

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2023
Ballwin Golf Course Events Center
333 Holloway Rd., Ballwin 63011

Members socialized (9–9:30 a.m.) and enjoyed a wonderful buffet courtesy of October Hospitality. Fifty-nine, including two guests, were in attendance.

Co-president Sage Taber began the business meeting at 9:30 a.m. and led the recitation of the AAUW Mission statement. Sage thanked and acknowledged **Hospitality Coordinating Hostess Jayne Kasten** and the October hostesses: **Lorna Anderson, Carol Derington, Jane Hemer, Jan Horner, Mersine Kallaos, Michele Mangnall, Barb McQuitty, Nancy Pierson, Susan Shiver, and Janet Sloey**. Sage announced that Halloween items (**Jayne Kasten's** treasures) are offered for sale to benefit Dollars for Scholars (DFS) at \$1 per item. Another new idea today is Sip for Scholars coffee, \$1 per cup to benefit DFS.

Co-president Sandy Brody stated the **AAUW Central States Regional Conference** will begin a week from today. Several branch members have been very busy with planning. The conference schedule includes many speakers on diverse topics. It will be both fun and informative.

Finance Officer Jean Light reviewed the amendments to the proposed branch 2023–24 budget. **Sage Taber** moved that the budget be approved. The 2023–24 budget was passed by members in attendance. Jean reported that the operating fund at the end of September was \$25,149.31. A certificate of deposit balance is \$3179.18, and the Dollars for Scholars balance is \$2080.34. The total balance for the operating fund is \$21, 970.13.

Membership vice-president April Walgren introduced guest **Carolyn McIntosh**, guest of **Ellen Friedman**. **Marcia Block's** guest **Kathleen Lasik** arrived later, so was not introduced.

Sandy Brody, chair of the December Winter Party, previewed the details for the December 14 event. The Art of Entertainment will provide box lunches at \$25 each. The St. Louis Strutters will entertain. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic Mimosa and Bloody Mary beverages will be available for \$5 each. Bartenders and other volunteers are needed; please contact Sandy. The event will also include BC Boosters, 50/50, lottery, and games. **Reservation deadline is December 5.**

Program vice-president Kathy Brown announced that **Dr. Ana Hernandez Kent**, researcher at the Institute for Economic Equity, **Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis** will be the November speaker. An expert in her field, **Ana Kent** has been featured in multiple publications and television and radio shows. Her topic will be **“Women in the Economy: An Undeveloped Powerhouse.”**

Public Policy Director Marian Bauer reported that the branch public policy committee is focusing on pay equity, a priority at branch, state, and national levels. They are part of a citizen's initiative to raise the minimum wage to \$13.75 (January 2024) and to \$15 (January 2025) which includes paid sick leave. Marian invited members to sign the petition after the meeting. **Marge Anderson** will spearhead the Get Out the Vote (GOTV) project at two senior living communities to assist new residents to register to vote at their new address. She urged members to be informed about upcoming municipal elections, particularly in Ladue and Manchester.

Dollars for Scholars Director Nancy Pierson announced that there were 21 participants/donors at the September Eleanor Roosevelt Walk. Donations to date are \$1010; you may still donate. You can still sign up for the October 29 matinee of *Cabaret*. The National Weather Tour, November 3 is full, but a wait list is available. Nancy and **Marge Anderson** will sponsor the **January International Lecture Series** event to include a carpool and \$10 donation to DFS.

Members are being creative with DFS ideas: bean soup, books & CD's, hospitality recipes, Sip for Scholars coffee, and an Elegant Edible for November, plus other events to come. The results of the September DFS survey can be found on the branch website in the September branch minutes.

AAUW Fund Directors Karen Francis and Suzanne Couch encouraged members to donate to the **AAUW Greatest Need Fund** which advocates for AAUW values. Online donations, in any amount, are best. You may bring your checkbook to donate at the November branch meeting.

Karen Francis reported on the Value of an AAUW membership survey taken at the September branch meeting. The member responses were as follows:

- Being with brilliant women and resulting friendships
- Educational programs/intellectual stimulation

On the purpose of national, members answered as followed:

- Gives direction through policies/guidelines, research, and provides public policy updates.

Marcia Block, branch committee chair for the **Barbara Lackritz AAUW Award**, said that nominations are due by October 20 to her, or to **Joyce Katz** or **Mary Jermak**. Marcia asked prior recipients of the award to stand and referring to the many seated, "there are many who may still be recognized."

The business meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

The program part of the meeting began at 10: 20 a.m. **Janet Sloey** introduced speaker **Kacie Starr Long**, founder of **Sew Hope Community Sewing Room** located in Florissant. Starr's story was deeply personal. The Sew Hope Room, and international projects, offers women, some previously incarcerated, an opportunity to learn skills that may allow them to create business opportunities. The Q&A indicated that members were interested in assisting. **Marcia Block** suggested that members bring sewing supplies to the November branch meeting to donate to Sew Hope.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jermak
Secretary/Archivist