

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting September 07, 2023

Meeting called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Co-president **Sandy Brody** at the new location: West County EMS & Fire Protection District Station 1, 223 Henry Avenue, Manchester.

Sandy welcomed all and introduced board members to the features of the meeting room and led the group in saying the AAUW Mission Statement, AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Board members attending were

Elected Officers

Co-Presidents Sage Taber & Sandy Brody
VP Program Janet Sloey & Kathy Brown
VP Membership April Walgren & Susie Teicher
Secretary/Archivist Mary Jermak
Immediate Past President Jan Horner

Elected Directors

AAUW Fund Suzanne Couch & Karen Francis
Public Policy Angela Janik & Marian Bauer

Appointed Directors

Branch Fundraising Sage Taber & Sandy Brody
Directory Ann Patrice O'Shaughnessy & Joyce Katz
Dollars for Scholars Nancy Pierson
Governance Marsha Weppelman
Hospitality Carol Derington & Suzanne Couch
Newsletter Editors Mary Jermak, Joyce Katz, & Pat Shores
University Liaison Susan Shriver
Spring Luncheon Yvonne Ward & Carol Anthony
STEM Marcia Block
Web Managers Joyce Katz

Co-president **Sage Taber** made brief remarks about the AAUW MO Star Action Plan and how the branch will plan for the upcoming year. This will be reviewed at the October board meeting.

- Bylaws chair **Marsha Weppelman** reviewed voting privileges for board positions as follows:
- Elected officers, presidents, membership and program vice-presidents, secretary/archivist, and immediate past president each receive ONE vote.
- Elected directors, i.e., public policy and AAUW Fund, each receive ONE vote.
- Appointed directors, if there are multiple persons for a position, SHARE ONE vote. Fundraising, directory, DFS, governance, hospitality, newsletter, STEM, University Liaison, and Webmasters.
- Special events, Fall Brunch and Spring Luncheon, each share a vote.
- A person holding more than one position has only ONE vote.
- Standing committees are non-voting positions.

Sandy Brody raised the issue of having member emergency contacts. The challenge is getting members to provide them. It is hoped that a committee of members outside of the board would be willing to take on this project.

Sandy advised the board that for the upcoming AAUW MO hosted regional conference, Celebrating AAUW: Reaching New Heights Together, the branch will be involved in three Swap Shop activities. There will be a Munching Matters interest group display, **Sandy and Sage** will present a session on Dollars for Scholars, and **Sandra Murdock** will present on STEM in Missouri branches.

AAUW MO President Karen Francis highlighted the October 19-21, 2023, to be held in St. Louis. The event will have outstanding speakers including CEO of **AAUW Gloria Blackwell**, AAUW board members, and **Lisa Maatz**, formerly an AAUW director of public policy and now a consultant in this area. Members will have the opportunity to network with AAUW members from 11 states and hear presentations on a wide variety of the important issues of our time. A goal is to have half of the participants to be from Missouri; we are not quite there yet. Karen encouraged all to attend and spoke of the financial assistance available for registration costs, which includes meals. Karen recognized the conference site committee who have helped in the planning and will be available throughout the conference for assistance. From our branch, they are **Sandy Brody, Angie Janik, Pat Shores, Pam Kulp, and Joyce Katz**.

Sandy Brody gave a preview of the September branch meeting, since it will not be the tradition kick off Fall Brunch, since there were no volunteers to co-ordinate the event. There will be enhanced hospitality led by Carol Derrington and Pat Shores. Social time will be interspersed throughout the morning's business. Highlights of the proposed 2023-23 branch budget will be presented. There will be time allotted for members to complete a survey questionnaire about Dollars for Scholars. (Survey included with these minutes.) Dollars for Scholars needs rejuvenation. Members of the **Ad Hoc Finance Committee: Sandy Brody, Sage Taber, Nancy Pierson, Jean Light, Leslie Wier, Pat Shores, April Walgren, and Jan Horner** will sit among the members as they complete and discuss survey items. New ideas are sought! Interest Groups will give brief presentations to encourage participation.

The 2023–24 Proposed Ballwin-Chesterfield Budget was presented by **Sandy Brody** for **Finance Officer Jean Light**, who could not attend. The budget committee is comprised of **Michele Mangnall, Pat Shores, Mary Jermak, Jean Light, Sandy**. Sandy also recognized the Ad Hoc Finance Committee, above, for their input to the budget process. The committee recommended that the Operating Fund account and the Dollars for Scholars account be combined. Board members reviewed each line item and adjustments were made as requested. It was moved (**Marcia Block**) that the proposed budget be approved as amended. The motion carried. **Jean Light** will make the adjustments in the Excell document. It will be distributed to members for review two weeks before the October branch meeting, per branch policy.

Public Policy Co-Director **Angie Janik** reported on the activities of a dedicated committee of six. In their summer meeting, they reviewed 2022-23 and planned for the upcoming year. The priority will be the 2024 Star Award since it involves public policy initiatives (including two new ones). Another focus is GOTV activities, including manual registration, while still allowed. The committee is involved with citizen's initiative petitions for jobs and wages. (Citizen's initiative petition filed by the Missouri jobs with justice for fair wages and paid sick leave.) Initiative petition bills on women's health (abortion) are being filed, but we don't have details. The B-C public policy committee engages with our coalition partners MO Voter Protection COALITION and the League of Women Voters (LWV). Volunteers are needed. The committee will keep members informed through the Friday Reminder, the branch website, and newsletter.

AAUW Fund Directors **Karen Francis** and **Suzanne Couch** announced the upcoming drive to benefit the National Greatest Need Fund. While it traditionally occurs at the November branch meeting, members will be encouraged to donate online. We would like our branch to be recognized by AAUW MO as a one that 50 percent of its members donate—even small donations count towards the percentage.

Yvonne Ward shared the details of the 2023 Spring Luncheon. The chairs are looking forward to planning a good event for this year. Please help.

Sue Shriver reported that some scholarship checks had been lost and duplicates were written. She said that 33 bean soup packages are available for \$8 each.

Pat Shores reported for the newsletter team and asked if board members received the monthly invitation to submit articles and information. Some people were unsure if they got the email. Pat will send out a test email missive to see if everyone is included. Joyce, Mary, and Pat are working hard to produce an interesting newsletter that you enjoy reading and that you get meaningful information from the content. Pat thanked the group for helping to do that.

Carol Derington will make a plea for hostesses at the September branch meeting. The group wants to continue to serve food at 9 a.m. Carol suggests starting earlier to prepare for events in 2024. Members complimented Carol for the wonderful summer picnic.

Ann Patrice O'Shaughnessy told us that a digital directory will be emailed to everyone soon and that the middle section of the Directory will be printed for those who need a printed copy. Ann Patrice also said that the book and puzzle sale for Dollars for Scholars will begin at the October 12 branch meeting.

Sandy Brody stated that the branch meeting will be Thursday, September 14, 2023 at the Ballwin Golf Course Event Center. She asked who would like to be listed on the agenda to speak.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jermak

Secretary/Archivist