

**5AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Meeting
September 14, 2023
Ballwin Golf Course Events Center
333 Holloway Rd., Ballwin 63011**

Members socialized (9–9:30) and enjoyed a wonderful buffet courtesy of the September hospitality hostesses. **Co-president Sandy Brody** began the business meeting at 9:32 a.m. and **Co-president Sage Taber** also welcomed members and guests (61 attending). Hospitality Committee Chair **Carol Derington** was applauded. **Pat Shores**, September coordinating hostess, was assisted by **Marian Bauer, Pam Bowman, Carol Derington, Jane Fetick, Karen Francis, Sandra Murdock, Doris Nistler, Ann Patrice O’Shaughnessy, Linda Roberson, and Susan Shiver.**

Sage Taber yielded her time for opening remarks to **AAUW MO President Karen Francis**. She encouraged members to attend the **Central States Regional, October 19–21** at the Drury Hotel, St. Louis and hosted by AAUW MO. Karen stated you would be “blown away” by all the conference will offer, including **AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell**, and the senior public policy chair, DEI chair, and AAUW national board members. A parent of a transgender child will speak about transitioning and how AAUW addresses this issue. There will be 35 Swap Shop sessions, including three from Ballwin-Chesterfield (Dollars for Scholars, Munching Matters Interest Group, and STEM). Your registration fee covers meals, including St. Louis special foods. Financial assistance for registration is available from the branch and from AAUW MO. Missouri is the only state who is hosting a regional conference—even more important, since there have been no further national conventions since 2017. Karen concluded saying “AAUW’s voice is powerful when we come together.”

Finance Officer Jean Light gave the report for September:

Operating Fund	\$21,362.13	CD	\$3139.00	Total	\$24,501.13
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The 2023–24 Ballwin-Chesterfield Budget was approved by the board at the September 7 meeting.

The budget will be distributed to members two weeks (per branch policy) before the October 12 branch meeting for review and to approve at the meeting.

Membership vice-president Susie Teicher welcomed two new members: **Myra Morris** (introduced by **Jean Light**) and **Jane Fetick** (introduced by **Michele Magnall**) and **Judy Golightly** (guest of **Mersine Kallaos**). Susie spoke about the challenge of attracting new members. If you know vibrant, interesting, and interested persons—invite them!

Program vice-presidents Janet Sloey and **Kathy Brown** announced the 2023–24 programs found in your Directory. Planning for 2024–25 has started. Please share the name/contact information of potential speakers that you’ve heard elsewhere.

Public Policy Director Marian Bauer reported this committee has been busy, starting with a review of 2022–23 activities and looking ahead to focuses from both state and national public policy. GOTV is a priority—one in four are not registered. B-C committee members will visit senior communities to re-register voters. Pay equity is also important. Marian explained the concept of initiative petitions, which allow citizens to be directly involved in government by following the petition process to get an issue on the ballot. The minimum wage is one of these issues: the goal is to raise it to \$13.75 per hour by 2025 and to \$15 hourly by 2026. Later in the year, an initiative on women’s health issues is expected. Stay informed with the newsletter, website, and Friday Reminder.

AAUW Fund Director Karen Francis previewed the annual AAUW Fund Greatest Need donation campaign to be held at the November branch meeting. Dues paid cover only 20–25 percent of national’s budget. The 6.2 million in 2022–23 grants and fellowships were funded through interest from the Educational Foundation Fund, a restricted fund. All other AAUW mission-based work, research, webinars, and advocacy, are funded by the Greatest Need

Fund, which allows AAUW to respond quickly to critical issues. Karen encouraged all to donate any amount so the B-C branch will achieve the status of 50 percent of members' donating.

Immediate Past President and **St. Louis Metropolitan Interbranch Council rep Jan Horner** spoke about the **Barbara Lackritz Service Award**, started in 2003 by IBC in her memory. Lackritz was an outstanding AAUW Missouri leader who served at both state and branch levels. Jan asked members to think about worthy fellow members to nominate. You may send the application to **Marcia Block** and the branch committee of **Joyce Katz** and **Mary Jermak**, who will review applications and give their selection to the branch presidents. November 1 is the deadline. Honorees will be recognized at the IBC Spring Luncheon.

Susie Teicher and **Marge Anderson**, branch **International Relations Lecture Series** chairs, previewed the upcoming series, January–April 2024. AAUW has cooperated with the Tuesday Women's Association at the Ethical Society for 90 plus years. The series focuses on global cultural and political changes: asylum; demographic transition model; education (how effective/political agenda influence); and Artificial Intelligence. Expect a series flyer in October or early November. **Marge Anderson** secured speaker **Dr. Lasher**, whose topic will be the global impact of AI.

Hospitality Director Carol Derington said that there will be a need for additional hostess and coordinating hostess in upcoming months. Even though July is distant, Carol asked for volunteers to work on the July Summer Picnic.

The **December Winter Party** will be coordinated by **Co-presidents Sage Taber** and **Sandy Brody**. Members were invited to sign up to participate in planning and carrying out the event to be held at the December 14 branch meeting.

Ann Patrice O'Shaugnessy announced that the **Directory** was distributed digitally this morning. She asked members to double check their information. There are a limited number of print copies available which includes member information.

Ann Patrice also said that the **Book Sale** will resume with she and **Jean Light** in charge and beginning in October. Donations of gently used interesting books, CD's, and puzzles are welcome.

Pat Shores introduced **Felicia Cunningham**, a physical therapy major at the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy and recipient of the branch **NCCWSL** scholarship. Felicia attended the June 2023 conference at the University of Maryland—the first in-person after Covid. Previously she attended via Zoom. Felicia reported that the conference was an excellent experience: "it was great being around so many smart women" and the connection with other Black female student leaders. She highlighted the compelling workshop on the *Central Park Five* and the presentation by Alicia K. Miller, *Empathy Matters, but Be a Leader*. **Shayla Pham** also attended the NCCWSL conference but was taking a quiz this morning.

Marcia Block, **STEM** director, gave an overview of branch STEM activities: judging and awarding monetary prizes to top female projects at the St. Louis Science Fair: the three STEM Girls of Promise high school programs; and Expanding Your Horizons for middle school girls. The latter has not resumed since the pandemic, but she is hopeful for 2024.

University Liaison Director Sue Shriver reported on scholarships to non-traditional women students funded by DFS. To date \$1000 to each two Maryville University students and \$1000 to two UMSL students has been paid. Sue asked for a volunteer to be the UL representative for UMSL (with a promise of an invite to Maryville dinners as her 'plus 1.')

The bean soup fundraiser sold out today; a limited number will be available next month.

Fifteen-minute break

Karen Francis spoke about The Value of Being an AAUW Member and asked members to complete a survey:

1. What is the value of being an AAUW member?
2. What is the purpose of National?
3. What do they do? How are we using them?

Nancy Pierson, chair of Dollars for Scholars announced upcoming events: the Jazz St Louis Thursday Coffee Concert, September 21; *Cabaret* Musical Performance, October 29; and the National Weather Service Tour, November 3. The bean soup sale and the Used Book Sale will occur at the October branch meeting.

Nancy spoke about the decline in DFS events/activities over the past two years. It is a 'capstone' branch activity to support women. Members were asked to discuss items on a DFS survey and record responses.

1. If we continue fundraising with the **original** Dollars model:
 - A. What activities would you likely support?
 - B. Does the cost affect whether or not you would likely attend?
 - C. Typically sponsors charge \$10-\$11 above the cost of an event. Due to inflation, this fee should increase to what amount? Also discuss: Would you pay \$10-15 for an event if you know the event is actually free?
 - D. What activities would you least likely support?
2. Discuss whether or not we should continue the following 3 ways to help fund scholarships:
 - A. Used book and puzzle sale
 - B. Bean soup sale
 - C. Elegant edible raffle
3. How could Interest Groups help support scholarship funding? Explain/give examples.
- 4A. What fundraising ideas would you support?
- 4B. What fundraising ideas would you sponsor?

Interest Group Chairs spoke about each of their groups and invited members to join and participate. Interest Group information is listed in the Directory and on the website, which has the book lists for each of the three branch book groups. AAUW Adelante book discussion, via Zoom, is also available.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jermak

Secretary/Archivist