

AAUW B-C Branch meeting, January 12, 2023

Sage Taber, Co-President, called the meeting to order, welcoming members to the first branch meeting of the New Year. April Walgren, VP of Membership, introduced Mindy Zavist, a guest of Marcia Block, and Sage thanked the hospitality hostesses for the wonderful assortment of goodies provided for the meeting.

Jean Light, Finance Officer, shared the December 2022 balances: Operating Fund, \$26,597.57; Dollars for Scholars, \$5,668.92, and the CD, \$3,070.97. The CD was moved on 12/05/22 to Inland Bank, where we will receive 4.5% interest. Our two scholarship students at UMSL are still in school, but the two at Maryville graduated; we gave them a gift of \$1,000 each. Including payment for this semester's remaining scholarships, our balance in January 2023 is about \$1,100.

Marcia Block, VP for Programs, announced that her co-VP Janet Sloey was absent because of the death of her mother. The speaker for February will be Maggie Brockmeyer, experienced in career counseling and financial education.

Marian Bauer, Director of Public Policy, thanked all who participated in the November survey. Results showed that most people receive information from the Friday Notes, the Web page, and the branch Newsletter. She described the Two Minute Activist as an opportunity for members to voice their opinions. An article in the February newsletter tells how to access this tool. A recent letter from Gloria Blackwell, AAUW, discussed how support for the Pregnant Workers Welfare Act (basic accommodations such as bathroom breaks and carrying a water bottle) came from this advocacy. This act was contained in the Omnibus Bill passed before Christmas. Sage commented that this is extremely easy to use.

Jan Horner, Past Co-President and branch rep for IBC (Interbranch Council covering the 5 branches of St. Louis City, St. Charles, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, Ferguson-Florissant, and Ballwin-Chesterfield), announced the IBC Spring Luncheon on March 18, which will be held at Edgewild Restaurant near the Chesterfield Mall entry. Luncheon will be \$45, payable with your registration. The Barbara Lackritz Award, now given to a member selected for each branch, recognizes members who not only embody the AAUW mission within their work in their branches, but also have taken this mission into their work in their communities. This year, our branch is honoring Marcia Block for all that she has done! Jan said that there will be a raffle of gift cards instead of more "stuff!" Kirkwood-Webster Groves is sponsoring a lecture Tuesday night; Pat Shores will provide a link to the Zoom meeting. Jan, also in charge of Branch Fundraising, reported on the Winter Fundraiser. Attendees paid \$25 for a box lunch and enjoyed the Queens of Swing, games, and other festivities. The goal for the year is to raise \$5,000 to help support the valuable work of the branch – program speakers, STEM Girls of Promise, and Science Fair awards, for example. So far we have raised \$2,087. The fundraising will continue until April as members can continue to donate \$50 or more to become a BC Booster. Checks can be made out to Ballwin-Chesterfield AAUW and mailed to Jayne Kasten (address in the Directory). We will celebrate our success at the BC Spring Luncheon in May.

Nancy Pierson, Co-Director of Dollars for Scholars, said the next new event is *Becoming Jane* at the Science Center on February 24; the guide is a former AAUW member. March 13 is another Jazz St. Louis

coffee and donuts event, and another event in the works is a trip to the St. Louis Holocaust Museum with three sponsors, Marcia Block, Pat Shores, and Julie Triplett.

Suzanne Couch, Director of AAUW Fund, thanked everyone who donated during the November meeting, either on-line or by check. As soon as a final accounting is completed by AAUW, the total giving will be shared.

Susie Teicher reminded all of the opportunity to hear wonderful speakers in the remaining three sessions of the International Relation speakers series at the Ethical Society building in Clayton. The speakers are sponsored and funded by the joint collaboration of the Tuesday Women's Association (TWA) of the Ethical Society of St. Louis and the American Association of University Women (IBC branches). Details are in the newsletter or on the web.

Linda Roberson, chair of the Nominating Committee, asked for nominations from members for several key leadership positions: Co-President, VP Membership, VP Programs, Secretary/Archivist, Director of AAUW Fund, and Director for Public Policy. Nomination forms are on the Website; be sure to obtain the permission of the person you are nominating and meet the deadline of January 31 by sending the forms to Linda, Susie Teicher or Ann Patrice O'Shaughnessy.

Ann Patrice, Directory, asked that any members who had asked for print copies of the directory please pick them up from the table; she also had copies of the latest revisions.

Suzanne Couch thanked everyone who has ever donated to St. Martha's shelter. Although it's not an official AAUW activity, for years Suzanne and other members have collected donations on the side at our Branch meetings in October, November, January, February, March and April. Paper and personal supplies, clothing, etc. for women and children are welcome. If an item cannot be used, St. Martha's will pass those items on to those who can use them.

The meeting was adjourned for social time before the speaker.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Wier, Secretary/Archivist