

AAUW-Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting Minutes April 6, 2023

Co-President Sage Taber called the meeting to order and led the group in The AAUW Mission Statement. Co-President Sandy Brody asked Board members to review their job descriptions for those who are succeeding them for the next AAUW year. Year-end reports are due May 15.

Jean Light, Finance Officer, provided the month-end March balances: Operating Fund, \$29,031.52; Dollars for Scholars, \$2,555.75, and the CD, \$3,070.97, for a total of \$34,658.24. To date, no area is over budget.

Janet Sloey, Co-VP Programs, asked if the speakers need to be listed in the Directory because we may have changes throughout the year. Members thought that the list is an important part to provide information, and updates are given through Friday Notes and the newsletter. Ann Patrice said it would be no problem to add a disclaimer line to the directory about potential changes. Janet said that Aisha Sultan, popular features writer for the STL Post-Dispatch, is on-call; she is willing to speak but it is contingent on scheduling. Marcia Block, Co-VP Programs, explained that our previous audio equipment needs upgrading. Julie Triplett's son-in-law rescued us at the last meeting with setting up a temporary fix, but we need to reevaluate. She showed us how to properly hold the mic for best speaking results, but said it is difficult to hold for several moments and suggested that we purchase a lavalier for the speaker's ease. Equipment upgrades were \$274.95 and for another \$100 for the lavalier we would be set. The staff at Music and Arts, a music store on Watson, allows customers to try out equipment and offers professional advice for the given situation; they were very helpful with solving the problem.

Marian Bauer, Co-Director Public Policy, said they had done a second round of get out the vote postcards, this time for the April 4 Municipal Election. Our website contains timely information on local and state issues; a current one is an attempt to change the process for initiative petitions. Information changes daily. A lawsuit has been filed against state legislation that would cut library funding if certain types of books were found in the libraries. AAUW is supporting this lawsuit. Marian also shared her personal opinion that the move for the state to take over local police and the current circuit attorney's office is intrusive and should not be allowed.

Jan Horner, Immediate Past President, completed all the required paperwork for the State awards, and turned them in on April 1 for the Five Star Award. She was extremely grateful for the detailed work her predecessor, Jean Elliott did, which she tweaked and was able to easily follow – truly a group effort. The IBS spring luncheon was a huge success, with a good number of people from all five branches. Mary Jermak added that the IBC committee has created a summary of the event, to be posted on the IBC website; five members of our branch were on the planning committee. Jan also reminded us that next week is the final time to contribute to the Branch fundraising drive. She has a stack of the green envelopes that go to Jayne Kasten.

Nancy Pierson, Co-Director Dollars for Scholars, said that at the Branch meeting we will be trying something new. Pam Kulp came up with the idea of raffling an Elegant Edible with the proceeds all going to DFS; Pam is contributing her own Amaretto Pound Cake as the first such item and is running the raffle. Bring cash! There are two DFS events in April, the Holocaust Museum and Myths and Hymns.

Marian Bauer, a sponsor of the Holocaust Museum Tour, explained that the first tour for March 30 was cancelled because of the tornado/severe storm warnings, so that tour has been rescheduled for May 26. Nancy was clear that we need more ideas for DFS trips; with interest groups starting back up, there is a competition for members' time. The Honor Roll has been dormant for a while; do we want to keep it going? Sage recommended that we give it more time; we **all** need to talk it up.

Carol Derington, who has led the Eleanor Roosevelt Walk for several years, explained that the ER Fund, to which our Walk contributed, some time ago was absorbed into the FUNDS by AAUW national. The Walk is no longer an AAUW officially sponsored activity and has been dropped across the nation. The question is whether we want to continue to hold the walk, and contribute the money to AAUW Funds, continue but contribute the money to DFS, or disband. There is a core group of members who have always supported the Walk, and even if you can't actually walk, many come just for the social aspect of it. The other question was that if we continue, would we still use the same date/month or consider a different time? Lots of discussion on when, where to give the money; if it is no longer a national policy, do we need to give them the money? Marian brought up that the ER money from our branch has been a significant part of the total we give National. Marsha Weppelman, Governance, shared that because the ER Walk is no longer in national policy, we dropped it from our Branch Policy for the last revision, even though we still list it as an activity in the Directory. Marcia Block pointed out that some members will always donate to National. Sue Shriver suggested that the ER Walk become an annual Dollars for Scholars event, whenever the (unofficial) committee sets it up, and the committee (Carol Derington and Pat Shores, will continue to organize, perhaps moving it to early October when the weather is a little nicer. They will share back with the Board.

Yvonne Ward, co-chair Spring Luncheon, said the contract with Doubletree, the new venue, has been signed and they are working on layout and other details. So far 57 members have paid for reservations. Her co-chair Susan Fenwick said they had received a gift of four flex tickets to the Rep for the 2023 season, valued at \$160, to be added to other items being raffled at the luncheon. Proceeds of the raffle are part of the fund-raising for our Operating Fund.

Marcia Block, co-chair of the STEM committee said that the recognition breakfast at Valley Park is at 7:15 April 13; and Pattonville and Maplewood-Richmond Heights will hold theirs also in April. She showed us an example of note cards to be sent by their schools to last year's graduates; the card includes information about AAUW . There will also be cards for the juniors and medals on lanyards and a box containing the winners' checks. Recognition of academic awards can go on college resumes.

Sue Shriver and Lorna Anderson, Co-Chairs of University Liaison, attended the scholarship dinner at Maryville University. The program acknowledged each scholarship and its recipient; they were pleased to meet and converse with one of the two students receiving our branch scholarships. Lorna will not be continuing as Co-Chair, so Sue requested a replacement to continue that work.

Pat Shores, our NCCWSL lead, reported that the two girls funded by our branch are being joined by a student from Webster to attend the conference in Washington, DC. The total cost for our twogirls is \$2,132, which includes registration, airfare, spending money, and transportation to and from the hotel,

which no longer provides shuttle service. Although the total is over the budgeted total of \$2,000, the budget can accommodate the difference.

This topic led into a discussion of the reimbursement guidelines for conferences and conventions. There have been no national conventions since 2017, but there have been state conferences which required registration reimbursement. We spent only \$1,040 in 2019 and \$915 in 2022 for attendance at state events. Because there will be a Central Regional Conference in St. Louis this year, the question is whether we can pay the registration fee for every attendee. Ensuing discussion included questions/comments on how much the cost is per person; budget flexibility if approved by Board; registration is held at \$200; email to State asked if there would be a difference for partial vs. full registration; conference schedule is a half-day Thursday, full day Friday and half day Saturday; parking is \$25 per day; donations have come in to State to help with conference expenses, such as speakers; Gloria Blackwell will attend; Central Regional (11 states) is being looked at by other AAUW regions for guidance in how to hold a regional conference; goal is to have 24 of our Branch members attending; July 10 is last day for early bird registration.

Karen Francis complimented the STEM team for their hard work, including all the paperwork necessary for the recognitions and awards. She noted that in the upcoming AAUW elections, the change in Public Policy priorities added two words - "age" and "income" to "race and "ethnicity."

Michele Mangnall, co-VP Membership, reported that AAUW national has not met the mid-March date for announcing the dues process for the coming year; the intent to have the entire process done on-line. We currently have 151 members.

Pat Shores shared a message from member Nancy Price who is also in the League of Women Voters; The League is asking that women inundate their 34 Missouri Senators who are refusing to act on gun violence. Messages can be simple – What are you doing today to establish sensible laws regarding guns? What are you doing today to protect my grandchild at school? – but send repeatedly. Ask Pat for information via email.

April will be the final Book Sale at Branch meetings unless someone volunteers to take over the job; it can be a team effort. Hospitality needs Directors – no food if no one steps up!

The following Board members volunteered to review the Guidelines for conference reimbursement: Jean Light, Sage Taber, Pat Shores, Mary Jermak, and Sandy Brody.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Wier, Secretary/Archivist