

AAUW-BC Board Meeting, May 5, 2022

**Sage Taber**, Co-President, called the meeting to order and led the board members in the AAUW Mission Statement. Co-President **Jan Horner**, in her last official Board meeting, thanked us for all our hard work, and said that the refreshments on the back table were the Co-Presidents thanks for our work and for a good year. She pointed out new members of the Board present— Betty Hogan – Dollars for Scholars; Karen Francis – Funds; Janet Sloey is moving to Public Policy; Jean Elliott is who going off the Board, agreed to lead the Fall Brunch committee; and both Linda Roberson and Judy Stagoski are retiring as membership co-chairs. The minutes of the April meeting were approved as published on our website.

**Pat Shores**, Finance Officer, provided the Asset report for April ending balances: Operating Fund - \$28,982.16; Dollars for Scholars - \$5,556.72; Contingency - \$836.62; and CD - \$3,070.37, for a total asset balance of \$38,445.87. The CD earned \$11.63 in interest for the past six months, less than 4/10<sup>th</sup> of one percent; she and the incoming Finance Officer Jean Light, agreed to renew it for three months to see if the rate will improve. Pat reported good news: some technical problems with the new AAUW system have been solved, so we can pay our dues on-line; several people have now successfully completed the process. And Pat can now handle checks for those who choose that method. Our total dues this year are \$99. Mary Jermak asked Finance to think about reducing our local dues to \$20 in the future.

**Judy Stagoski**, Membership Co-Chair, reported that 8 members have renewed so far. Nancy Pierson said that if a password reset is required, the approval comes through email, which takes several days.

**Marcia Block**, Programs Co-Chair, said that they are making progress on speakers for next year; three of the six are set, and another two are on hold while checking schedules.

**Marian Bauer**, Co-Chair of Finance, had good news; the data for Fund giving has finally been provided by AAUW, with persistence and help from Sue Barley. Our branch contributed nearly \$13,000 between September 2021 and April 2022. Jean Elliott used the data to provide our Five Star Award application to State. Thirty-two of the sixty-two donors were Century Club, and 8 were Century Plus. The names will be provided at the Spring Luncheon.

**Janet Sloey**, co-Chair of Dollars for Scholars, said the group will continue the Honor Roll which was very successful in raising money; the tip jar will be retired after collecting close to \$300. They are happy to have in-person events again.

A side discussion on “ a mountain of stuff” related to membership in Judy Stagoski’s basement brought forth reports of “stuff” collected by other chairpersons over time, with questions on what to do. The Archive process covers the necessary papers for each function, but we need to come up with a plan for what to do with physical objects that are no longer needed. Mary Jermak asked that w make sure we keep the Signed Affiliate Agreement between the branch and AAUW; she will check her own records.

**Susan Fenwick**, Spring Luncheon, reported that 80 people have signed up to attend the luncheon next week. There was a lot of help from a wonderful committee who had lots of practice planning over the past three springs.

**Genevieve Gibson-Newman**, STEM chairperson, reported that all three school events were very successful. Valley Park, Maplewood-Richmond Heights, and Pattonville all held recognition events. Our branch provided food, including for a 7:30 AM breakfast. Many photos were taken; the girls were very poised. The committee is looking forward to doing Expanding Your Horizons next year. Science Fair this year was limited to girls in honors divisions. Sandra Murdock and Marcia Block were judges. There were only 8 submittals, many of which this year involved water quality. At least one demonstrated that the original hypothesis may turn out to be wrong. Another project used powdered banana peels to derive potassium for purifying water. The committee is thinking about doing a brochure with pictures from the events. Newsletter asked for a picture, and Mary Jermak said if she could get one today, she could use in a state report.

**Joan Hewitt** and **Jane Hemer**, Co-Chairs of Hospitality, will have a picnic committee established by next week. Linda Roberson has agreed to help with that. The lady at the Ballwin Golf Course will set up, but we need to bring our own cleaning stuff, perhaps in a large easy-to-carry bucket. Good news is that there is no golf league on Thursdays so there should be no problem with parking. Sign-up for the picnic will be at the Spring Luncheon.

At this point, Jan Horner led a discussion on organizational changes. The discussion was confusing because several people went off topic. The basic point was that we have misalignment between where we have money budgeted and where the effort actually resides. A lot of it concerns where we do things for the community (scholarships) and where we fund our internal organization. Jan suggested that all the money for community based projects (NCCWSL, scholarships and their sources – Panera, Bean Soup, Dollars events, etc) should fall under one umbrella. Because this will entail changes to the budget process, the budget committee will need time to align and make changes and suggested a task force. Jan will be the chair, and the following people volunteered to be on the committee – Lorna Anderson, Nancy Pierson, Karen Francis, Pat Shores, and Jean Light.

Jan's final item for discussion was the Winter branch fundraising activity. She suggested that we break down Branch costs for items of expense (STEM scholarships, science fair award, NCCWSL, etc) for people to sponsor. We would explain what is not covered by dues so that people know where the money goes. The celebration would be December 8, 2022, our usual December meeting. Ann Riley moved that we refer the idea to the budget committee; Marcia said we need a committee to come up with the proposal. Joyce reminded us of the warmth of gathering around food and drink – people feel welcomed and we perhaps shouldn't balk at providing coffee at meetings (side discussion again on the high cost). Marcia Block, Sandy Brody, and Jean Light volunteered to be on the committee. Susan Fenwick put in a plug for the new STEM area on the state website. And Pat thanked us all for being cordial during all our discussions.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Wier, Recording Secretary/Archivist