

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting

September 5, 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, Carol Anthony

VP Program Marcia Block, Kathy Brown

VP Membership April Walgren & Susie Tiecher

FO not present

Secretary/Archivist Mary Jermak

Past President not present

Elected Directors

AAUW Fund Karen Francis

Public Policy Marian Bauer

Appointed Directors

Branch Fundraising Sage Taber & Carol Anthony

Governance not present

Newsletter Editors Pat Shores, Joyce Katz

University Liaison Karen Francis, Mary Jermak

STEM Marcia Block

Spring Luncheon Jane Hemer

International Relations Susie Tiecher

Hospitality Carol Derington, Janet Sloey

Webmaster Carolyn Brown

Winter Party Marcia Block

The May 2024 board minutes were approved.

Co-president Carol Anthony asked for patience as she transitions to her new position. She previewed the Bingo cards prepared for the September 12 kick off meeting for members. The cards highlighted branch activities and AAUW mission-based items. Prizes were discussed and **Pat Shores** volunteered to buy candy for prizes.

Sage Taber inquired if the required written notice regarding the board approved proposal to merge Dollars for Scholars with branch fundraising was sent to members? The bylaws require written notice two weeks prior to a branch meeting to be sent to members when a member vote is to be held. Since this time period was not met, **Webmaster Carolyn Brown** will send the motion to members in notification of a vote at the October branch meeting.

Directory chair Joyce Katz distributed printed copies of the 2024-25 to board members as they entered the meeting. She raised the question: should the Directory continue in its present form. There have not been volunteers to chair, and it takes many hours to update the member information and photos. Also, printing costs continue to rise. A discussion followed. One idea was to make a concise form of the member database available to members. It was recommended that an announcement be made that there would be no printed Directory after this year.

Finance Officer Jean Light was out of town, so Sage led the review of the proposed budget. Additional funding was requested in some areas. Those requests will be sent to Jean so she can update the proposed budget. The revised budget will be emailed to board members for further review and approval. Only board members in voting positions may vote.

Membership vice-president April Walgren stated that the current number of members is 132. Eleven members have stated that they would not renew. Five or six have not committed. April shared the list of those names and board members volunteered to contact these not yet renewed members. April and **Susie Tiecher** participate in

quarterly Zoom meetings hosted by **AAUW MO Membership VP Susie Watson**. Branch membership officers share ideas and resources. Membership will speak about further plans/activities at the next board meeting.

Program VP Kathy Brown stated that program will contact the FBI in October for a presentation in February.

AAUW Fund Chair Karen Francis said that fund solicitations will occur later.

Public Policy Director Marian Bauer GOTV is the big push. The committee plans to repeat at the three senior centers, The Willows, Friendship Village, and Friendship Village South. **Marge Andersen** and Marian will go to Lumiere in Chesterfield. **Pat Shores** plans to go St. Francis Church, The Fountains, and Mason Pointe. Members will receive a letter and later a postcard closer to the November 5 election.

Amendment 3, the abortion ban: On September 5, there will be a hearing in Jeff City to address the inflammatory words added by **Secretary of State John Ashroft**. Tomorrow there is a hearing about the lawsuit brought three people to keep Amendment 3 off the ballot.

The gambling initiative petition will be on the ballot. Minimum wage will be proposition on the ballot.

Winter Party co-chair Marcia Block said the event goals are FUN and donations. Marcia created a handout which detailed Why and Where the branch needs to raise funds to maintain programs and scholarships. The ask would be \$40 per member donation based on 150 members. There will be a committee meeting after next week's branch meeting to plan. The event theme will be *Thank you in Advance*. Entertainment suggestions are sought; please contact Marcia. **Event co-chair Kathy** Last was not present.

Elegant Edibles will return. Members may make or buy food items to contribute.

There will be an emphasis on Booster Club donations from January thru April named Go for the Gold with gold, bronze, and silver levels of donations. **Marian Bauer** shared that **Angie Janik** suggested personally contacting non-contributors. **Carolyn Brown** suggested that explanations be given about the funds and what is most important to our branch. She also suggested raising branch dues. (The last time dues were raised was in 2008-09.)

Hospitality chair Carol Derington remarked that it is difficult to find volunteers and the Summer Picnic is a lot of work. There were 49 attendees at the July event. Discussion followed and it will be studied further.

Newsletter editor Joyce Katz recommended that each area submit a short article for each newsletter telling what your area does to support the AAUW Mission. The deadline is always the Friday after each branch meeting.

Carol Anthony, past Spring Luncheon chair, is negotiating with Marriott West for the 2025 luncheon. **Jane Hemer** and **Michele Magnall** are now SL chairs.

Mary Jermak pointed out that new board members must be approved by the board. Jane, Michele, and **Kathy Last** (Winter Party) are recent additions to the board. The board voted and unanimously approved these additions to the board.

Marcia Block, STEM chair, said that unfortunately the Expanding You Horizons - EYH – event, which promotes STEM careers to middle school girls will not continue. Branch STEM activities will continue: STEM Girls of Promise and Science Fair judging and awards.

University Liaison chair Mary Jermak reported that last year's scholarship recipients from Maryville and UMSL have graduated. She has established contact with both Maryville University and UMSL in the development and financial aid departments respectively, but to date, no scholarship recipients have been identified.

Mary read excerpts from a statement from AAUW National concerning granting scholarships that designate women only, or race only. There are Title IX implications. **Pat Shores** clarified that unless a university brings up an issue, the branch may continue with its scholarship criteria: non-traditional women student (10 years out of high school and preferably studying in the STEM field.)

Karen Francis, UL co-chair, spoke about making UL/College University connections. There is a College/University group connected with STL IBC. The goal is to make college/university students aware of AAUW and the benefits offered, including a free student membership.

Webmaster Carolyn Brown, no report.

Before the meeting concluded, Sage polled the board to know how many tables are needed for set up at next week's opening meeting on September 12.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary/Archivist Mary Jermak