

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch meeting, 01-13-2022

Sage Taber, Co-President, opened the Zoom meeting at 10:00 a.m., commenting that she hoped we can be in-person again soon. Someone offered Sage birthday greetings for yesterday, **Jan Horner, Co-President**, commented that we are half-way through the Fiscal year, which ends June 30. We have held a variety of events, several in person, to raise funds for various aspects of our Branch, including Dollars for Scholars. The Biggest success was the 40th Birthday Party in December, which generates income beyond dues for branch work; although all the numbers are not final, we raised \$4,000-\$5,000. In the second half of the year we have the IBC Spring Fling in March and our Spring Luncheon in May. She encouraged all committees to meet, via Zoom if necessary, to plan what needs to be done for the rest of this year. Try to get everyone involved, and thank you for all you do.

Jean Elliott, Past President, gave some details for the IBC Spring Fling on March 26. The venue is Catering to You in Florissant where tables can be spread out with small groups; the luncheon price is \$35. The luncheon honors the winners of the Barb Lackritz Award; this year each Branch will have its own winner. Joyce Katz is the honoree for AAUW-BC. Entertainment is the Queens of Swing, a female quartet which has performed with the Symphony and the Philharmonic. Registration forms are on our website and in the newsletter; Deadline is March 12. Roz Marx asked that IBC consider a requirement that everyone be vaccinated; venues at which she ushers have established this rule.

Pat Shores, Finance Officer, gave the asset report for December 2021: Operating Fund - \$35,361.70; Dollars for Scholars - \$8,450.31; Contingency Fund - \$836.62; CD - \$3,058.74 for a total of \$47,707.37.

Marcia Block, Programs: next month's program will be Lost St. Louis, Lost Landmarks. She reminded us that it is time to select speakers for next year, so if you have suggestions, please let her or Carol Anthony in the next few weeks.

Angela Janik, Public Policy: Happy New Year! Public Policy will continue to use the Friday notes and the newsletter to focus on voting rights. At the national level, they will provide how to contact our elected officials; with Pat Shores, the local focus remains on pay equity. The MO state legislature is in session so the committee will track and pass on pertinent information. Some retired teachers weighed in on news sources relevant to education and retired teachers – **Pickett Lema** mentioned weekly reports from NEA and **Janet Sloey** said the Missouri Retired Teachers association (MRTA) is fighting to prevent the legislature from rolling the state teachers' pension into the public employees' pension fund. **Karen Francis** announced the MO Women's Legislative Retreat, held on Zoom 9-11:30 a.m. on February 19. Information on the MO Women's Network and AAUW MO will be in the Friday new notes.

Janet Sloey, Dollars for Scholars: Thank you for contributing in various ways to Dollars for Scholars; we are looking forward to having more events in person when it is safe to do so. **Nancy Pierson** reported that 30 people have been honored or remembered through the Honor Roll process, in which we can donate to DFS in honor or memory of a specific person, the DFS committee will send a post card to the honoree; the names will be posted in the newsletter. Bette Bude told of how pleased her daughter-in-law was to be so honored. In the case of "in memory of" the donor should provide the name and address of the person who should receive the notification. **Roz Marx**, who has sponsored several DFS

event, reported that The Manhattan Transfer concert cancelled last May, has been rescheduled at Jazz St. Louis for a Sunday evening concert. Please check the Friday notes and the next newsletter for particulars; make reservations soon. The cost is \$60 per ticket including the DFS portion.

Genevieve Gibson-Newman , STEM, reported that (1) Girls of Promise is planned, funded, and schools notified; (2) The Science Fair, held in the spring is scheduled and schools are notified; it will be virtual again; and (3) Expanding Horizons has been cancelled for this year but the committee is looking at what could be done virtually similar to last year. The committee is working on updating the EYH program and has compiled a list of toys and gifts. STEM committee will meet next week; Sandra Murdock will notify members and people can check the Friday notes.

Sage Taber reported on the Winter Fundraiser, which was very successful and a lot of fun; it was great to be in person for such an important event. 22 members and 8 groups gave gift cards for the raffle, and there were 60 Lights of Leadership to help provide new funds. The preliminary profit is about \$4,600.

Judy Stagoski, Nominating Committee – the committee still needs a candidate for Finance Officer and a co-director for Public Policy; as soon as the slate is complete, they will submit it to the Board. The schedule is to announce in March, vote in April, and install new officers in May.

The AAUW National Artists contest is now open; Susan Fenwick and Pickett Lima have entered submissions, so we need to go on-line to vote our choices.

Susie Teicher reminded us about International Relations, which is using Zoom for the speakers this year. Yesterday's lecture was on Feeding the Dragon – our relationship with China; and Feb 8 Carol Bender will discuss Climate Change.

Debbie McWard announced that NCSWSL will be virtual again this year.

The business meeting was adjourned with a break before the speaker.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Wier, Recording Secretary and Archivist

