

Minutes AAUW-BC Branch meeting, March 10, 2022

Sage Taber, Co-President, called the meeting to order and opened with group recitation of the AAUW Mission Statement. **Jan Horner, Co-President**, said it was the first time in ages that she has had to remind us to silence our phones during the meeting! She enjoyed watching Doris Nistler's DVD of a one-year history of the branch about 2003-2004. Back then everyone dressed in their best, including high heels. Names tags were on the tables around the meeting room. Life has changed; we are coming back from the pandemic, but it won't be the same. We have to be flexible but still focus on the mission. Pay Equity – it took six years, but the Women's USA Soccer team prevailed in their law suit and won \$22 Million in back pay! One step at a time!

Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Jean Elliott, past co-chair and IBC rep, reminded us of the March 26 Spring Fling. Thanks to those who have registered. She encouraged attendees to bring checkbooks or cash for the gift card raffle and the 50/50; this is IBC's annual fundraising event. She suggested that we circulate to meet and "pick the brains" of members from other branches, See Jean if you are interested in car-pooling.

Pat Shores, Finance Officer, provided the asset report for February 2022: Operating Fund, \$30,448.50; Dollars for Scholars, \$4,759.46; Contingency, \$836.62; and CD, \$3,058.74 for a total of \$39,103.32.

Judy Stagoski, co-chair Membership, welcomed our one guest. As of February 1, we have 162 members, which is quite a drop. It is important that we all encourage friends to come as guests and to join. March 16 will be the first renewal email from National, linking us to click and pay on-line. Dues this year are \$99 – National went up by \$3 but state and branch remain unchanged. The newly reconfigured AAUW website has a segment called the Community Hub; look for an email from Karina Sun Breeze which explains how to use this tool;

Marcia Block, co-chair Programs, said next month's speaker is Carol Gravins, from the Botanical Garden, who will talk on How Plants Changed the Course of History.

Ann Riley, Public Policy Co-Chair, highlighted the US Soccer Team lump sum settlement. This is an active time in MO state politics. There are many new bills going through the process. She reminded us of the useful chart on our branch website that shows all the bills, their topics, and where they are in the process. Get out there and let your representatives know – make your voices heard! A crucial time to express your opinion is when bills go into conference committee. April 5 is date of municipal elections in St. Louis County. March 23 is the deadline to obtain absentee ballots and April 4 is the deadline to turn them in. In a recent UNICEF report on family friendly countries, the US was dead last on paid leave for mothers, and is the only country that does not offer paid maternity leave. The Brown School at Washington University is doing a 3 event series of lectures; please see the Friday notes for March 11 for the details.

Janet Sloey, Dollars for Scholars co-chair, said that for the past two years, their group has felt like the dying person in the desert, but now we have five in-person events to provide the drink of water to our scholarship fund: Tower Grove tour, April 28; Soldiers Memorial, May 4; Jazz concert (filled), May 29; Art Museum, June 2, and Carondelet Museum, June 23. The Tip Jar is still on the table for donations. And Pat Shores and Marian Bauer handed out candy bars rewards to event sponsors.

Susan Fenwick, Spring Luncheon Co-Chair, encouraged members to sign up at the table in the back; \$28 will cover a delicious luncheon, recognition of achievements, and installation of new officers at Whitmoor Country Club on May 12. Social Hour starts at 11, with lunch served at 12. If you don't register today, you can send a check to Carol Derington to hold your reservation.

Sandy Brody, Newsletter Editor, provided an enlightening slide show and impassioned plea for members to join the newsletter staff. Two of the three editors are taking new positions on the board and Branching Out will need some new help. If you know how to use Word, can Cut and Paste, and use the UNDO button, you can do any of the jobs on the paper! The three sections are News; Dollars for Scholars; and Interest Groups/Calendar. In addition, there is a dedicated group of proofreaders who ensure the accuracy of each edition. Please join us! **Mary Jermak** confirmed Sandy's assertion that the advantage newsletter editors have is that they are well informed of all aspects of our branch work; it is a wonderful opportunity for connectivity and a sense of community.

Judy Stagoski from the Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers and thanked everyone who said yes to the opportunity to take a 2-year position: **Co-President – Sandy Brody; Finance Officer – Jean Light; Programs – Janet Sloey; Membership – Michelle Mangnall (who has previous experience) and April Walgren; Funds – Karen Francis and Suzanne Couch; Public Policy – Marian Bauer; and Dollars for Scholars, Betty Jo Hogan.** These officers will be installed at the May Spring Luncheon.

In her closing remarks, Sage reminded us that March 15 is the official Equal Pay day – on this day, white women will finally earn what men had earned by the previous December 31; She pointed out that African American, Latina and Asian women lag even further and their dates would all be later. A thank you video from our Maryville scholarship students is on the branch website under community involvement. A reminder that bottled water is available in the back; please take one so the committee doesn't have to lug them all out of here! Meeting adjourned; speaker in 15 minutes.

Speaker is Sara Wetzel of the Better Business Bureau on How to Protect Yourself in a Digital World, Even If You Don't Think You Live There!

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Wier, Recording Secretary/Archivist