guests. The guests were named and asked to stand.

Past President: Barb McQuitty on Interbranch Council (IBC)

- There is an extension to the period for making reservations for the April 21 IBC Spring Fling. That day registration will begin at 11:30 at Glen Echo Country Club. The musical group Miss Jubilee will provide the entertainment.
- The Barbara Lackritz Award will be given out at the Spring Fling. AAUW B-C member Karen Francis will be awarded this honor. Congratulations, Karen!

III. Elected Directors

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

- Marian said that yesterday she and Judy represented AAUW B-C at a scholarship reception at Maryville University. Two of our scholarship students will be graduating this semester. The university president and several of the recipients spoke. What members do for Dollars for Scholars helps women complete their education.
- The book sale has netted more than \$900. The goal is \$1,000; Marian is confident that we will reach it.

Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF): Doris Nistler and Julie Triplett

- Pat Shores reported that AAUW has accepted two new cases, "Revocation-upon-divorce," involving a question of whether a divorced spouse can remain the ex-spouse's life insurance beneficiary; and "National Institute of Family and Life Advocates," maintaining that a California reproductive rights law violates protections arising from the free speech clause of the First Amendment.
- Another case affects equal pay: Weissmann v. Albert Einstein College of Medicine, in which a female physician was paid considerably less than her male counterparts. \$900,000 in damages was awarded.
- An actual plaintiff in a Title IX case, Susan Landino, will speak at the state meeting in May.
- On April 9, the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that employers cannot use previous salary history to determine a salary offer. This is a big one!

Public Policy: Barbara Butchart

- Tuesday was Equity Action Day. Rep. Patricia Pike spoke on a bill that would provide for distribution of human trafficking posters in public places. Emily Russell, from the Missouri Attorney General's Office, spoke about four initiatives. This office is collaborating with a coalition of law enforcement officials and other groups to increase training regarding human trafficking in Missouri.
- President Trump just signed into law the FOSTA/SESTA bill that prevents others from taking over online forum Backpage's sex trade markets, in an effort to shut down online sexual trafficking.

IV. Appointed Directors:

Dollars for Scholars (DFS): Janice Buckhold and Phyllis Oakes

Phyllis and Janice gave a big shout-out to all of the sponsors of DFS events and to all of those who have participated. They also thanked the AAUW B-C interest groups who have donated to DFS.

Governance: Marsha Weppelman

- Voting is being held today for the new officers recommended by the AAUW B-C Nominating Committee. The proposed slate of officers includes Co-president, Jean Elliott; Co-VP Program, Mary Jermak; Co-VP Membership, Angela Janik; and Secretary/Archivist; Sue Lancaster.
- Marcia Block read the candidates' names and asked for a vote after each person stood. She asked whether there were any nominations from the floor, and there were none. All proposed officers were elected, unopposed.
- Marcia thanked these ladies who are willing to serve. Thanks also to Marsha Weppelman.

Special Events:

Spring Luncheon: Carol Anthony and Linda Kridel

Linda gave a reminder that May 10 is the Spring Luncheon. Reservations are being taken today. This is the last meeting where a member can sign up, but after that anyone wishing to attend can call Carol Derington. Please do so before the end of the month.

STEM: Jean Elliott and Carol Greenaway

Jean shared that Carol is not in attendance today because her mother passed away.

STEM is in full season. Expanding Your Horizons has been held at Meramec. Now the STEM Committee is into STEM Girls of Promise. The girls are awarded tokens of our esteem. The Maplewood-Richmond Heights girls blew away the organizers with what they want to do; they have lofty ambitions. On April 27 there will be a STEM Girls of Promise event at Valley Park High School. Please join in honoring these girls. The Science Fair is coming up. It's a neat experience to see these young women, and to serve as role models for them.

President's Remarks: Marcia Block

Marcia spoke about three proposed amendments to the AAUW national bylaws. Voting on these amendments is coming up. Members should check *Outlook* to read a description of the amendments, and to find their PIN. The proposed amendments are:

1. Staggered terms of office for board members on a three-year rotation.
2. Change in the membership requirement for the Board of Directors, to allow non-AAUW members to serve on the board. The thinking is that non-AAUW members can fill in gaps in expertise and experience.
3. The third proposed amendment is controversial--dropping the degree requirement. It came close to passing two years ago. AAUW would not have to change its name. A person doesn't need a degree to support education. Changing the degree requirement will not demean anyone's education. Dues represent only 13% of our support. The most important reason to approve this amendment is to grow with the times. Younger people are offended by the non-inclusiveness and perceived snobbish attitude of AAUW. There is a need to make it possible for all people who support AAUW to join. We need to be progressive.

Those interested in discussing these issues are invited to stay at 11:30 to do so.

V. Business Meeting Adjournment

President Marcia Block adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

VI. Program: Marilyn Fletcher/Sage Taber

Our guest speaker was Joy Weese Moll from the West County Action Network presenting the topic "Racial Diversity and Disparity in Education in St. Louis."

Susan Fenwick
Secretary/Archivist