

AAUW-BC Branch meeting, 10/14/2021 hybrid in-person (55 attendees) and Zoom (16 attendees)

**Sage Taber, Co-President**, called the meeting to order. **Jan Horner, Co-President**, offered opening remarks, commenting that every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday is a rainy day, so it's good to be inside together once again. Two members of our branch have passed recently, Pam Valentine and Pat Jennings. She reminded everyone to go to the BC website to see Branch information as well as links to Missouri State AAUW, and to look at the national website to get the broader picture.

**Pat Shores, Finance**: 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. Pat reviewed the budget process; her motion for approval passed unanimously by show of hands.

**Judy Stagoski (and Linda Roberson), Membership**: one guest today with Sandy Brody; we have gained 5 new members since July 1! She reminded us that we members are the best advertisement for new members. The committee needs volunteers to sign up as greeters, to help at the doors, and to collect name tags at the end of the meetings. E-mail Judy or Linda if you are interested in helping.

**Marcia Block (and Carol Anthony), Programs**: Today's speaker is Kristen Sorth of the St. Louis County Public Library, talking about the more active role of the library in the community. Next month is Bryan Jack, comparing St. Louis to the Red Sea regarding Black migration to St. Louis.

**Marian Bauer (and Eileen Krahman), AAUW FUND**: November is our annual giving month; we did very well last year through virtual donations. This year we will have envelopes on the chairs for those who wish to write a check, but virtual donations are easy and encouraged as well. A donation of \$100+ entitles the donor to membership in the Century Club; donations of \$250+ places one in the Century Plus group. Donations made before December 31 are tax deductible for calendar year 2021 taxes. AAUW has been helping women and girls since 1881, and is counting on our continued support.

**Angie Janik (and Ann Riley), Public Policy**: our priority is economic security for all women. A recent data update covers effect of Covid pandemic. Support AAUW through the 2 Minute Activists segment. AAUW sponsors activities involving disinformation from the Missouri Voter Protection effort.

**Janet Sloey and Nancy Pierson, Dollars for Scholars**: at their table is the Tip Jar (for virtual events), and the Honor Roll postcards – for recent achievements, as an in memory of, etc. Another fund raiser is the impromptu walk in the park. Checks can be sent to Pat Shores, designated for Dollars to Scholars on memo line. Three in-person events are scheduled in November: 11/2 – visit to the History Museum; 11/7 – Jazz St. Louis; and 11/14 – Webster Conservatory performance. Thanks to Roz Marx for meeting the challenge and planning two events.

**Sue Shriver and Lorna Anderson, University Liaison**: We are here to relieve you of some money to help fund the two \$750 scholarships we give out each semester, one to Maryville and one to UMSL. We have bean soup bags at the table as well as Panera Gift cards.

**Jan Horner, Winter Fundraiser**: in 1981, AAUW was 100 years old, Sandra Day O'Connor was the first woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, Average Annual income was \$22,000; and average life

expectancy was 74. Also in 1981 a group of forward thinking women formed the Ballwin-Chesterfield branch of AAUW, so this year we are celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in December as a variation to our normal winter fundraiser. There will be a luncheon, raffle tickets and other ways to donate to the branch to supplement our dues and keep us running. There were 41 members in the charter group; 2 of them are still members.

**IBC Barb Lackritz Award** – Pat Shores explained that each branch can now select its own member to receive the recognition award; there is a notice in the newsletter. Letters of recommendation are due October 21, with one sentence covering each of 4 areas. The committee consists of Mary Jermak, Suzanne Couch and Barbara Kellems.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

It is time to establish the nominating committee for selecting officers for the 2022-23 year; one non-Board member is needed so any of you out there who is interested, speak up.

Sue Barley, Legacy Circle: The Legacy Circle includes any member who has included AAUW in her future plans – will, life insurance policy, IRA, annuity, etc. I'm please to introduce Jeannie Webdell, a joint member with Kirkwood-Webster Groves, as the latest member to join the Legacy Circle. We have 13 members in our branch to be part of this group.

Suzanne Couch spoke about St. Martha's Hall, a battered women's shelter that members have supported for several years. The Hall is aligned with other agencies so donations are passed to others. They need everything paper-wise, and in-season clothing. Collections are done in October, and again in January through April. It is not an AAUW official activity, but members have been bringing donations for Suzanne to gather and take to the Hall for years. She needs to update her contact list, so any member who wishes to receive notice of what is needed and when, she will add her to the e-mail list.

The business part of the meeting adjourned; return to seats by 11 for the speaker.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Wier, Recording Secretary/Archivist