

AAUW BC Branch Meeting Minutes April 13, 2023

Sage Taber, Co-President, opened the meeting with the AAUW Mission Statement. Sandy Brody, Co-President, said there are still some open opportunities for Board membership: one opening for University Liaison, which works on scholarship placement at UNSL and Maryville; two coordinating positions – Fall Brunch and the Winter Event. Neither needs to re-invent the wheel. March Branch minutes were approved as posted.

On behalf of the nominating committee, including Linda Roberson and Judy Stagoski, Ann Patrice O'Shaughnessy announced their selected slate of offices for the coming AAUW year:

Co-President – Sage Taber has agreed to another two-year term; Secretary/Archivist – Mary Jermak; Vice-President Membership – Susie Teicher; VP Programs – Kathleen Brown.

There were no nominations from the floor, and the slate was approved by voice vote; officers will be installed at the May 11 Spring Luncheon.

Jean Light, Finance Officer, reported a March month-end balance total of \$29,031.52.

Michele Mangnall, VP Membership, said dues renewal of \$104 total, due by June 30, 2023, represents the fifth and final year of the increase in the National portion of the dues. Kinks in the system which allowed dues to be paid by check last year have been worked out and National is requesting that all dues be paid on-line. National will send an email with explicit directions, and watch the newsletter for an explanation of how to get set up. Each of our 151 members will take responsibility for her own payment. Many people in the branch can help, and April Walgren, VP membership, has prepared a sheet of instructions to follow the on-line process.

Marcia Block, VP Programs, announced that the programs for 2023-2024 are in place.

Angie Janik, Director Public Policy, reminded members that the Missouri legislature adjourns on May 12; they are focusing on limiting initiative petitions among other hot topics. Use the Website and Friday notes for links for current updates and status. The House budget committee removed funding for public libraries; one statement in favor was that if the ACLU and the library groups can afford to sue us, they can afford to buy the books.

Past President Jan Horner is both the liaison to IBC and the person who fills out our applications for the state Five Star Award. Coordination with others is key to success in both roles, and she was able to use much of her predecessor's (Jean Elliott) work on the award to get it updated and submitted. As lead for the Winter Fundraiser, she oversaw the change in how we raise money for the branch, from the traditional auction to the BC Boosters approach, which spread fundraising by donation over a 5 month period. Our goal was \$5,000; results will be announced at the Spring Luncheon on May 11.

Marcia Block announced that the Stem Girls of Promise breakfast at Valley Park was a big success; eight AAUW members, family members of the girls as well as their teachers gathered to honor the five girls chosen for this year. She invited AAUW members to attend upcoming events at Pattonville and

Maplewood-Richmond Heights where the STEM group also supports Girls of Promise. Contact Marcia for details.

Nancy Pierson Dollars for Scholars Co-Director, said there was still time during the meeting break to buy raffle tickets to win one of two half-cakes baked and offered by Pam Kulp as Elegant Edibles as a new way to raise money for DFS. Upcoming events are two tours of the Holocaust Museum (one a re-schedule for storm closure), and Myths and Hymns, a Musical Drama in April. See the Newsletter and Friday Notes for details. Nancy urged members to sponsor a future DFS event to help fund our scholarships, or to honor a friend or loved one with a DFS Honor Roll card. More information is on the branch website.

Susan Fenwick, co-chair of the Spring luncheon, said today was the final sign-up at the table with Carol Derington and Sandra Murdock. We have a new venue thanks to her co-chair Yvonne Ward, who put the Doubletree Hotel on their list of possibilities. Yvonne has signed the contract for space in their new ballroom. The committee is working on the decorations of the spacious areas. They will need several greeters. There will be a cash bar, a raffle for the large floral decorations, and also for four flex tickets to the Rep, donated by member Sue Barley.

Karen Francis asked that we watch for an email about registering for the State convention, Saturday May 6, which will be virtual. She also asked members to consider attending the AAUW Regional Convention to be held in St. Louis October 19-20 at the Drury Plaza, Celebrating AAUW: Reaching New Heights Together. The Branch is working on funding for registration. Also please vote in the AAUW National election. Leadership encourages a vote of Yes on the bylaw changes; for the first time, the Public Policy Priorities description includes age and income.

For many of the items discussed, additional information and updates can be found on the branch website, the newsletter, and the email weekly Friday Notes.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Wier, Secretary/Archivist.