

## Minutes of the Ballwin-Chesterfield AAUW Board meeting, February 2, 2023

Sage Taber, Co-President, opened the meeting with the AAUW Mission Statement. Sandy Brody, Co-President, welcomed us to our first Board meeting of 2023. The Nominating Committee has one remaining position to fill and hope to announce that next week. Public Policy will be very busy this year.

Karen Francis, President AAUWMO, led the group in another Inclusion Fusion exercise. The third leg after Equity and Inclusion is Belonging. To explore how we can make sure that people belong, we broke into groups of 4 to (a) recall when we felt specially included, engaged, or validated and (b) talk about when we have felt specifically excluded. Most used AAAUW, other women's groups or social groups as the basis, and many of the comments came down to feeling included when you had a specific task or job to do, or when someone reached out to include you in more than one activity. Some longer-term members recalled the branch established a "buddy" for each new member. Always wearing the name tag helps with names right away.

After approval of the November Branch minutes, Jean Light, Finance Officer, reported the Assets as of the end of January, 2023. Operating Fund, \$28,431.57; Dollars for Scholars, \$1,942.92 (after paying \$4000 for second semester tuition); and CD, \$3,070.97. The new bank, M1 in Des Peres, pays 4.5% interest on an 18 month certificate.

Michele Mangnall, VP of Membership, announced that 4 women have achieved 50 years of AAUW membership this year, and will be celebrated at our Spring Luncheon in May: Lorna Anderson, Terri Ciccolella, Gloria Campion, and Carol Davis McDonald.

Marcia Block, VP of Programs, said February's speaker will be Maggie Brockmeyer from Rung for Women, an organization which focuses on professional development. March's speaker is Tony Messenger, noted local investigative columnist in the Post Dispatch; he asked if he could sign copies of his book. The Board agreed that he can sign books we already have, and sell/sign books after the meeting is over. Janet Sloey, VP of Programs, told us that the April speaker will be from Republic Services to clarify the issues about the numbers on plastic items and other recycling issues.

Marcia also reported that a Stem celebration is scheduled at Valley Park April 13, 7:15-8:15 A.M. There is no date yet for Pattonville or Maplewood-Richmond Heights. We will not be doing Expand Your Horizons this year, but will resume next year. Because EYH involves many different schools, public and private, reaching girls in 6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grades, a long planning sequence is involved. We give \$8 per girl for 20 total girls to participate. We have worked with SLU School of Science and Medicine to get graduate students to act as guides. This is a B-C project, not an IBC project. We will be asking for volunteers and collaborate with the Math and Science Network of St. Louis.

Marian Bauer, Co-Director of Public Policy, said their information on the website has been updated, but the Title 9 changes have not yet been printed. State level library information has not come out yet. There were 18,000 responses, 80% negative, to Secretary of State John's Ashcroft's proposed list of books to ban from school and public libraries. Lots of information coming out at the state level; Legistand.mo is a good source of information (noted in Friday notes last year). Proposed legislation will

limit initiatives and petitions; the first reading in the Missouri House was February 1; two readings are required. Past initiative/petitions that successfully passed were on Medicaid and legalizing marijuana. Crime is a big issue; Senate bill 78 wants to move control of St. Louis City police to the State. Another wants to appoint the District Attorney for the City of St. Louis. Other issues tie to LGBTQ (girls' sports) and gun legislation. Moms against Guns are going to Jefferson City. How do we respond? Email your state legislators with your position on education bills and other topics you feel strongly about. April elections are extremely important because that's when school board members are elected.

Past Co-President Jan Horner reminded us that the IBC spring luncheon will be March 16 at Edgewild; reservations need to be in by March 3. There is a five opportunities menu. Cory Bush is supporting the ERA; even though there are enough states, the bill still needs to be ratified in Congress. The Winter Fundraiser established the BC Boosters idea. Jan passed out green envelopes members can use to send their checks, made out to BC AAUW, to Jayne Kasten. Donations will be accepted until the April meeting and celebrated at our Spring Luncheon. We are half the way to meeting our goal of \$5,000.

Newsletter – Mary Jermak explained that Carolyn Brown, Co-Webmaster, suggested that she distribute the newsletter instead of the editors, which will save them time. Joyce Katz has agreed to join the newsletter as editor of the Interest Group section. The Board approved Joyce as a replacement for Jean Light on Newsletter.

Susan Fenwick, Spring Luncheon, showed Jane Hemer's program design to the group. She discussed the fact that Whitmoor Country Club, site of our luncheon, has been sold, and the implications are not clear. Barb Buchart, our liaison with Whitmoor, is sharing information as she knows it. Chef Jesse has retired (already known last year), there will be cost issues – for example there will now be a set-up charge of \$5 per person, a charge per person for the beverage station, and of course food costs. We have a banquet event order with Whitmoor, but it has yet to be finalized. Yvonne and Susan will investigate alternatives, just in case. Mary J pointed out that our meeting location can be used for a luncheon but we would have to choose from their list of vendors.

Pat Shores reviewed the past participation in NCCWSL, when we contributed \$500 to IBC to support one girl to attend. In early 2020 we decided to send one on our own – Nicole Caldwell from UMSL – but the event was cancelled in 2020 (COVID). It was a ZOOM event the next year, the best she had ever attended, according to Nicole. In 2022, we chose to sponsor two students that year from the School of Pharmacy, but again there was no live event. We have agreed to sponsor the same two young women for this year's actual conference in the Washington D.C. area, at the University of Maryland. The rest of the discussion focused on increased expenses and how we were going to make sure they sign up for the Early Bird enrollment, review transportation costs (flying in to BWI in Baltimore is cheaper than into D.C.) including getting around the area. IBC guidelines will be followed, but the estimated budget will need to be increased. Pat will report back to the Board. The Barb Lackritz Award is presented at the IBC luncheon; following the newer selection process of each Branch choosing its own winner, our branch winner is Marcia Block, so we need to register to show support. The reservation form is in last month's newsletter and on the website.

Marcia Weppelman, Governance, reminded us to vote this spring in the AAUW elections. There will be proposed new By-Laws; changes will be reflected in the first portion of our Branch By-Laws. Voting is April 5-May 15; if you want a paper ballot, request by April 15. 2/3 vote is need for approval. One recommended change is to eliminate the 60 day advance notice to change dues; Board terms shut down the day following elections; the Board would be allowed to determine the organization's Fiscal Year. Again, 2/3 approval is required, and then AAUW will tell us what we have to change in our state and branch by-laws. (The open comment period was open until Feb. 3). Marian commented that our Public Policy committee reviewed the comments on public policy priorities.

Karen Francis reminded is that Feb.4 is the Legislative Retreat; AAUW.MO is hosting. There is a 5 minute limit on presenting positions regarding economic justice, education, social justice, reproductive health, and voter protection. Pat Shores is the gatekeeper.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Wier, Secretary/Archivist