

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

**March 14, 2024**

**Ballwin Golf Course Events Center**

**333 Holloway Rd., Ballwin 63011**

**President Sage Taber** opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. and led members in reciting the AAUW Mission statement. There were 56 members in attendance.

**Sage** announced the names of the March Hospitality Hostesses—**Pam Bowman, Alice Crippen, Ellen Friedman, Joan Hewitt, Veronica Hilyard, Pam Kulp, Kathy Lask, Sue Shriver, Sue Truitt,** and **Mary Kay Wolfe**—and thanked them for the delicious breakfast buffet.

**Co-president Sandy Brody** addressed the upcoming OpenUp AAUW bylaws proposal to be voted on from April 3–May 15. A 67 percent vote is needed for approval. Sandy gave a history of AAUW advocacy—originally it was education, but now women outnumber males in higher education. Fast forward to current times—pay inequity is an important issue. AAUW's advocacy is still needed. Sandy gave examples of notable women, past and present, not eligible to join AAUW—**Marie Curie, Nancy Pelosi, Harper Lee, Lily Ledbetter,** tennis professionals and pay equity advocates **Chris Evert** and **Martina Navratilova**. Members were seated at round tables so they could discuss the pros/cons of the change, if approved. Sandy will create a summary of the table comments to email to members.

**Finance Officer Jean Light** reported branch assets at the end of February 2024. The checking account balance is \$22,832.19. The CD held by the branch is \$3210.57. The total operating fund assets are \$26,232.76.

**Mary Biggs** said that the next Out-to-Lunch gathering is on March 20 at Bricktops at 11:30 a.m.

**Marcia Block, STEM chair,** announced spring STEM Girls of Promise events: April 4, 7 a.m., at Valley Park High School; April 12 in the afternoon, at Maplewood Richmond Heights High School; and Pattonville High School, TBA. She urged members to attend to represent something important to us, the education of young women.

Marcia then spoke as chair of the branch nominating committee. The 2024–26 slate of nominees are as follows: elected officers, **Carol Anthony**, co-president, **Marcia Block**, program vice-president, **Jean Light** finance officer, and **April Walgren** membership vice-president. Jean and April have agreed to a second term. Elected directors who have agreed to a second term are **Marian Bauer**, public policy, and **Suzanne Couch**, AAUW Fund.

**Public Policy director Angie Janik** thanked **Marge Andersen** who led the GOTV project at several local senior living communities. Voter registration and permanent disability forms were available to residents who had changed their address. The public policy committee has the citizens' initiative petition available for members to sign. It is from the MO for Constitutional Freedom for reproductive rights for women.

**Dollars for Scholars chair Nancy Pierson** invited members to stop by the DFS table to sign up for events. DFS events can be found on the branch website. Events are also included in the branch newsletter and in the Friday Reminder. There is a DFS bridge party being planned for May. Details will be available soon. Nancy said that outings for spring and summer are needed.

**Program vice-president Janet Sloey** said that starting with this meeting, program evaluation slips will no longer be placed on chairs. Members are welcome to contact on a speaker by contacting the co-presidents or the program vice-presidents. The program committee will meet after today's branch meeting. The final speaker for the year is **Julia Brown**. Her topic is **The Electoral College and the Proposed National Popular Vote Interstate Compact**.

**International Relations Lecture Series chair Susie Tiecher** stated that sadly many members missed the February lecture on Generative AI. The last lecture will be on April 9, at the Ethical Society at 10:45 a.m. The topic is NATO: its pros, cons, and responsibilities.

**Spring Luncheon Chair Yvonne Ward** reminded members of the May 9 event to be held at the Marriott West, Chesterfield. Reservations are \$45, to be paid when you sign up for a table.

**Jan Horner** spoke on behalf of **IBC**. Reservations are now closed for Spring Fling on March 23 at Catering to You in Florissant. A highlight of the luncheon will be the honoring of **the Barbara Lackritz Honorees**, including **Doris Nistler** for the B-C branch.

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. and members enjoyed social break time.

After the break, **Program VP Janet Sloey** introduced speaker **Rebeka McIntosh, vice president of MNEA (Missouri National Education Association)**.

Respectfully submitted,

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