

AAUW Branch Zoom meeting, Thursday March 11, 2021 48 participants

Jan Horner, Co-President, welcomed us to one year of “Hollywood Squares” instead of meetings in person, and reminded us to use the mute button unless it is our turn to speak. Sage Taber, our other Co-President, talked about the letter from Kim Churches (which will be on the Web) thanking us for our financial support with the supplemental gift at calendar year end. As one of the 5 Star Branches our robust support is appreciated. Kim has indicated that the Greatest Needs area will continue to need everyone’s support. Thanks to Pat Shores for minding the books and making sure we are able to continue our financial support of AAUW.

Pat Shores, Financial Officer, first covered the asset report for month-end February: Operating Fund - \$43,392.62; Dollars for Scholars - \$3,572.03; and Contingency with \$790.62 plus \$3,000.00 in CD for a total of \$50,755.27. Pat commented that our branch had also been recognized for Membership Matters, and said that Dollars for Scholars received \$135 from the virtual movie interest group; thank you to Liz Maher. Pat said to watch for the first AAUW email March 16 about paying dues for 2021-2022. The one click method from the website is preferred, but you can send your dues to Pat instead if you wish. The total is \$94 this year, payable to AAUW. Two people have already paid, so she is added two more chances to win a Panera Card for sending your dues in March.

Jean Elliott, past Co-President, did a final reminder for the IBC Spring Fling Zoom Party on Saturday, May 13. The link is in the flyer in the newsletter and on our website. Attending is especially important to honor our branch member Mary Jermak, who is receiving the Barbara Lackritz award from IBC.

Carol Anthony, C-Vice President of Programs, previewed the April speaker, Mary Jo Gorman, a medical doctor and founder of 4 health-care related companies. Her topic is Advancing the Cause: Strategies for Different Stages in Life. The planning meeting last week was very successful; the committee narrowed a list of 30 potential speakers to 14, from which speakers for next year will be solicited. Yvonne Ward, Co-chair, will introduce this month’s speaker at the end of this meeting.

Marian Bauer, AAUW Funds, reminded everyone that we can get Fund information from several sites – AAUW.org, our Branching Out newsletter, and Friday Notes. She suggested that we go into our own account at AAUW.org to make sure the personal information is correct and to review our giving status.

Karen Francis, Public Policy: March is Women’s History Month, highlighted in the Friday notes. At the state level, advocacy is following HB349 which touts MO empowerment scholarships, which is a ploy to expand charter schools throughout the state and to open up education dollars to private (including parochial) schools. HB334 seeks to require state produced photo IDs for voting; to purge people from rolls; and to eliminate electronic voting – only paper ballots which have to be counted by hand can be used. Equal Pay activities: Zoom on March 24 with Shirley Breeze. Watch for email on National changes.

Janet Sloey, Dollars for Scholars, is encouraged that money is available through the budget, but is looking forward to real events in the fall. Although Susie Teicher, her co-chair, thinks that Janet is a genius for all the “events” she has found on-line and shared via the Friday notes for us all to enjoy, Janet said thanks to lots of people for sending ideas. This week’s video is “Float”, animated by Pixar. A

question about book collections at the picnic – Mary Kay said they will think about how to do it. There are limitations at Half Price Books on how many they can take at a time. CDC guidelines have changed to allow small vaccinated groups to gather, so perhaps that will lead to a new kind of Dollars event. Joyce Katz reminded us that we can find all the Friday Reminder suggestions on our website under Dollars.

Jane Hemer, Spring Picnic – Thursday May 13 at Paul Schroeder Park in Manchester – first pavilion at top of the hill – luncheon choices are listed in the newsletter. Please e-mail your sign-up and lunch choice (no cost) to Michelle Mangnall.

Susan Fenwick, STEM, reported that the Science Fair will be virtual, with judging on line. There are no-contact awards, so electronic congratulations will let the winners know who sponsored their awards. Girls of Promise in Valley Park and Maplewood – Richmond Heights will receive gift boxes. Pam Kulp's creativity led to lanyards and badges so AAUW workers are recognizable. A STEM subcommittee is updating the Why So Few? materials for future use.

Barb McQuitty, chair of the Nominating Committee (with Linda Roberson and Judy Stagoski) worked with Covid constraints to establish the list of nominees for the coming year. To avoid having two new people to be trained in some positions, several current office holders agreed to continue another year. The slate is: Co-President – Jan Horner; Finance Officer – Pat Shores; VP Membership – Linda Roberson (stepping in for Pat White) and Judy Stagoski; Program – Marcia Block; FUND – Marian Bauer; Public Policy – TBA. Jan shared that Karen is President Elect for the State of Missouri AAUW and will also be active at the national level, so she will still participate but not in the co-chair position. As Branch members, we need to consider where we can fit in to the various opportunities available.

We had a few minutes to chat in breakout rooms with our fellow members, and then the business meeting adjourned. Yvonne Ward introduced Dr. Lannis Hall as this month's speaker, whose topic of the impact of Covid on cancer care also pivoted to address the larger issue of health disparities during Covid.

Submitted by Leslie Wier, recording secretary/archivist

