

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting

April 4, 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 **Sandy Brody**, 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
Past President Jan Horner

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
Bylaws Marsha Weppleman
Newsletter Editors Mary Jermak, Pat Shores, Joyce Katz
University Liaison Susan Shriver
STEM Marcia Block
Spring Luncheon Yvonne Ward & Carol Anthony
International Relations Susie Tiecher
Hospitality Carol Derington

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

Sandy Brody remarked that the first STEM Girl of Promise event took place at Valley Park HS. A number of board members attended this event.

Sandy stated that the annual AAUW MO conference will be held in May at the Holiday Inn Executive, Columbia. Ballwin-Chesterfield reimburses the early bird registration fee of \$75 to attendees who request reimbursement. The branch receives \$150 from the state for a \$25 reimbursement per attendee.

The minutes from the February board meeting were approved and will be posted on the branch website by **Carolyn Brown**, webmaster.

The May board meeting, the last of the year, is traditionally a celebration of the year with refreshments to be provided by the co-presidents Sandy and **Sage Taber**. Sandy proposed that the May board meeting be held at the Ballwin Golf Course Event Center, which allows food to be brought in. We can meet the new person, who now handles the rental of the meeting room.

End of year reports are due May 5 and the budget request for your area should be sent to **Finance Officer Jean Light**.

The National Council of Jewish Women recognized the collaborative work of B-C with NCJW on community projects (abortion ban). **Karen Francis**, **Pat Shores**, and **Carol Anthony** represented the branch.

Sandy reminded board members that the email from AAUW arrived. It contains a link to vote for new national directors and Open Up AAUW Membership proposed bylaws change. The process is very easy. **Marsha Weppleman** commented that information in an April 2, 2024, webinar stated new members without degrees would be able to join local branches, but not the state or national, which have different requirements.

Finance Officer Jean Light reported as follows: as of February 29, 2024, the checking account balance is \$19892.15. The certificate of deposit of \$3246 will mature this June. The proceeds will go in the checking account. A CD in the amount of \$3000 @ 4.47% was taken out at US Bank in March.

Nancy Pierson, DFS, reported that six events were held in March and there are seven upcoming events including the International Lecture Series, four Coffee Concerts, and a bridge party on May 30 at the Hearth Room Restaurant. Events are needed for June and the summer. In 2023–24, 23 DFS events were held, however, attendance was not robust.

Susie Teicher, International Relations chair, reminded us that the lecture on April 9 will be the last of the series. The subject will be NATO.

Janet Sloey, program vice-president, stated that several speakers are confirmed for the upcoming year.

Sandy led the board discussion of the September meeting to hold a game day with members encouraged to bring a friend. **Carol Derington** emphasized that the Summer Picnic is also an opportunity for members to bring a guest. A subgroup was formed to plan the details of the September branch meeting (**Sandy Brody, Jan Horner, Janet Sloey, and Mary Jermak**).

Membership vice-president April Walgren reported that the membership committee met recently. The committee is recommending that the branch meeting be recorded and posted in the Members Only section of the branch website. **Joyce Katz** said that would be easy to do. Other committee recommendations were

- Get the word out using new media,
- Coordinate with program for topics related to the business world (for possible appeal to prospective members still working). **Marcia Block** and **Kathy Brown** (program) agreed.

Karen Francis commented that Work Smart will not be offered after June 30 and needs to be updated (2011–12). It will be available through the College/University partnership program to C/U students members.

Further recommendations from the committee were

- Meet and greet with retirees from colleges and universities,
- Get your elevator speech updated and ready,
- Create/update a trifold about AAUW and the B-C branch.

Joyce Katz suggested that the focus be on new retirees as potential members.

April reminded members that the membership renewal portal opens April 1 and members should look for the latest *Membership Matters* from AAUW.

Public Policy Director Marian Bauer is a member of the AAUW MO Public Policy committee. At its last meeting, she described the recent successful GOTV project at three Senior Living facilities and stated this project will be repeated in the fall before the November election. Public Policy will send postcards in the fall reminding our members about voting. reminders about elections and revisit the three senior communities as part of our GOTV project.

Marian continued that the Initiative Petition, Missourians for Constitutional Freedom, needs 300,000 signatures and 2/3 of those have already been submitted. The last day for submitting signatures is May 5. The petition will be available at our branch meeting on April 11. The Missouri legislature is making it harder to present Initiative Petitions. Two positive bills being considered in the legislature refer to security for poll workers and restoration of voting rights to those who have been denied them.

Yvonne Ward, Spring Luncheon chair, stated that there are 52 reservations to date and encouraged members to attend. Reservations with a \$45 check can be made at the April branch meetings.

Pat Shores, newsletter editor, commended **Mary Jermak**, fellow editor, for her 14 years of service as editor. Mary will retire from this position at the end of June. The deadline for the May/June newsletter will be April 9.

Marcia Block, STEM chair, stated that the first STEM Girls of Promise took place at Valley Park High School this morning. Eleven board members attended. The next event will be Friday April 12 at Maplewood Richmond Heights High School, and then April 15 at Pattonville High School.

Joyce Katz, Directory co-chair, asked if there would be interest in exploring a spiral bound Directory. To reduce printing costs, the bylaws and policies would be published on the branch website. Other details, such as color pictures, were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary/Archivist Mary Jermak