

## AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting

November 2, 2023

West County EMS & Fire Protection District Station 1, 223 Henry Avenue, Manchester

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Co-president **Sandy Brody**.

Sandy led the recitation of the AAUW Mission Statement, *AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.*

Board members in attendance:

### Elected Officers

Co-Presidents **Sage Taber & Sandy Brody**

VP Program **Janet Sloey & Kathy Brown**

VP Membership **April Walgren & Susie Tiecher**

FO **Jean Light**

Secretary/Archivist **Mary Jermak**

### Elected Directors

AAUW Fund **Karen Francis**

Public Policy **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**

Newsletter Editors **Mary Jermak, Joyce Katz, & Pat Shores**

University Liaison **Susan Shriver**

STEM **Marcia Block**

Web Manager **Joyce Katz**

Past Pres/IBC **Jan Horner**

Directory **Ann-Patrice O'Shaughnessy**

Spring Luncheon **Yvonne Ward**

University Liaison **Sue Shriver**

The October 2023 board meeting minutes were approved as corrected.

Selling items at branch meetings was discussed and will not occur per bylaws.

Set up and dismantling of space at West County EMS & Fire. Please assist or don't gather while chairs and tables are put away.

Recap of Regional conference:

**Pat Shores** stated that 17 branch members attended, nine were on the site committee, and two branch members were on the photo team.

Kathy Brown thanked the committee for their work.

**Sage Taber** said that it was wonderful that all conference events were on one floor, the workers did a great job, and the speakers were interesting, especially the 1619 Freedom School. Different ways of structuring meeting content were of interest.

**Joyce Katz** commented on her assignment to add QR codes and post the all the presentations on [aauw-mo.aauw.net](http://aauw-mo.aauw.net). It was a monumental project: kudos to Joyce!

**Mary Jermak** highlighted comments from **Lisa Maatz's** keynote, *Challenges Facing Member-Driven Organizations*. Member priorities have changed, and loyalty has 'softened' since 2020. Members are looking for the 'value' in belonging to an organization. We should look

at priorities in terms of tasks, not roles. Find ally organizations: avoid the ‘superwomen’ syndrome. Ideas for membership events and meeting structure inspired ‘thinking outside of the box.’

**Marian Bauer** thanked the conference leaders and noted that AAUW’s CEO Gloria Blackwell, and other national staff, attended all conference days. Topics of interest were advocacy on the national level, DEI, Native American land acknowledgement, the 1619 Freedom School, and ERA. Meeting others, entertainment and great food were all part of the event experience.

**Karen Francis**, AAUW MO president, and conference planning team leader, reported that 16 states had attendees. The Missouri team has been contacted for an east coast conference. Also, on state president calls with national, all Swap Shops have been highlighted nation-wide. Fourteen of 16 Missouri branches attended. She thanked **Pat Shores**, leader of the site committee, and **Joyce Katz** for the outstanding website conference content.

**Sandy Brody** observed that participants were always busy, and they stayed and participated. She heard creative fund-raising ideas involving coloring books for equality distributed at a restaurant for children, which stated equity concepts and highlighted AAUW. The GOTV and the 1619 project Swap Shops were also informative. Based on Swap Shop presentation information, Sandy asked ‘do we need to have a business meeting at every branch meeting?’

**Finance Officer Jean Light** reported that for the October asset report, the reconciled bank balance is \$22,816.79 with one outstanding check (to the City of Ballwin) in the amount of \$200. The CD is \$3139.80. Reimbursement of early conference registration fee was determined.

**Sandy Brody** announced that a nomination committee is needed to seek nominees for 2024–26 officer candidates. There were no volunteers from the group. Once the committee is assembled, the board will vote to approve. Nominations will be gathered through January and announced at the March board meeting.

**Sandy Brody** stated that the planning for the December Winter Party, Sassy Soiree, was progressing well.

**Public Policy Director Marian Bauer** reported that members will have the opportunity to sign the initiative petition on pay raises at the November meeting. AAUW MO joins with other organizations, Right to Read, LWV, NCJW, to oppose the state-wide book banning initiative. **Marge Anderson** will lead the voter registration project to start in January. **Co-director Angie Janik** is active on the LWV GOTV committee.

The **ERA** is 100 years old. It has been ratified by 75 percent of the states. Currently there is a deadline written into the preamble. That deadline needs to be omitted before the US Archivist can receive it. There are two bills in Congress to withdraw the deadline. They are waiting on one to pass before sending it to the archivist to be included in the Constitution. Marian recommended that members be aware of a possible abortion initiative petition. **Karen Francis** added that AAUW MO signed on to the lawsuit on the separation of church and state.

**Dollars for Scholars Director Nancy Pierson** highlighted upcoming events which will be listed in the branch December newsletter and Friday Reminders. The Elegant Edible in November will be an apple cake contributed by **Kathy Brown**. Nancy needs a volunteer helper to fill in for DFS tasks at the upcoming branch meeting. **Sue Shriver** volunteered.

**Hospitality Director Carol Derington** stated that coordinating hostesses are needed for the hospitality table at branch meetings.

**AAUW Fund Director Karen Francis** promoted donating to the **Greatest Needs Fund**. Dues pay just 14 percent of AAUW's work in research, education, and advocacy. November is the month of special emphasis to donate, but donations can be made year-round. Our branch is the largest in the state and should be a leader with at least 50 percent of members who donate. The **Century Club** (\$100 and above) and **Century Club Plus** (\$250 and above) recognize donors of at these levels.

**International Relations Chair Susie Teicher** stated that the 2024 lecture series flyer will be available in November to provide information on the four lectures, January through April.

**C/U in St. Louis Mary Jermak**. The local C/U committee meets Monday November 5 via Zoom to discuss AAUW on campus updates in the St. Louis area.

**Spring Luncheon Co-director Yvonne Ward** stated that the committee has a signed contract with Marriott West as the facility for the event to be held May 9, 2024. The event theme is *Encircling All Women*. A reservation is \$45 and can be made at the March and April branch meetings.

**Marcia Block** reminded us that sewing donations will be collected at the November branch meeting to be taken to the Sew Hope Community Sewing Room in Florissant,

**Kathy Brown** stated that **Dr. Ana Kent** will be the speaker at the November branch meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10: 55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Secretary/Archivist Mary Jermak**