

July 13, 2023, AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Meeting

Ballwin Golf Course Events Center
333 Holloway Rd., Ballwin, MO

The July meeting is traditionally an indoor summer picnic. There were 47 members and one guest in attendance. Members socialized and signed up for upcoming DFS events, from 10:30–11 a.m. At 11 a.m. **Carol Derington**, event chair, welcomed all. She stated the process for going to the buffet table and mentioned a housekeeping issue. Members enjoyed a buffet lunch with many different items prepared by B-C members.

President Sage Taber made several announcements.

1. **Summer Picnic Chairs Carol Derington** and **Suzanne Couch** were thanked for organizing the event.
2. The location for the 2023–24 board meetings has changed and will be at the **West County EMS & Fire Protection District Station 1** at 223 Henry Avenue, Ballwin. There will be no cost to the branch for the use of this meeting space.
3. The 2023–24 proposed branch budget work is underway.
4. The September branch meeting will not be a brunch. Instead, there will be a regular meeting with hospitality and a speaker.

Membership VP April Walgren announced that the dues renewal process continues and would gladly accept your check or credit card payment. National AAUW will send an email reminder to those members who have not yet renewed. **Membership VP April** and **Susie Teicher** will also call with a renewal reminder. Guest, and new member, **Jane Fetick** was introduced.

Eleanor Roosevelt Chair Carol Derington invited members to participate in the branch's annual ER Walk at **Des Peres Park** on **September 15** at 10 a.m. Since the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund no longer exists at National AAUW, all donations will now fund the branch's Dollars for Scholarship Fund. Members and guests may walk or attend to cheer on the walkers. The ER Walk is held in conjunction with the branch's Walking Interest Group, which meets monthly on the third Friday.

Carol Montgomery announced that the film *The Sound of Freedom* is currently in local theaters. It focuses on child human trafficking and slavery, which is a big problem in the U.S. Years ago, the B-C branch was the recipient of an AAUW community action grant which provided education about human trafficking to St. Charles County residents.

AAUW MO President Karen Francis promoted the upcoming regional conference **Reaching New Heights Together, October 19–21, 2023**. AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell and Lisa Maatz, consultant and former AAUW public policy chair, will be at the conference. Karen discussed planned events and attendee costs. Branch member **Sue Barley** will be a panelist.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jermak

Secretary/Archivist