

AAUW B-C Board meeting May 6, 2021. 22 people attended.

Jan Horner, Co-President—called the meeting to order. Attendees recited the mission statement. Minutes of last meeting, on the website, were approved as printed.

Sage Taber, Co-President – remarked that all end-of-year reports from every single committee were turned in on time. Sage also reported that we are still in need of chairs for Dollars for Scholars and STEM. Jan has been making calls to fill open positions, and she is nearly finished. Sage asked whether everybody has voted in the national election. They are close to the 2/3 they need for bylaws changes.

Jan Horner said it's been wonderful working with Sage, and with the board members.

Pat Shores, Finance Officer—Pat reported that 75 members have paid their dues early, which she finds very encouraging. Pat called everyone for information to set next year's budget, instead of requiring budget request forms. The 990 for 2021 has been filed with the IRS.

Marian Bauer, AAUW Fund – thanked those who contributed to the AAUW Fund. The total raised was \$9,778, a little less than last year, which is notable during this pandemic year. Century Club and Century Club Plus members are named in the May-June newsletter. Members have received this year's selection of note cards; Marian reminded us that we can make a donation for the cards.

Susan Fenwick, Co-director, STEM – indicated that the Science Fair judging took place at the end of April. Judges were Sandra Murdock and Jean Elliott, who evaluated 28 science projects. Our branch honored three awardees with MOST529 scholarships and personalized letters of congratulations. Susan read the names of the three girls and the titles of their projects, and commented that the students were very impressive both in their work and the use of computer applications to present their experiments and results.

Jane Hemer, Spring Picnic – reported that there are 82 reservations to attend the picnic at 11:30 next Thursday. The weather is forecast to be good. We will practice social distancing, but masks are not mandatory. Attendees should wear a mask if that makes them more comfortable.

In possible connection with the spring picnic, it was asked whether we have a 50-year award to give out. Judy Stagoski answered that there is one 50-year member, Jane Edwards. She will receive her award when we are together in July. Note: the church *is* available.

Mary Jermak asked whether it was a problem to have the installation of officers in July, after our year has ended. Answer: no, it's not. We operated all last year without an installation.

Susie Teicher, Co-director, Dollars for Scholars, thanked everyone supporting them by enjoying the Zoom events that co-chair Janet Sloey finds each week for the Friday notes.

Appointment of Co-director, Public Policy – Ann Riley is from Columbia, and indicated her interest in serving as co-director of Public Policy with Angie. The Board voted to approve the appointment of Ann Riley as Public Policy Co-Chair.

Appointment of 40th Anniversary Special Committee— Our branch was established in 1981, so this year is our 40th anniversary. With board approval, Jan and Sage will chair a committee to take advantage of celebrating this anniversary by making it a fund-raiser. They propose a

celebration that kicks off at the July picnic and runs through December. The actual 40-year anniversary party will be in December. It is suggested that the people originally on the Women's Suffrage Celebration Tea committee be asked to serve on this committee. Two fund-raising ideas were presented: (1) Ask individual members to contribute \$40; they would gain recognition as "Lights of the Branch" or some other TBD designation; (2) Hold a raffle of 40 gift cards that include national businesses, not just limited to St. Louis. For the program, perhaps members who started the branch could be called upon to speak. The committee is to be activated in June.

Pat Shores moved to establish a 40th Birthday Party Committee. A vote was taken and the motion PASSED.

Approval of Barb Lackritz Recommendation for IBC

The proposal is that each branch will develop its own method for selecting an awardee, based on four criteria that are the same as before, but with the international level of service and leadership removed because we are not functioning at that level. There would be no IBC application process.

A vote was taken to approve this recommendation, and it was PASSED by the majority of board members. IBC voting delegates from our branch will turn in our branch vote.

Missouri State AAUW meeting report.

The meeting was held via Zoom on May 1, with 14 B-C branch members in attendance. Karen Francis is the president-elect of the state organization. There was a good response to the speaker, who spoke about the advisability of dropping the university degree requirement. She pointed out that students are discovering different ways to become educated that are more cost-effective than a university degree.

AAUW B-C received the Ten-star Award, which will be presented at the branch meeting by Sue Barley.

Group Breakout Room

Heads of committees were asked to comment on their goals and accomplishments from this year.

Finance Officer: Pat Shores – A success was the number of members paying their dues early.

Membership: Sage Taber – We lost very few members despite the unusual year. Also, the birthday cards, a way of reaching out to members, were appreciated.

Program: Carol Anthony– Getting our speakers onto the Zoom format. Everyone showed up! Next year's speakers are all lined up and confirmed.

Ex-officio President: (for Jean Elliott) – All forms have been submitted to IBC and everywhere else they were needed.

AAUW Fund: Marian Bauer – We did so well raising funds for national.

Public Policy: Karen Francis (for Angie Janik) – The number of people who participated in Get Out the Vote and being part of voter protection. Also, a shout-out to Joyce Katz for setting up a new Public Policy section on our branch website.

Branch Fundraising: Marcia Block – Entertaining and informative winter event with a new format that raised a lot of money for our branch.

Directory: Joan Hewitt – They did a good job of producing the directory in spite of the unusual circumstances of this year. Ann-Patrice O'Shaughnessy – There was no print version, but everyone was cooperative.

Dollars for Scholars: Susie Teicher – The virtual events supplied by Janet Sloey every week in the Friday Notes. Also, donations to DFS did not crash even though in-person events could not be held.

Governance: Marsha Weppelman – The state bylaws chair approved our change to the branch bylaws to allow Zoom and other electronic means for meetings. Sue Barley helped with the wording. Jan Horner thanked Marsha for quickly providing answers to bylaws questions about voting, etc.

Hospitality: Could not function this year with no in-person meetings, but Joan Hewitt and Jane Hemer are eager to start next year.

Newsletter: Sandy Brody – The team updated the look of the newsletter, and kept providing the news all year, so members were always informed.

Fall Brunch/Oktobefest – Eileen Krahman – Asked about the format of the upcoming Fall Brunch. It was stated that we should assume it will be a standard Fall Brunch.

Spring Luncheon: Jane Hemer – We switched from a Whitmoor event to a picnic, but hope to go back to Whitmoor next spring. So far, 82 people are signed up to go to the picnic, indicating a great desire to be with other people.

Note: Committee sign-ups for the coming year will be done at this picnic.

STEM: Barb McQuitty – STEM was able to continue with community outreach events, Girls of Promise and the Science Fair.

University Liaison: Sue Shriver – The challenge was to communicate with universities. We still were able to give scholarships.

Web Co-manager: Joyce Katz– Has now become a Super Webmaster, which gives her new privileges for altering our website. New Public Policy area. Good working calendars. Joyce is still working on widespread use of the website and possibly putting the branch directory on the website, in a secure area.

Final Comments

Sage Taber: This is such a wonderful group and so much work has been done. Coordination with the state and national organizations is good.

Karen Francis: Karen is going off the board, as she is becoming the state AAUW president. She stated that she has loved working with everybody on the board since joining it in 2011.

Noted and written by Susan Fenwick
Submitted by Leslie Wier, Secretary-Archivist