

## **AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Meeting Minutes**

**November 9, 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 November Hospitality. Sixty-three, including one guest, attended.

**Co-president Sandy Brody** began the business meeting at 9:40 a.m. and led the recitation of the AAUW Mission statement. The October branch minutes were accepted and approved.

**Marcia Block** will head the nominating committee. Two other members are needed.

**Co-president Sandy Brody** stated that several members volunteered to share highlights from the **AAUW Central States Regional Conference**.

- **Joyce Katz** said that the conference demonstrated excellent planning by AAUW MO. She said that the state website has posted excellent Swap Shop presentations and encouraged us to visit.
- **Ann Riley** enjoyed meeting people from states who also share the AAUW Mission. AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell shared an inspirational commitment to the mission. Ann felt part of something bigger and appreciated the information learned in Swap Shops such as Unconscious Bias, The Consequences of the Gender Pay Gap, On Tribal Lands, the 1619 Freedom School Project, and Gender Isn't Binary and the status of the ERA. The entertainment, Her Story + Barbie, and St. Louis Treats were enjoyed!
- **Marian Bauer** stated that the conference was the best among many she's attended and thanked **Karen Francis and Pat Shores, Joyce Katz and Mary Jermak**, and the site people for their work. She learned from national staff of AAUW's advocacy on the federal level, ideas for growing membership, DEI, and sharing and mentoring, in addition to those stated by Ann.
- **Pat Shores** highlighted two groups: **the site committee from IBC** comprised of **Sandy Brody, Carol Anthony, Angie Janik, Joyce Katz, Pam Kulp, Lynne Roney, and Pat Shores**. She thanked the **Photo Team** comprised of **Teri Brecht, Pam, and Mary**.

**Marcia Block** announced that sewing items for **Sew for Hope** are being collected today.

**Finance Officer Jean Light** reported that the assets of the operating fund at the end of October were as follows: the reconciled bank balance is \$22,816.79 with one outstanding check to the City of Ballwin in the amount of \$200. Jean reminded members to visit the **Used Book Sale** (also CD's and puzzles) at break.

**Dollars for Scholars Director Nancy Pierson** reported on upcoming DFS events. **Roz Marx** will sponsor two Coffee Concerts at the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center on December 5 and December 19. See full description on the website and branch communications. Nancy and **Marge Anderson** will host DFS events in co-ordination with the **International Lecture Series** events January–April. Carpools are available and the donation is \$10. Additional 2024 events include An Afternoon of Mah Jongg on January 18 and future Elegant Edible drawings, which need member volunteers. Sip for Scholars Coffee (**Bette Bude** and **Mary Kay Wolfe**) is a hit!

**Membership vice-president April Walgren** introduced **Becky Litherland (guest of Elaine Frost)** and new member **Carolyn McIntosh** (invited by **Ellen Friedman**).

**Sandy Brody** provided details about the **Winter Party** event on December 14. Reservations are \$25 which include a box lunch from the Art of Entertainment. The St. Louis Strutters will entertain first followed by lunch. 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.**

**Michele Mangnall** and **Pam Kulp** entertained us with a visit from **Grandma Gertrude** who gave many ideas about how to participate in **Elegant Edibles**, which returns as part of the **Winter Party**. Members may prepare and donate an item for any meal to be enjoyed during the holidays meals or later from the freezer. Please contact Michele to participate.

**Karen Francis** and **Suzanne Couch**, **AAUW Fund directors**, invited members to be a 'life saver' for the **AAUW Greatest Needs Fund** to support research, advocacy, and webinars. Karen said, "dig into your hearts to donate as much as you can." Only 17 percent of members, nation-wide, donate. The B-C goal is for at least 50 percent of members donating in any amount. The preferred method is online, but Karen is happy to process your check. **Kathy Brown** alerted Karen that she was unsuccessful in donating online. (The national office was able to correct the problem later that afternoon.)

**Marian Bauer** invited members to sign an initiative petition at the break. The petition is for an increase in the minimum wage to \$13.75 (2024) and \$15 (2026) which includes paid sick leave. B-C joined Right to Read in St. Louis, along with LVW and the NCJW, etc. to address the book banning at Missouri libraries. The GOTV campaign starts in January at senior centers led by **Marge Anderson**. The ERA is 100 years old and has been ratified by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the states. Currently ERA supporters are waiting for the deadline to be changed so that it can be added to the Constitution.

**Marge Anderson** announced that the flyer for the **2024 International Relations Lecture** series has been delayed but will be included in **Branching Out** and the **Friday Reminders when available**.

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. Members were urged to quickly return to their seats after the break so the program may start promptly.

The meeting resumed at 10:30 a.m.

**Program vice-president Kathy Brown** introduced **Dr. Ana Hernandez Kent**, researcher at the Institute for Economic Equity, **Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis**. **Ana Kent's** topic was "**Women in the Economy: An Undeveloped Powerhouse.**"

After the program, Sandy thanked and acknowledged the November Hospitality Hostesses:

**Lorna Anderson, Marcia Block, Pam Bowman, Erlaine Eltomi, Ellen Friedman,**

**Ann Hansen, Sue Shriver, Janet Sloey, and Kay Wunder.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Mary Jermak**  
**Secretary/Archivist**