

AAUW-BC Board Meeting, 10:00 AM. October 7, 2021 Hybrid in-person and Zoom

Jan Horner, Co-President, called the meeting to order, shared that Sue Shineman, AAUW State President, was present and would share remarks later in the agenda. Sage Taber, co-president. Is on her way to Michigan. It is exciting to start the year in person; you may remove masks at the podium. Other special guests are branch members who serve in State capacities – Barb McQuitty and Sandra Murdock.

Finance – Pat Shores: Assets through September, 2021: Operating Fund - \$ 35,718.39; Dollars for Scholars - \$4,779.45); Contingency - \$836.62; and CD -\$3,058.74. for total assets of \$44,393.20. She reminded board members about filling out reimbursement forms; those plus our tax forms are available on the website. She updated us on the community action grant of 2015-2017, through which the human trafficking effort was formed. Originally called SCAT, it has been rebranded as Gateway Human Trafficking, and is located in St. Louis. Shlma Rostami is still the director. Pat said she also had the pecan orders from Kirkwood-Webster branch.

Program – Marcia Block and Carol Anthony: Speaker for next week’s Branch meeting is Kirstin Sorth, director of the St. Louis County Library, talking about community involvement. November’s speaker is Bryan Jack to discuss black migration to St. Louis. Marcia also addressed the Winter Party, reminding people to contribute gift cards worth \$10 or more to become the big raffle prize. Raffle tickets, 3 for \$25 are available to print out on the website; money and tickets go to Jayne Kasten. Information will go out at the first of each month calling people’s attention to the fundraising effort through our 40th Birthday Party in December.

AAUW Fund – Marian Bauer and Eileen Krahman: November is the annual giving month; last year, virtual giving worked very well. We will have envelopes on the chairs this year for people who wish to write checks, but virtual giving through the AAUW website is so easy that many people may wish to continue that process. Reminder that FUND donations are 100% tax deductible; the tax year ends 12/31/2021. A gift of \$100 merits membership in the Century Club, \$250 for Century Plus. Eileen said that the ER Walk has already raised \$600, which goes to Research. Come, walk, visit at DePeres Park Tuesday 10/19 10 a.m.

Public Policy – Angie Janik: the branch will align with the state plan and will collaborate with the state chair, Pat Shores. The new co-chair, Ann Riley, has web experience and is updating PP section of our website. The goal is to be more general in the newsletter, and use the Friday notes for more immediate action.

Dollars for Scholars – Janet Sloey and Nancy Pierson: Janet had intended to eliminate links to virtual sites for remote events, but they have decided to run them every other week in the Friday reminder. They will bring the “tip jar” to the Branch meeting, and Nancy has the Honor Roll postcards available today and for next week’s meeting. There are three in-person events for November: 11/3 – History Museum trip; 11/7 – Jazz St. Louis; and 11/14 – Webster Conservatory concert. Pat said she had received a check for \$30 from a member who had enjoyed three of the on-line links. Jan expressed our thanks to DFS for their creative approach to scholarship fundraising.

Directory – Ann Patrice O'Shaughnessy – directories will be available at a table next week

Newsletter – Mary Jermak (Sandy Brody and Jean Light): This is a year of transition to a bigger and better newsletter, which publishes 10 issues a year. She asked that we take a minute at the Branch meeting to acknowledge all the people who help with the monthly newsletter, including myriad proofreaders. She also addressed the Barb Lackritz Award, which has been broadened and simplified so that each Branch will have its own award. Pat Shores is chairing for the entire Metro area.

Spring Luncheon –Susan Fenwick (on Zoom); the first committee activity was an organization meeting to determine who will do what. There will be a small meeting on 11/12 with Sue Pitman from Whitmore to get things rolling for the May luncheon.

University Liaison – Sue Shriver and Lorna Anderson: Susan complimented Lorna for negotiating a better deal with Panera; the price of the card has gone up to \$15, but we will net \$3 for the branch (20%) instead of the previous 10%. Sue has made bean soup bags – 13 kinds of beans! – she asked to raise the price to \$7 per bag as the cost of beans has gone up, or people can make a donation. Mary Kay Wolfe will run the Book Sale table, reserving right to refuse books that are too old or will not sell within the meeting. Newer gently used books and puzzles, no more than 10 per person, will be welcomed. So next week the 3 B's – Beans, Bread, and Books!

Webmaster – Joyce Katz and Carolyn Brown: the website provides an introduction to new viewers to see what goes on in our Branch; it is a useful tool for our members; and it is constantly updated.

Branch Action Plan - Jan Horner: We already do much of the goal agenda, but will need to keep this in mind for next year. Pat commented that the large document, which is a reference document, covers things we have done for years. Look for your particular position. We are validating what we already do. Marcia Block moved and Marian Bauer seconded a motion that we adopt the Five Star action plan for the Branch. Jean Elliot asked that we share if we are doing something new; this info goes to Jean for the branch and she completes the Star application that goes to Diane Ludwig. We usually do this at the end of the year. We have new people and need a way to nurture the new members. Ann Riley is already part of Public Policy. Maple Davis who has recently joined our branch, is part of Diversity and Inclusion at the state level. Names of several new or re-joining members were mentioned, along with possible suggestions

Other – Jan reiterated that we are not serving food at meetings; members are welcome to bring their own beverage and food. Because the water fountains are off, Hospitality can always have small bottle of water available should someone need a drink, but we are not icing them or providing for all.

Today's guest is Sue Shineman, President of Missouri AAUW. Sue said she was excited to be here visiting with the Branch Board. The state now has a STEM committee (as we have in the Branch). The 5-star award is National' the 10 star is State. We are the 3rd branch to adopt the 5 star criteria into our branch setup. The highlighted sections are new to make it easy to find the changes. She appreciates all the help branches have provided. The state is expanding the function of college and university; some are having events on campuses. The area of DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) has added more definition.

It was adopted into the new Public Policy rules last may. She has a powerpoint to share at branch meetings – it talks about terms and how to do branch assessments. She stressed how looking at the topic systematically shows how far we yet have to go. Public Policy shines bright. The topic of women’s rights will not go away. So far the ban on the new law in Texas holds. Topics like Title IX, paid leave, elimination of salary history need awareness and action. College and University needs a different approach to reaching out; community colleges might work better. We are needed to serve on committees. Sue is always available to answer questions. There is a piece created from the powerpoint that can go into the newsletter.

Submitted by Leslie Wier, Secretary-Archivist