

## AAUW BC Branch meeting, March 09, 2023 MINUTES

Co-President Sandy Brody called the meeting to order and opened the session with a recitation of the AAUW Mission Statement. Her Co-President Sage Taber was absent. Thank you to the Hospitality group, headed by Mersine Kallaos this month, for the lovely table decorations and delicious refreshments. Sandy said we are looking for two new chairpersons for the Hospitality committee and one new chairperson for the College and University Liaison committee. In addition, Mary Kay Wolfe is “retiring” from the Used Book Sales held at meetings, so we need someone to pick up that position. It can be more than one person if someone wants to partner with a friend. The books are brought to each meeting from home, and unsold books are taken to the Half Price Bookstore after each meeting to limit the number of books being stored each month. The February Branch minutes were approved.

Jean Light, Finance Officer, reported that we have \$27,584.46 in Operating Fund and \$2,423.97 in Dollars for Scholars. The CD holds \$3070.97. The Operating Fund number does not include \$700 she picked up from Jayne Kasten for the B-C Boosters fund.

Michele Mangnall, Co-VP of Membership, said that Pam Bowman is a guest with us for the second time; we will talk about dues at the April meeting.

Janet Sloey, Program Co-VP, said that the April speaker will be Joell Aguirre, Manager of Municipal Services with Republic Services, speaking about recycling. The Program committee will meet after today’s meeting.

Angie Janik, Public Policy Co-Director, mentioned The League of Women Voters Trivia Night, held February 23. April 4 is Municipal Election Day in the St. Louis area. A link to the sample ballot is in the Friday Notes. March 27 is a Parkway Schools forum for school board directors. Yesterday (March 08) was International Women’s Day, and March 14 is Equal Pay Day, passed in 1965, a day for awareness. Full-time working women make 83.7% of what full-time working men make. Currently, women ages 25-39 are making the biggest headway in pay. Please pay attention to the Friday Notes, the Newsletter and the Website for information.

Jan Horner, Immediate Past President, reminded the group of the upcoming IBC Spring Fling; 3/14 is deadline for reservations to be sent to Carol Davis McDonald. Marcia Block is our honoree from AAUW-BC. Jan called our attention to the BC Boosters fund, which will help us continue STEM, NCCWSL, and quality speakers. Donations can be put in the green envelopes at the back table or mailed to Jayne Kasten. The goal is \$5,000 and so far about \$4,300 has been collected.

Betty Jo Hogan, Co-Director of Dollars for Scholars, introduced Pam Kulp, who she came up with an “out of the box” idea for DFS fundraising. Pam explained “Elegant Edibles,” which could be raffled at each meeting at \$5 for one ticket, \$10 for five tickets. To start the idea off, next month Pam will bring her Amaretto Pound Cake with Amaretto Cream Icing, so bring your raffle dollars! Others interested in donating such wonderful edibles should contact Betty Jo or her co-chair Nancy Pierson.

Karen Francis, State President for Missouri AAUW, explained that we have an opportunity to be on the ground floor of AAUW activities: to be with AAUW sisters, to focus on our mission, and of course to focus on food. National has already said they will no longer hold a national conference, but we have the opportunity to participate in a regional conference in St. Louis, October 19-21, part of 12 states working together. Lisa Maas from national AAUW will be part of the program; the theme is "Celebrating AAUW: Reaching New Heights." There are 156 branches in the region, 75 of which are in Missouri. The goal for our branch is to have 24 participants. The branch has always helped with registration fees for conferences; perhaps we could consider using contingency fees to help other branches without our resources. The conference is being held at the Drury Plaza Hotel by Ball Park Village. The room fee is one night for \$250, so if you have a roommate, each of you could pay for one of the two nights to reduce expenses. Parking is \$25 per day. Room fee includes breakfast and what Drury calls "Kick Back" from 5:30-7:00 p.m. - an evening meal but not a fancy sit-down.

Susan Fenwick and Yvonne Ward, co-chairs for our Spring Luncheon, explained the new venue. Our prior venue, Whitmoor Country Club, was sold to a new owner. After several attempts, it proved impossible to work out any arrangements. The May 11 luncheon, "Connecting with our Communities," will be in the Canopy Ballroom at the Doubletree Hotel, 11625 Swingley Ridge Road, Chesterfield. The luncheon cost is \$40 (choice of 3 entrees), and members can sign up today or at the April Branch meeting. Anyone with Program information should send it to Joyce Katz.

Marcia Block, Co-Chair for STEM, said she was happy to represent AAUW-BC as our choice for the Barbara Lackritz Award. There are two STEM Girls breakfasts in April; Kirkwood on April 13 and Maplewood-Richmond Heights on April 25. The Science Fair will be later in April; the committee is waiting for the Science Fair organization to provide information.

Susie Teicher, the International Relations Speaker Series liaison, encouraged us to attend the March 14 lecture "Relations Among Taiwan, China, and the United States." The lecture series is held at the Ethical Society in Clayton, at 10:45 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments and conversation before our guest speaker, Pulitzer Prize winner, Tony Messenger of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Wier, Secretary/Archivist