

Minutes of AAUW BC Board meeting, May 4, 2023

Co-President Sandy Brody opened the meeting with the AAUW Mission Statement. Co-President Sage Taber asked that everyone pick up the envelope with her name on it from the brunch table. These were lovely personalized thank-you notes to Board members from Sage and Sandy, in addition to the lovely delicious brunch selections provided by them. Sage reviewed the open positions for Fall Brunch and Winter Party. Neither one requires “reinventing the wheel” as the processes for each are well-documented. Additionally, University Liaison and STEM groups need an additional leader, and Book Sale will come to an end if no one agrees to take on that opportunity. Ann Patrice O’Shaughnessy said that Lit I discussed the problem; she will try to get a few from the group to get involved with Book Sales.

Karen Francis provided a handout as the final Inclusion Fusion activity for our Board. Using shoes as the motif, each of the terms – Equality, Diversity, Equity, Acceptance, and Belonging - was defined. She asked us to think of how we can introduce these terms to groups, committees, etc.

April Board minutes were approved as published. Pat Shores commented that we can be proud of the three Missouri representatives on a recent DEI Webinar; topics will be in the latest *Missouri in Motion*.

Sandy introduced Board members in new positions – Joyce Katz will be on Directory and Newsletter; Suzanne Couch and Carol Derington will head Hospitality; Carol Anthony will be added to Spring Luncheon. Jean Light and Ann Riley stepped away from Newsletter. Marsha Weppelman moved that we approve the additions/changes to the Board; it was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Finance Officer Jean Light provided the April asset balances. There is a total of \$35,195.87, with only \$5,543.82 in Dollars for Scholars, and \$3,070.37 in the CD. All scholarships have been paid for this year. The budget currently holds \$3,000 for the second payment to Greatest Needs (AAUW Fund). The budget committee had recommended paying \$2,000 in the first half of the year, which was done before the end of December, but holding the remaining amount to see if we had enough resources for all the required items. We still have budgeted items of liability insurance premium and rent to be paid before the end of the year. This became part of a larger discussion, but the end result was that Marian Bauer moved and it was seconded, that we transfer the \$3,000 to our local scholarship fund (Dollars for Scholars) instead of sending it to National. Jean Light will make that transfer between accounts.

Janet Sloey, VP Programs, said all speakers for next year are lined up. She would like to have input on potential outstanding speakers for next year, and would appreciate in addition to name, topics in that speaker’s repertoire, phone number or e-mail. Karen asked if we had considered not paying an honorarium. Some speakers decline the \$200, but it’s in the budget because we don’t know ahead of time. Cost of travel is increasing which may limit some speakers, and the Speakers Bureau, which used to pay travel costs, no longer does that.

April Walgren, VP Membership, said we are in midst of renewal season. Thirty people so far have successfully registered their dues on line, and Jean has handled checks and registration for three others.



April attends national help sessions on Tues and Thurs afternoons, and the instructions have been in the newsletter. A new member joined on-line, but the paperwork for the branch portion still has to come through. In response to a question, April said when we get new members, all the paperwork, dues, etc. happen at once on-line now.

Jan Horner said we are retiring the green envelopes until next year's Winter Party/BC Booster appeal; whoever takes on the Winter Party will get the envelopes!

Marian Bauer, Co-Director Public Policy, explained that ERA has still not been approved, and the question was whether to extend the time limit. Although the Senate voted NO, Gloria Blackwell, AAUW, said it may still be reintroduced.

The Missouri Senate reinstated the funding for libraries that the House had removed, but the final budget has still to be approved and signed by the Governor. (In Illinois, the Attorney General wants librarians to adopt NO Book Ban language in their policies). The Senate wants DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) language removed. The legislation to tighten the initiative petition process is still in flux; perhaps the fact that the Cardinals' management wants sports betting as a petition initiative will have an effect. May 5 is the vote on the state budget, and May 12 is the end of the state legislative session.

Nancy Pierson, Co-Director Dollars for Scholars, was concerned for the health of the scholarship program. We had only 9 events so far this year (and Roz Marx sponsored 6), and only 12 separate Honor Roll recognitions this year, vs. 44 last year. All of this is insufficient to meet our goals of funding our scholarships. If we survey our members for ideas on how to raise money, should it be by phone call to reach out instead of by written survey?

Carol Derington, long-time organizer of the annual Eleanor Roosevelt Walk, updated us on the decision to make the Walk OUR thing, since National no longer has the ER Fund. In conjunction with the Walking Interest Group, we will have an ER walk the 3rd Friday of September at Des Peres Park, with all funds raised to go to our local scholarships. Even if you don't walk, bring your coffee, a chair, and join in conversation and rooting for those who do walk. Last year the group raised \$1,000!

The hospitality chairs, Suzanne and Carol, are in charge of the Summer Picnic in July.

Yvonne Ward, co-chair of the Spring Luncheon, reported that despite some serious concerns at the beginning of planning, they can breathe easily now. May 5 is the review of the financial commitment, and she will get with Jean to have the check ready. Everything else has been planned, reviewed, and accepted. We have 76 reservations.

Marcia Block shared that the breakfasts this year for the STEM girls of promise were outstanding and asked that we all consider attending next year's events. She thought the nicest this year was at Maplewood-Richmond Heights, where four of last year's girls plus the five for this year and their parents enjoyed breakfast together before the school day started. More letters went out this year, including to senior girls, with information written by Susan Fenwick on how to make themselves more employable. STEM hopes to start Expanding Your Horizons in middle schools next year; again, it takes a lot

of planning and advance coordination. This all has been an outgrowth from the Why So Few? initiative in 2009.

Sue Shriver, University Liaison, said that both the two girls at Maryville and the two at UMSL are returning in the fall semester.

Mary Jermak, Newsletter Editor, believes thanks are in order to all the Board members who have submitted articles for the Newsletter, and to the three editors who keep the paper going. Anything is learnable, and all are welcome to participate on the newsletter.

Pat Shores reported that the two young women we selected to attend NCCWSL are ready to attend the in-person event at the University of Maryland. Their early bird registration, hotel, travel, etc has all been arranged, including some spending money; they will submit reports for travel between locations since the conference is not in the hotel. These costs were all in the budget this year. We then had a discussion on how we want to handle this in the future. IBC has funded two students in the past; we decided that we wanted to fund a student separately, and that grew to two students. As part of IBC, our branch contributed \$500 each year to the NCCWSL scholarship. IBC's annual Spring Fling fundraising supports the NCCWSL scholarships. One point raised was that if it is difficult to find students, why not let IBC do the choosing and we can go back to donating to IBC? The decision was to let the Finance Committee review and make a recommendation. Since both Finance and Reorganization were ad hoc committees, not standing ones, the presidents will establish an ad hoc committee to review the IBC commitments and branch finances/fund raising, in general..

The final item, also one of contention, dealt with the yellow post cards members received from AAUW in the mail, without any preliminary information as to why. Susan Fenwick called the number on the card and wrote a clear report on what it was and what it was not. Bottom line it appears to be a fund-raising device which encourages members to purchase both a written and oral document of all the responses by AAUW members as to the value of AAUW in their lives. A letter email from AAUW was too little and too late in the minds of many members. Sandy Brody will add a statement in the Friday news note saying that members are free to ignore the card; it is not a requirement.

Sandy reminded us that job descriptions, year-end reports and budgets are due.

REV 1: Post Board meeting, "The Finance Chair moves that the 2022-23 Budget be amended to reflect the transfer of \$3,000 from the Operating Fund to the Dollars for Scholars Fund to cover the first semester costs of the Maryville and UMSL scholarship women". All members of the AAUW-BC 2022-23 Board of Directors voted YES via e-mail in favor of this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Wier, Secretary/Archivist