

Minutes of the Ballwin-Chesterfield AAUW Board Meeting, March 2, 2023

Sandy Brody, Co-President, opened the meeting with the AAUW Mission Statement.

Remarks of the Co-President, Sandy Brody:

The following information is from the State Presidents Meeting.

- Woman of Distinction nominations are being taken. Any branch can submit a nomination, but the woman does not have to be an AAUW member.
- Outstanding Member nominations are being taken. These come from the membership. This is the most prestigious award that we have. There can be multiple Outstanding Members around the state. See *Missouri in Motion* for information on how to nominate.
- National Survey Results
Missouri had the most branches in the nation participating in the survey. Results come from Sue Barley.
- Book Sale
Mary Kay Wolfe is retiring from being in charge of the book sale, so we need someone to step up to keep it going. This activity has raised lots of money. The books left over from sales at our meetings are sold to Half-Price Books after the meetings. A group could volunteer to take charge of the book sale; it doesn't need to be just one person.
- Committees for Next Year
It's never too soon to populate our committees for next year.
- Reimbursement Requests
A request from our Finance Officer: Please do not wait till May 31 to send her your reimbursement requests.

State President: Karen Francis

Karen thanked us for participating in Inclusion Infusion. She solicited comments to assess how members are reacting to these exercises by giving board members ten minutes to fill out forms on this topic.

The annual state meeting (May 6) will be on Zoom instead of in person. We'll be hosting the regional conference in St. Louis. Twelve (12) states are involved. The last one was canceled due to Covid. The upcoming conference starts on Oct. 19 and ends on Oct. 21. The planners hope to keep the registration fee at \$300 or less. The branch may reimburse this fee. Lisa Maas is booked. The regional conferences are energizing and inspiring. This one will be held at the Drury Plaza downtown. Members who wish to attend may drive in for it, but they are encouraged to stay at the hotel.

Finance Officer:

Sandy Brody (Substituting for Jean Light) reported the Assets as of the end of February 2023. Operating Fund, \$27,584.46; Dollars for Scholars, \$2,423.97; and CD \$3,070.97.

VP Membership, April Walgren: This week National announced that national dues will increase this year by \$5. Total dues will be \$104. This is the last of the 3 years during which National is increasing their dues. The AAUW online database will be ready for dues processing on April 1. Please do renewals online. It was suggested that Membership emphasize to branch members why it is important to belong to AAUW.

VP Membership: Michele Mangnall. National has announced changes to the dues process. National wants new members to renew by one year from the date that they joined. By October 1, everyone's dues must be paid, or they will be dropped from the membership roster. National also changed the policy that had been in force for members who join in the spring, that their dues carry them through the following year.

National will send out a dues reminder, but we don't know if it will include a link to facilitate payment of dues. The branch has decided to not offer incentives to renew early this time. Members should pay by June 30.

The Shape the Future Program was a national program to encourage branches to expand their membership. We have four new members, which should entitle us to two free memberships under this program. The free membership is completely free. Membership is asking what criteria they should use to grant these memberships, and who makes the decision on who gets them. The decision needs to be made by Sep. 30. Marian Bauer suggested a committee be established to define the criteria and bring it to the board. Pat Shores remarked that in the past, the Treasurer and the Membership Committee decided this. The board's decision was to let Membership handle it.

Janet Sloey, VP Programs: The March branch meeting speaker will be Tony Messenger. His books will not be sold that day, but if you have his book he will be available to sign it. Republic Services will provide next month's speaker, to talk about recycling. Janet asked whether we can expand to include speakers outside the mission statement. She is proposing that maybe we should include some speakers that are more entertaining and not so serious. They could be knowledgeable and engaging as well as informative, for example. The Programs Committee would like to receive suggestions.

Marian Bauer, Co-director of Public Policy: Some Public Policy members attended a League of Women Voters trivia event (but they did not win). We have about 20 copies of the book One Vote, Two Votes, I Vote, You Vote, which is at the 2nd-3rd grade reading level. The idea is to give these to the Parkway School District. Marge Andersen is the point person on this.

Municipal elections are coming up. A County issue is a 3% tax on marijuana. Marian intends to send out reminders to vote again. Big things in the state can be found on the state website, for example, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense, whose issue is red flag laws. Also violence against women and LGBTQ issues in school. The problem with the circuit attorney in the city of St. Louis is part of a larger picture matter about local control. A bill is pending at the state level for taking over the police force in St. Louis, due to violence in the city. Should the state retake control? March is Women's History Month.

Past Co-president, Jan Horner: Jan could not be here today. Sandy told us that today is the deadline to make reservations for the IBC spring Luncheon, to be held on Saturday, March 18 at Edgewild. The deadline may be extended to get ten more people signed up.

Donations to the BC Boosters will be accepted until the April meeting.

Spring Luncheon, Susan Fenwick: Due to many issues, a decision was made to formally notify Whitmoor Country Club that our branch was no longer interested in holding our luncheon there, and was asked to cancel our reservation for May 11. There was no response to the letter sent to the Whitmoor Director of Events. After considering several alternate venues, the co-directors selected the Doubletree in Chesterfield as the site of the luncheon. They hope to have the contract with the Doubletree signed yet this week.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February board meeting were approved with three corrections.

OTHER

Pat Shores: NCCWSL. We are sponsoring two women to attend. We are waiting to see, through IBC, whether there are one or two coming from the university. Once that is determined, the airline reservations will be made for all of them.

Marcia Block: STEM. The dates of the STEM Girls of Promise celebrations at two schools, Maplewood and Valley Park, are set. We are still waiting to hear from Pattonville. Notes will be sent to former STEM Girls of Promise who are seniors this year, to congratulate them on graduating and encourage their interest in AAUW. These young women will be given a paper written by Susan Fenwick on the topic of things they can do while in college to make themselves job-worthy. Next year we'll be back to EYH. Science Fair judging will be virtual again. Judges are sought.

Betty Jo Hogan: DFS. A fundraising idea was suggested by a member, baking a dessert and raffling it off at branch meeting. How much to charge? It was proposed that we try this at the April meeting to test the concept. It should be announced at the March meeting. The winner should be drawn at the end of the branch meeting.

Sandy collected requests for tables for next week's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Leslie Wier, Secretary/Archivist, based on notes taken by Susan Fenwick