

AAUW-BC Branch minutes, Zoom meeting, Thursday November 12, 2020 35 in attendance

Per Jan's note, several branch members signed in between 9 and 9:30 for social time

**Jan Horner, Co-President**, welcomed Board members, who recited the Mission Statement. **Sage Taber, Co-President**, in recalling WWII yesterday on Veteran's Day, said people didn't know when the war would end, and the courage of the military families back then gives her courage to keep going through the Pandemic. Thanksgiving is coming; we are grateful for family, friends and our members. We are all in it together. Minutes on the Website have been approved as posted.

**Finance Officer, Pat Shores**: October ending asset: Operating Fund, \$43,855.91; Dollars for Scholars, \$5,302.13; and Contingency Fund, \$3,732.35, for a total asset value of \$52,890.39. She reminded us of Barb Smoltz, a former member for whom we donated to AAUW in memory at her passing. Barb started the Dollars for Scholars program in 1994; from inception through 2019, we collected \$287,595 for the Scholarship program.

**Public Policy/Fund: Karen Francis** introduced David Weber, Room at the Inn, and Michelle Stevens, Focus St. Louis. Both organizations received community action grants from AAUW. Room at the Inn provides emergency homeless shelter for women and children. Although original sponsors were the Sisters of Divine Providence, there are 50 interfaith congregations who help provide shelter. The pandemic has created additional challenges; the AAUW grant (titled Equal Chance, Equal Hope) has helped them begin a tutoring and education program for the children this year. Michelle directs the Focus Women and STEM Leadership program, which shifted to 100% virtual. Their AAUW grant helped them upgrade Zoom, technical support and interactive tools for their programs in Emerging leaders, Women in Leadership, and Youth leadership...

**AAUW Fund: Marian Bauer, Co-Chair**: the Fund is doing well; the message has gotten out to everyone; she reminded us that part of the Focus STL grant came from the silver anniversary grant that our branch funded a few years ago. **Eileen Krahman, Co-Chair**: we collected a total of \$1,995 for the Eleanor Roosevelt Walk; \$1,570 of that went directly to Fund account 4450 for research; the remaining \$425 was designated for Greatest Needs. Thank you to the committee for the wonderful time.

**Programs –Yvonne Ward, Co-Chair**: Our next speaker, January 14, will be Dandy Davidson, a media law specialist, who will address Supreme Court Blunders on Race and Sex. We will continue evaluations with comments and a number rating in the Zoom chat box. Each speaker presentation on Zoom is recorded and placed on our website under Members Only section.

**Public Policy part 2: Karen Francis** thanked everyone for Get Out the Vote efforts. AAUW will now focus on pay equity and social issues. She urged everyone to sign up for the Action newsletters and to join the public policy committee. She gave a special shout out to the Friday Notes team, Bette Bude and Mary Kay Wolfe who were "essential workers" for all the extra communications during the election process.

**Marcia Block, Branch Fundraising**: it is now 4 weeks to the Winter party! Two goals – 1. Fundraiser – donate \$50 or more to the Branch to be recognized as a Belle; buy raffle tickets (newsletter or website)

– the drawing will be done during the Party, and 2. have a good time. Dennis Stroughmatt will present “Fiddlers and Folklore” about French heritage in our area – he will be both entertaining and informative. 3. Marcia needs your holiday pictures by Dec. 2 - pictures of your holiday decorations – any holiday, this year or last, with yourself in the picture if possible. They will be shown during the party.

**Dollars for Scholars – Co-Chair Janet Sloey** asks that we continue to enjoy the Friday note listings and to make donations.

**Fall Event:** Oktoberfest was wonderful. **Eileen Krahman** noted we spent about \$900 on the box lunches and beverages. The leftover water and root beer was consumed at the ER Walk. **Jean Elliott** thanked the volunteers and everyone else who came and thinks that we would do it again in the parking lot!

**STEM: Susan Fenwick, Co-Chair:** the committee is getting a head start on spring events and developing material for the handouts for Girls of Promise. Valley Park is enthusiastic to participate again; we are waiting to hear from Maplewood-Richmond Heights. The Science Fair will again be an eFair; we will give 3 prizes in the honors division

**Webmaster Joyce Katz:** Purpose of the website is to publicize the branch and serve the members. The site is completely revised, and she will email a “navigation map” to members. The site now includes a video of each month’s speaker.

**Jan Horner:** AAUW business section of meeting: National approved a three year dues increase starting in the 2021-22 year - \$3, \$5, and \$5. Check with the webinars on the AAUW site to keep current. At the State level, the decision was to no longer do the named gift awards. Branch business – we currently have 3 editors of the newsletter – **Sandy Brody, Jean Light, and Joan Davis**. We agreed to appoint **Mary Jermak** as a 4<sup>th</sup> editor, a job she has been doing de facto since she officially left the staff. The Board approved **Barb McQuitty, Judy Stagoski and Linda Roberson** as the nominating committee. This is a challenging assignment; please get suggestions to them. We will need Co-President, Finance Officer, Co-VP for Programs, Co-VP for Membership, Co-Chair Public Policy, and Co-Chair AAUW FUND. We are creating job descriptions as we go.

At the conclusion of the business session, Carol Anthony introduced our Zoom speaker, Ana Kent, from the Federal Reserve Board, who spoke on income and wealth inequality. Hear her talk in the Members Only section of our website.

Submitted by Leslie Wier, Recording Secretary