

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting

October 05, 2023

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Co-president **Sage Taber**.

Sage 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

Secretary/Archivist Mary Jermak

Elected Directors

AAUW Fund Suzanne Couch & 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 & Suzanne Couch

Newsletter Editors Mary Jermak, Joyce Katz, & Pat Shores

University Liaison Susan Shriver

STEM Marcia Block

Web Manager Joyce Katz

The September 2023 board meeting minutes were corrected and approved and will be reposted by Webmaster **Joyce Katz**. Secretary/Archivist **Mary Jermak** asked that in addition to the co-presidents, two additional board members review the draft of the minutes. Public Policy directors **Marian Bauer** and/or **Angie Janik** will review, and **Joyce Katz** also accepted the assignment.

The board approved the Branch Action Plan.

Governance chair **Marsha Weppelman** reviewed the use of paddles. She clarified that branch members would receive the budget proposal at the time of the October branch meeting for voting purposes.

Finance Officer **Jean Light** 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 DFS funds have been transferred to the operating fund and the DFS account is now closed. The total balance for the operating fund is \$21, 970.13.

Dollars for Scholars Director **Nancy Pierson** listed upcoming events and ideas for scholarship fundraising:

- a) Gourmet Bean Soup Mix Sale until sold out.
- b) *Cabaret* Musical Performance, October 29.
- c) National Weather Service Tour November 3. Sold out, but sponsor **Marian Bauer** said that a wait list could be formed for a possible second tour event.
- d) A trial coffee service for the October and November branch meetings will be coordinated by **Bette Bude** and **Mary Kay Wolfe**. For a \$1 donation, or more, members may bring a mug and enjoy coffee!
- e) Hospitality will offer recipes for sale from each month's homemade items.

- f) Nancy will coordinate future Elegant Edibles raffle events.

Nancy provided the results of the DFS survey which was conducted at the September 14 branch meeting. See addendum A. Members responded that limiting cost was not an issue. It was recommended to repeat past events. The survey generated many ideas. The DFS job description needs to be updated for next year to state the DFS directors will also sponsor events.

Membership Director **April Walgren** gave a status update on membership. There are 127 paid and current members, nine nonpaying (lifetime and honorary). In the summer/fall renewal campaign, there were nine members who did not rejoin and eight members with no response to communications from membership committee members.

Sandy Brody, co-chair of the December Winter Party, previewed the details for the December 14 event. The Art of Entertainment will provide box lunches. They will cost \$25 each with your reservation. 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.

Public Policy Director **Marian Bauer** reported that pay equity is a focus in keeping with National's Public Policy Priorities. The committee is supporting a citizen's initiative to raise the minimum wage to \$13.75 (January 2025) and to \$15 (January 2026) which includes paid sick leave. Four members of the committee have been trained in the signature gathering procedure. Marian asked the board if the committee could ask members to sign this petition at an upcoming meeting. The motion passed unanimously. After this meeting concluded, members were able to sign the petition. Public Policy is also engaged in Get Out the Vote (GOTV) and will go to two senior living communities to assist new residents to register to vote at their new address.

AAUW Fund Director **Karen Francis** stated that the annual campaign to donate to AAUW's Greatest Need Fund will occur at the November branch meeting. Donating online is best; checks must be cleared by December 31, 2023, to claim the donation in this tax year. Last year, 65 members (42.6 percent) donated. Co-director **Suzanne Couch** added that a contribution of any amount is accepted. Donations sustain AAUW for the future. Donations can be made online at any time. AAUW fellowships and grants and the Legal Advocacy Fund come from other funds reserved only for those projects. At the September branch meeting, members responded to a brief survey about the value of an AAUW membership to each. Please see Addendum B.

AAUW MO President **Karen Francis** previewed the upcoming Central States Regional Conference, October 19–21, sponsored by AAUW MO. There are 158 attendees from 14 states. She thanked the many B-C branch volunteers and the 28 members who registered. The conference has the attention of National and promises to be an outstanding event

College University in St. Louis: **Mary Jermak** AAUW MO, C/U committee stated that to date there are 36 student members at Maryville University because of a campus tabling event August 31, 2023. The next step is to work with the university to create an on campus AAUW student organization. A student must sign up at a campus event to claim a free AAUW student membership.

Hospitality Director **Carol Derington** stated the need for coordinating hostesses for the upcoming branch meetings. She announced that seasonal table decorations will be available for sale to benefit DFS.

Pat Shores very happily reported that \$1010 was raised at the Eleanor Roosevelt Walk in September. This is the first year that donations have benefitted Dollars for Scholars.

Sandy Brody reported on behalf of Spring Luncheon Directors **Yvonne Ward** and **Carol Anthony**. They have secured a contract for the Marriott Chesterfield ballroom for the Spring Luncheon, May 9, 2024. Plans are developing for menu choices and pricing.

Marcia Block, STEM, said that there was a reduction in the monetary gift to the 15 STEM Girls to \$750 total instead of \$1500. Science Fair judging and awards will continue. She is doubtful that the science themed Expanding Your Horizons event for middle school girls will resume next year.

Marcia Block chairs the Barb Lackritz Award branch selection committee, along with previous recipients **Joyce Katz** and **Mary Jermak**. Marcia brought nomination forms to the board meeting and will also bring them to the October 12 branch meeting. She stated there are a couple of 'solid' nominations to date. October 20 is the deadline. The committee will meet and make their recommendation to the branch presidents by the November 1 deadline.

Branch newsletter editor **Joyce Katz** spoke for the *Branching Out* editor team (**Mary Jermak** and **Pat Shores**). She reminded board member contributors that the deadline for submissions is the day after the branch meeting each month. She said that items need not be long; it is important that members know what's going on.

President Sage Taber polled board members to ask what areas needed to be on the branch agenda and/or needed display tables.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jermak
Secretary/Archivist

Addendum A

AAUW-BC SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING SURVEY *(final)*

Dollars for Scholars and more

The original Dollars for Scholars fundraising concept began in 1993. Members (sponsors) organize small groups to attend productions or participate in activities, excursions, museum visits, etc. A fee is charged to attend the event which goes to support the Scholarship Fund.

Please discuss and respond in writing to the following questions regarding fundraising for scholarships. Use the back if more space is needed.

NOTE: Each survey represents 4-7 people per table

1. If we continue fundraising with the **original** Dollars model:

A. What activities would you likely support?

Redo old ones, excursions, new to me ones, where I learn new ideas, chocolate store, plays, luncheons, tours of unusual places, dinners at members' homes, have a Game Day, mix of close and farther away locations, certain St Louis landmarks tours again, How things are made tours, SLAM or zoo with docent or staff, a wide variety of choices, coffee stand (drink sales) at meeting, an active activity after branch meeting such as armchair exercises for \$5, docent led new exhibits, concerts, international lecture series, house or museum tours, be sure level of activity is in description

B. Does the cost affect whether or not you would likely attend?

\$\$ NO problem: 13 YES: 1 Maybe: 1

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?

13 responses \$10 – 15 is fine even if event is free

D. What activities would you least likely support?

Lots of walking, done before, night activities, driving into the city, a long drive, too much standing
Need to remember physical limitations of members
Desire for carpooling

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

YES: 13

YES: 13

YES: 11

(And DVDs)

(maybe every other year: 1)

NO: 1

3. How could Interest Groups help support scholarship funding? Explain/give examples.

Being BC booster at Winter Fundraiser (2), Collect once or twice a year – not each mtg, Sponsor Card/Bridge or Mah Joh Party (3), Sponsor girls luncheon, Play Readers make presentation, Small donations each week, Interest Group sponsor a DFS activity, Just donate to scholarship fund, Sponsor a "Big Basket" raffle each meeting, Have an option to donate

4A. What fundraising ideas would you support?

Card Party, Sammy Soaps, Sell member recipes,
Not too many based on chance, Small dinner parties
Local author visit, Reach out to the community for
\$\$\$ support, Trip to St Charles or Kimmswick around
Holiday season, DFS Chair(s) should sponsor activity
5 (or so) times, In-home cooking class,

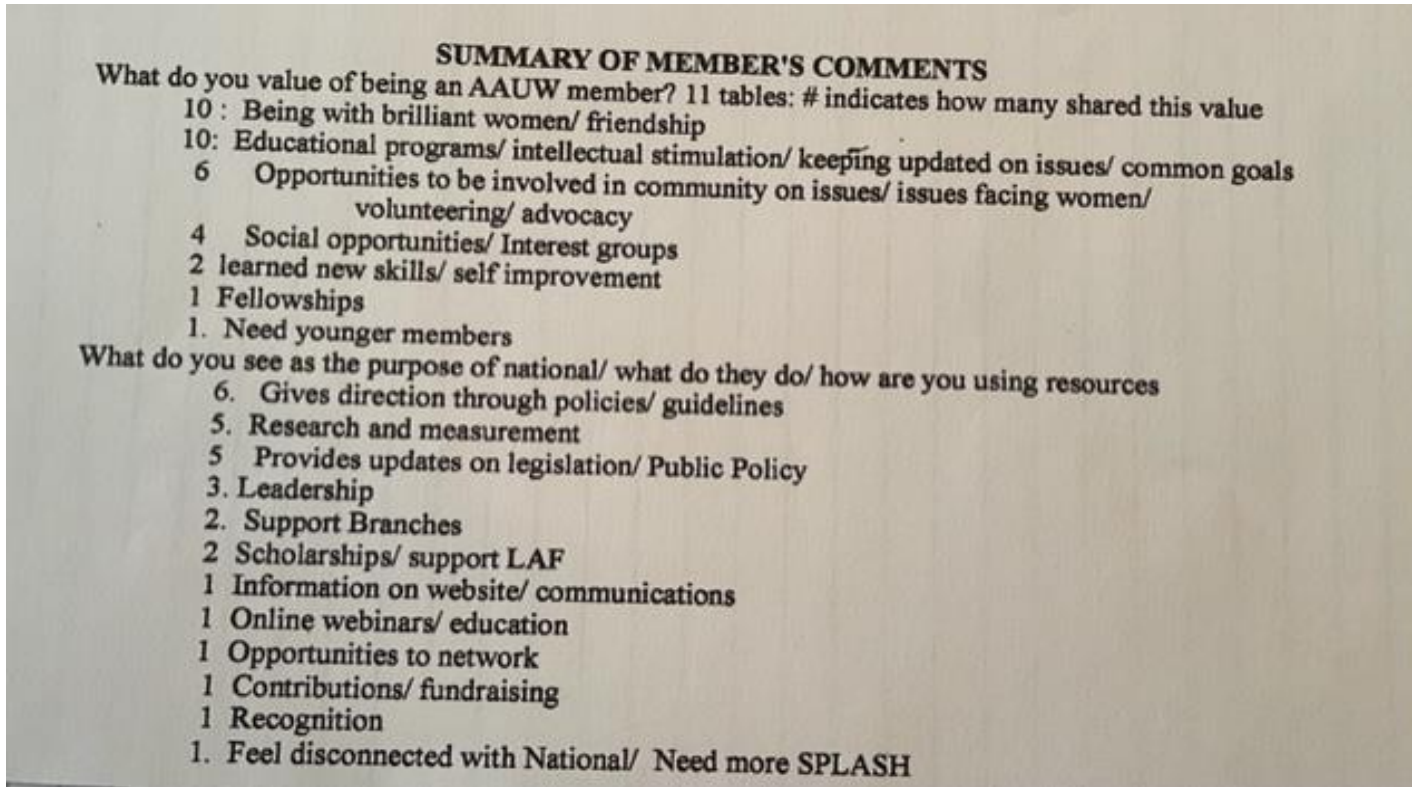
4B. What fundraising ideas would you sponsor?

Small dinner parties,
Ones that don't have a specific support
Recipe sales (from donated food at mtgs.)

*Keep in mind members get many \$ requests in the mail.

**Whole fundraising "picture" needs to be addressed.

Addendum B



Addendum C

IBC BARBARA LACKRITZ AAUW AWARD PROGRAM INSERT SHEET

HONOREE'S NAME _____
BRANCH NAME _____
BRANCH PRESIDENT'S NAME _____

Write one sentence about how your honoree fulfills each purpose. The information will be used to prepare the IBC Barbara Lackritz AAUW Award program insert. Turn this sheet into the IBC Chair at the November IBC Meeting.

The purpose of the IBC Barbara Lackritz AAUW Award is to recognize the branch member who:

1. Upholds the mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.
2. Provides service to AAUW at any of the local, state, regional or national level(s).
3. Provides leadership to AAUW at any of the local, state, regional or national level(s).
4. Provides service and leadership in non-AAUW areas in the community, religious, professional, and/or political arenas.