

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting

February 1, 2024

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-presidents Sandy Brody, who then 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
Dollars for Scholars Nancy Pierson
Governance Marsha Weppelman

Newsletter Editors Mary Jermak

University Liaison Susan Shriver

STEM Marcia Block

Web Manager Carolyn Brown

Spring Luncheon Yvonne Ward

International Relations Susie Tiecher

Carol Anthony reported about a SLU graduate project about an organization that was having a problem. Carol's daughter was a member of the class. The problem that was analyzed was declining AAUW membership at the branch level. The group had never heard of us and was very impressed when they read about AAUW. An online survey was done with faculty, staff, and students (Caucasians, ages 30–60). Please see the attached document which lists ideas worthy of our consideration to maintain and recruit members. Examples: hybrid meetings in-person, on Zoom, and on the website, advertise meetings, and develop a marketing committee.

Finance Officer Jean Light reported that she is waiting for the latest statement. She later reported as follows: as of December 31, 2023, the Operating Fund balance is \$ 25,112.84. The certificate of deposit is \$3179.18 for a total of \$28, 323.41.

Sandy Brody spoke about the upcoming Open Up AAUW Membership vote in April. The proposal will be discussed at the March branch meeting.

Marcia Block reported that the nominating committee is close to completing its work. The challenge is getting members to take jobs. **Sandy Brody** noted that several positions should have another person, such as web, Care Notes, and University Liaison. Marcia asked: do we need all these board positions? Some jobs could be committee level. Kathy Brown suggested that this challenge could be program. **Sue Shiver** said that University Liaison does not need to be a board position.

Sandy reminded us to take care of the meeting room. Water is the only beverage allowed.

Dollars for Scholars Director Nancy Pierson commended the member creative projects and highlighted upcoming events through March.

Membership VP Susie Tiecher announced that new member **Kathy Last** will be introduced in the March newsletter.

Program VP Kathy Brown stated that the April 2024 speaker is rescheduled to October. The April speaker is from the **League of Women Voters** and the topic is the Electoral College and the National Vote. The program committee will meet after the March branch meeting to consider speakers for 2024–25.

Public Policy Director Marian Bauer reminded us that this is an election year! In support of GOTV, committee members will visit Friendship Village, February 7, and The Willows, February 15, to assist residents who need to register and provide absentee voter information. **Marge Andersen** leads the voter registration project with her committee.

The committee continues to follow the legislature’s attempt to change the initiative petition. At the beginning of the session a group of Republicans calling themselves the Liberty Caucus was trying to have the process changed by staging a filibuster. They were stopped and several of them lost their committee chairmanship. Some changes being proposed could cause us to lose our One Person One Vote right. **Angie Janik** and **Karen Francis** attended Lobby Day in Jefferson City on January 30. They were there to lobby for the Initiative Process not to be changed. Marian encouraged us to follow the national news. April will be municipal elections and November is our national elections.

AAUW Fund Director Karen Francis stated that **AAUW MO** voted to support raising the minimum wage and sick leave benefits. **Branch donations to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund were \$5417.50. Forty-four members donated. The Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch** donated to the **AAUW Career Development Fund.**

International Relations Chair Susie Tiecher stated that the February 13 lecture featuring speaker **Dr. Anshuman Singh** will lecture on the topic of Generative AI.

C/U in St. Louis Mary Jermak reported that she and **Karen Francis** set up an AAUW table at the January 18 **Maryville University Spring Student Engagement Fair. They enjoyed speaking with students and staff about AAUW.**

Spring Luncheon Co-director Yvonne Ward stated that the committee met yesterday to review and enhance the plan. The event will be held at the Marriott West, Chesterfield on 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.

STEM Committee Chair Marcia Block stated the upcoming April events will be the STEM Girls of Promise and the St. Louis Science Fair. Expanding Your Horizon remains on hiatus.

The meeting was adjourned at 10: 45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary/Archivist Mary Jermak