

Minutes of AAUW-BC Board meeting via Zoom, October 1, 2020 9:30-11:00 a.m. 24 members attending

**Sage Taber**, Co-President, called the meeting to order, and Board members recited the AAUW Mission Statement. A quorum was confirmed, and **Jan Horner**, Co-President briefly previewed items on the agenda. Last month's meeting minutes were approved as recorded.

**Pat Shores, Finance Officer**, provided unreconciled financial numbers; these are the **reconciled** values provided later that day: Operating Fund - \$45,565.86; Dollars for Scholars - \$4,529.67; Contingency/CD - \$3,636.19 for a total of \$53,731.72 for month ending September 30, 2020.

**Marian Bauer, AAUW Fund**, reminded us to make contributions to the Fund before 12/31/2020 online or with check sent to Eileen Kahman. Donations to the ER Walk will go to FUND as well. There will be a table at Oktoberfest for donations. We are extending the giving period to September – December. Karen suggested reaching out to Focus St. Louis or Room at the Inn to join the November meeting.

**Karen Francis, Public Policy**, was wearing her Voting is Power t-shirt. She reminded us of AAUW's position to vote NO on Amendment 3; they took no stand on two of the St. Louis City issues. Missouri Voter Protection has said the judges listed on the ballot are OK. She reminded us to participate in the 1 pm webinar on the Supreme Court and recommended that everyone read the carefully worded writing of Kim Churches about the nomination process. Action Network of Missouri says make a plan, vote early. Oct 1 is Native Women's Equal Pay Day; October 29 is Hispanic/Latina Equal Pay Day. Volunteer to work the polls. 1-866-OurVote is the national number for election questions.

**Marcia Block, Winter Party**, reports there will be a speaker in December. The committee has requested, through the Speakers Bureau, a gentleman who has spoken on the history of French culture in St. Louis, complete with music. Contributions can be sent to Pat Shores. Fundraiser tickets are on the website; print as many as you can sell. Is there a possibility of breakout rooms during that meeting? Pam Kulp will help with creative ideas for the winter event.

**Eileen Krahman, Oktoberfest** October 10, 11 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – the committee will rope off the upper front parking area for sitting; people will provide directions for parking and /or picking up lunches as you enter the lot. Drive through first lot to pick up lunch, then park. Bring chairs and warm clothes if forecast is for cold weather. There will be mums for attendance prizes plus pull tabs for tiny prizes. There will be about 40 people attending. **ER walk** – although we were unable to reserve the pavilion, we will meet by it to begin the walk on October 13, Des Peres Park.

**Carol Greenaway, University Relations** – There will be a book collection October 10, park first and pop your trunk. Details in Friday reminder. Books only, save puzzles for later; there will be no sales in the parking lot. All books will be taken to Half Price Books to raise scholarship funds.

**Joyce Katz, Web Manager** – Patricia Bishop is no longer a member of the Board but will act in an advisory capacity. The web pages will not have links to emails for security reasons, so members can cut and past them. If you wish to contact the Web Manager, there will be a place to click on the right side of

the page to pull up a contact form. The purpose of the Web page is to publicize, help and advise. Let Joyce know of any problems.

**New Business** – extensive discussion of the **issue of AAUW's plan to raise dues**. Marian Bauer thinks it is ill-advised at this time and had sent a response. Sage asked for opinions on whether the branch should send a letter speaking for the branch. Karen Francis pointed out that dues are about 22% of the national budget, that for the first time in decades AAUW has not gone into reserves to make the budget work, and to keep that balance and stay on messaging, some level of increase is needed. She pointed out that most branches charge \$10 in local dues, not \$22 as we do. Dues help fund the 501c4 component of AAUW, which is the action portion (lobbying). For example, they did a side-by-side comparison of candidates for President, Vice President, and governors. Marcia Block pointed out that the person renewing doesn't care about the national budget; it is about her personal pocket book. Pat Shores said that National will make the decision; this board has been careful and a small amount of increase may be prudent. We were reminded that we individual members elect the national Board. We should not do a B-C board response but wait to see. The degree requirement may be voted on again. The increase would be in the \$3-\$10 range. Because of the differing views it was clear we could not send a branch position but agree that our membership needs to be aware of the issue. We can inform members through the website, and also put on the Facebook page. Karen will send a note to Joyce and Sage will put together something for the branch meeting. Susan Fenwick asked if anything had been done with the **Named Gift** topic brought up last month. Jan said she heard from about 8 people and opinions were all over the board. This is a state award and may change in the future.

Concluding portion of meeting was going around the "room" and talking about what each one has been doing during the Covid-19 period. Lots of reading, walking, playing cards, doing jigsaw puzzles, keeping in touch with people via technology, baking, cooking – trying new recipes – a wealth of activities befitting a group of active, interesting women!

Submitted by Leslie Wier