

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting

March 7, 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-president Sage Taber, who 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 & Suzanne Couch

Public Policy Marian Bauer

Appointed Directors

Branch Fundraising Sage Taber & Sandy Brody

Dollars for Scholars Nancy Pierson

Newsletter Editors Mary Jermak, Pat Shores, Joyce Katz

University Liaison Susan Shriver

STEM Marcia Block

Spring Luncheon Yvonne Ward

International Relations Susie Tiecher

The February board minutes were approved to post on the web by **Carolyn Brown**, webmaster.

Sandy Brody spoke about the upcoming Open Up AAUW Membership vote in April. The proposed bylaws change will be discussed at the March branch meeting. Round tables will be to facilitate discussion of the pros and cons of removing the membership criteria to join AAUW. The presidents will provide information to discuss at each table. Board members are asked to spread out among the tables.

Karen Francis, AAUW MO president, added that it is most important that members vote. The last time this proposal was voted on, there was a 70 percent positive vote in Missouri. There will be a post card and an email with a PIN to come from national.

Finance Officer Jean Light reported as follows: as of January 31, 2024, the Operating Fund balance is \$ 26,023.76. This includes the certificate of deposit of \$3210.57.

Nancy Pierson, DFS, encouraged all to check the branch website for DFS events and information. Please send DFS event photos to **Carolyn Brown** to highlight recent events. Upcoming events include two International Lecture Series events, six coffee concerts, Sammy Soap Tour, and Matisse and the Sea in April. Possible future events include a bridge party and Lewis & Clark tour.

Janet Sloey, program vice-president, raised the issue including the upcoming year's programs in the Directory. The concern is this could be inaccurate if program changes occur. The use of monthly evaluation slips was also discussed: does this practice yield important information? Placing evaluation slips on each seat prior to the meeting is another task to be done. The discussion supported

discontinuing this practice. If no one assumes leadership of the September meeting for a kick-off-the-year meeting, a speaker will be needed in September.

Janet will be going off the board at the end of June, but as a Manchester resident, she volunteered to secure this meeting space for the 2024–25 year. **Sandy Brody** is also a Manchester resident and will be immediate past president starting July 1.

Public Policy Director Marian Bauer reported that the GOTV project was very successful at Friendship Village, Friendship Village South, and The Willows. Committee members provided registration forms to residents who need to register and provided absentee voter information. **Marge Andersen** leads the voter registration project with her committee. Marian commented that it is best to know someone in management at a community to gain access. Another session is planned in September to assist residents in preparation for the general election in November.

Karen Francis supplied an AAUW tablecloth for name recognition at the senior communities. **Mary Jermak** reminded the board of the importance of signage and suggested that we investigate having a sign made to display in the window at the branch meeting location. **AAUW MO Membership Vice-President Susie Watson** has promoted signage in recent Missouri in Motion articles. She would be a good resource for information.

Marian Bauer continued that Missourians for Constitutional Freedom seek signatures for the initiative to get on the ballot: we have the right to make our own decisions on reproductive health care and to remove the abortion ban. The petition will be available to sign today and at the branch meeting next week. The petitions supporting pay equity, \$15 per hour, by 2025 and another supporting sports betting in Missouri are in circulation.

Jan Horner, past president and IBC rep, reminded us that the deadline to register for the March 23 Spring Fling event is March 8. Please send your reservation check to Carol Davis McDonald.

Yvonne Ward, Spring Luncheon chair, announced that the plans are finalized for the May 9 annual event to be held at the Marriott in Chesterfield. Reservations with a \$45 check can be made at the March and April branch meetings. The committee is looking for donations of new items to use as attendance prizes.

Marcia Block, STEM chair, stated the spring events include STEM Girls of Promise at Valley Park High School on April 14. The dates for STEM Girls Maplewood Richmond Heights and Pattonville High Schools have not yet been determined. Many board members signed up to attend these events. Marcia also discussed budget issues related to STEM. For this year, the number of honorees is reduced from five to four at each school. Science Fair projects is reduced to two honorees instead of three and the award be \$100 instead of \$125 for each girl.

There was clarification on conference reimbursement costs from the co-presidents. The branch did not spend \$3000 on the October regional conference registration fees. The branch spent \$800 which was augmented by \$800 from AAUW MO. Leadership development continues to be a priority for the branch.

Marcia Block reported on behalf of the nominating committee. She thanked those who have agreed to continue in their positions: AAUW Fund Chairs, **Karen Francis** and **Suzanne Couch** and Public Policy Directors **Angie Janik** and **Marian Bauer**. The slate for 2024–25 will be **Marcia Block** as program vice-president and **Carol Anthony** as branch co-president.

The meeting was adjourned at 10: 50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary/Archivist Mary Jermak