

February 9, 2023, AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Meeting

Co-president Sandy Brody called the meeting to order, standing in for co-president Sage Taber who was ill.

Sandy recognized the February Hospitality Hostesses, led by coordinating hostess Marilyn Beiter. The hostesses were Marge Anderson, Donna Ross, Judy Schaefer-Piet, Judy Stagoski, and Suzanne Truitt.

The minutes for the January 12, 2023, branch meeting, were approved.

Finance Officer Jean Light reported the January balances: Operating Fund \$28,423.57 and DFS \$1942.92. The CD was moved to M1 Bank, who offered 4.5% for 18 months. The CD value is \$3070. AAUW dues for 2023–24 will increase by \$5, which is the last of the approved dues increases. Total dues will be \$104. More information about dues renewal will become available in March.

Membership VP April Walgreen introduced guest Pam Bowman, guest of Sandy Brody. There were 52 in attendance.

Program VP Janet Sloey announced that the March speaker will be Tony Messenger, the well-noted St. Louis investigative reporter. He is willing to sign his books which members already own. He will also have his current book for sale, cash or check payment accepted, at the conclusion of the March meeting, as approved by the branch board.

Program VP Marcia Block announced that the program committee will soon consider possible speakers for the 2023–24 calendar. There will be a meeting for all interested members after the March 9 branch meeting. If you are unable to attend, please share your suggestions by email, by phone, or on the program evaluation.

Public Policy Co-director Marian Bauer had a great deal of important information to share. The Missouri legislature session began in January and there several proposed bills under discussion. She urged members to be aware and gave example of news sources such as FastDemocracy.com and Legiscan.com. Each provides up-to-date information about proposed bills via email or an app.

Marian spoke about the following:

- A bill limiting rights of citizens to initiatives and petition that raises the bar to 60%, which is almost impossible to meet.
- The proposal to send another district attorney to St. Louis to manage crime.
- SB 134 which is related to the library issue but is really aimed at LGBTQ. Ashcroft's office received 18,000 replies to his proposal and 80% were negative.
- Rep. Cory Bush is promoting passage of the ERA. Missouri is one of few states who did not vote to ratify.

Branch Public Policy Co-director Karen Francis urged members to attend the 2023 Women's Legislative Retreat to be held via Zoom on February 11, 9–11 a.m.

Past president Jan Horner announced that IBC, consisting of five AAUW branches in St. Louis, will hold its annual luncheon to celebrate its members, particularly the Barbara Lackritz Honoree recipients. The event is on March 18 at the Edgewild Restaurant in Chesterfield. Send your registration form, with \$45 check, to Carol Davis McDonald by March 13. Marcia Block is the B-C Barbara Lackritz recipient and members will want to be there to celebrate and honor Marcia.

Jan also spoke about the B-C Booster Club whose goal is to raise \$5000 to support B-C special programs. The fundraising will continue until April, as members may donate any amount; a donation of \$50 or more will make you a BC Booster. Checks can be made out to Ballwin-Chesterfield AAUW and mailed to Jayne Kasten. To date, we are \$1400 away from the goal. With quick math, Jan said that would be 28 \$50 donations, 14 \$100 donations, or three \$500 donations. We will celebrate our success at the BC Spring Luncheon in May.

Co-Director of Dollars for Scholars Nancy Pierson invited members to visit the DFS table to sign up for upcoming events:

1. Jazz St Louis Thursday Coffee Concert, March 16
2. Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum, March 31, April 21
3. Myths and Hymns, Musical Drama, April 22

Nancy also reminded members of the B-C Honor Roll to honor milestones and offer remembrances.

Spring Luncheon Co-director Yvonne Ward announced that the annual Spring Luncheon will be held at Whitmoor Country Club on May 11, 2023. Event details are being finalized. Members may make their reservations next month.

STEM director Marcia Block announced that the Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) for middle school girls may be held in 2024, dependent on schools being able to make the necessary arrangements. The STEM Girls of Promise event at Valley Park HS will be held on April 13 @ 7:15 a.m. The celebratory event is an opportunity to meet the girls and their parents. The dates for Maplewood-Richmond Heights HS and Pattonville HS have not yet been determined. Letters of congratulation will be sent to last year's STEM girls as they graduate, to let them know they are thought of and to also maintain a connection to AAUW.

Michele Magnall spoke on behalf of the newly formed Walking Interest Group, which meets the third Friday of the month at 9 a.m. The plan is to walk at a variety of outdoor locations. Chesterfield Mall will serve as the inclement weather location; an early morning email will be sent to those on the group list if they will walk indoors. Michele invites interested members to contact her to be added to the Walking Group member list.

Susie Tiecher spoke for the International Relations Lecture Series held at the Ethical Society on the second Tuesday January through April at 10:45 a.m. It is also available via Zoom. Please check branch communications, i.e., newsletter, website, or Friday Reminder for upcoming lecture information.

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. so that members could socialize and sign up for various activities.

At 10:30 a.m. Program VP Janet Sloey introduced the speaker Maggie Brookmeyer from Rung for Success, a non-profit which helps women to improve their lives with better paying jobs. The presentation was well-received by the member audience.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Jermak on behalf of Secretary/Archivist Leslie Wier