

AAUW-BC Board Meeting Minutes, October 6, 2022

Sandy Brody, Co-Chair, opened the meeting a recitation of the AAUW Mission Statement. **Sage Taber**, Co-Chair, is now home recovering from her heart surgery.

Karen Francis reported that the Inclusion Fusion Program being used by AAUW Missouri is going nationwide. Today's focus for five-minute breakout groups was Diversity within our branch; a handout showed 15 different aspects to consider. Overall consensus was that although the branch is fairly non-diverse in terms of race, age and gender, and some other characteristics are not intuitively obvious, we are diverse in our thinking styles, perspectives, experiences and skills. Karen pointed out that this exercise provides awareness and helps us consider how to get to more inclusivity from where we are.

Mary Jermak, Barbara Lackritz Award, said the selection for this year's nominee must be made by the November Board meeting. Nominations must consider how the nominees uphold our AAUW mission through service and leadership for both AAUW and the community; they may be sent to **Mary Jermak, Barbara Kellams or Suzanne Couch**.

The group voted to accept the appointments of **Nancy Hutchins** as Directory co-chair and **Yvonne Ward** as Spring Luncheon co-chair.

Pat White sent a request from the Expressions group to allow sales of extra lanyards with the money going to Dollars for Scholars, and dough ornaments, with 50% going to DFS. Several minutes of discussion involved the sale of various non-AAUW items at meetings, and whether it could be done within the By-Laws and outside the meeting (such as providing supplies for the women's shelter or other community services). The group voted to allow the lanyard sale at the meeting since it goes 100% to DFS; the ornaments may be sold, one time only, AFTER the November meeting, with 50% going to DFS.

Pat Shores reminded us of the ER Walk on Oct. 18, 10 AM at Des Peres City Park; all are welcome whether walking or not; just come to support. Karen Francis told us of the Oct. 15 event (see Newsletter for details) with an historical marker being placed to honor Virginia Minor.

Jean Light, Finance Officer, provided the finance report for September month-end: Operating Fund - \$27,850.33; Dollars for Scholars - \$4,241.97; Contingency - \$841.83; and the CD - \$3,058.74 for a total balance of \$35,992.87. She has emailed updated reimbursement forms to Board members.

Marcia Block, Programs Co-Chair, said that this month's speaker from the International Institute will discuss the integration of recent immigrants into the county, and the November speaker, a member of the Cherokee Nation, will provide an overview of why Native Americans are invisible to so many of us.

Suzanne Couch, Funds Co-Chair, reminded us that November is our annual giving month for donations to Greatest Needs. We would like to encourage every member to give something, if only a dollar, to support the important work of this fund. All donations to Greatest Needs are tax deductible. Last year 32% of our membership donated; we'd like to see a larger percentage of donations this year. There was a discussion of how to better get the importance across to everyone. Karen Francis will follow up on a question of whether National has a film clip that might help raise awareness.

Marian Bauer, Co-Chair of Public Policy, reported that Nancy Price from League of Women Voters (and an AAUW member), will do a brief presentation at the Branch meeting in place of the Public Policy committee report. Emphasis is on Get out the Vote!

Jan Horner, Past President and IBC rep, said that our branch is responsible for the IBC Spring Fling this year. We have Edgewild at Chesterfield Mall already reserved for the luncheon on March 18, 2023. Lunch will cost \$45, with 5 choices that can be made that day.

Suzanne Couch, co-chair Winter Fund raising – the December event will be the Kickoff for fundraising the rest of the AAUW-BC year to spread out the opportunity to donate to the Branch. Box lunch (\$25) will be from Genesis; entertainment will be Queens of Swing. Bring dollar bills and checkbooks to be a booster for local branch initiatives and activities. The goal is to raise \$5000 between December and April to support STEM girls, Science Fair, program speakers, etc. We will celebrate our success at the Spring luncheon.

Nancy Pierson, Dollar for Scholar Co-Chair, reviewed the current events, all of which have been in the newsletter and the Friday reminders. There was a discussion about interest groups, how they have helped in the past and how they might help with raising scholarship money. A coming attraction in the spring is the Holocaust Museum (Marian B) and a possible trip to the Churchill Museum in Fulton.

Yvonne Ward, co-chair of Spring Luncheon, thanked the continuing and new committee members who will have first meeting October 20 at 1:30 on Zoom.

Pat Shores shared with the group that this past year, AAUW provided \$6.1 million from the interest only on the Education Funds. There is enough money to continue for 50-60 years at this level. (So our giving to AAUW is now more important to Greatest Needs).

Susan Shriver, co-chair University Liaison, brought bean soup bags – soak tonight, eat tomorrow! – which will also be on sale at the October meeting, \$7 a bag for Dollars for Scholars.

Miscellaneous notes: Karen Francis – this is Domestic Violence Month; Missouri is SECOND in the country for women murdered by men. Sandy reported studies show that beating during pregnancy affects the baby after birth as well. Karen again – Photo IDs for voting must be unexpired. Hospitality slots for Branch meetings are almost filled. Water and Fall-related snacks will be at the October meeting. Cups will be provided. Since the water is provided in large containers from the golf course, it was suggested that we bring our own beverages.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Wier, Secretary/Archivist