

**October 10, 2024, Branch Meeting Minutes
Ballwin Recreational Center, Ballwin, MO**

Co-president Carol Anthony opened the meeting at 9:31 a.m. She led members in the recitation of the AAUW Mission statement. There were 54 members in attendance.

Carol thanked the October hostesses on behalf of the members and introduced **Hospitality Director Janet Sloey** who acknowledged this month's hostesses:

Pam Bowman, Jane Hemer, Jean Light, Sue Shriver, Joyce Katz, Michele Mangnall, Kathy Skiles, Judy Stagoski, Carol Derington, and Janet Sloey.

Co-president Sage Taber announced that it is time to assemble a nominating committee of three members. She asked for volunteers.

The minutes from the September 12, 2024, branch meeting was approved.

The members voted to approve the 2024–25 proposed branch budget. The members also approved the merging of the Branch Fundraising and Dollars for Scholars committee into one committee called the FUNdraising Committee. MOTION: It is proposed that Branch Fundraising and Dollars for Scholars committees be merged into an committee called the FUNdraising Committee.

Ann Hansen encouraged members and guests to attend the October Out-to-Lunch event.

Finance Officer Jean Light gave the asset report. As of September 30, the checking balance is \$23816.65. A CD in the amount of \$3069.60 matures on October 15. Those funds will be rolled into the checking account, since a \$4000 check was given to Maryville University this week for fall and spring scholarships for two senior nursing students. Each student receives \$1000 per semester.

Program VP Kathy Brown thanked members for including their contact information along with program speaker recommendations. Speakers suggestions are sought for the fields of business and nursery. Kathy also asked for volunteers to be available to greet speakers when they arrive between 10 and 10:15 a.m. The November speaker will be **Carol Davit**, whose topic is Why Prairie Matters–New Relevancy in a Vanishing Landscape.

Membership VP April Walgren acknowledged returning member **Kelly Johnson**.

Public Policy Director Angie Janik: 26 days–GOTV! She listed deadline dates for voting in the election. On October 15, from 1:30–2:30 p.m., the public policy committee is holding an informational meeting about the five amendments and the two propositions on the ballot and how they align with the AAUW Public Policy Priorities. All branches in the St. Louis area have been invited. AAUW MO recommends a YES vote on Amendment 3. After the meeting, the discussion can continue at a nearby restaurant.

Pat Shores, FUNdraising Committee member, spoke for **Marcia Block**. A wonderful event is being planned for December 12, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. The Art of Entertainment is supplying box lunches. **Sandy Kalin** is taking reservations (\$30) starting today. The entertainment will be by the Parkway West Jazz Choir.

Dollars for Scholars events were promoted:

A tour of Weldon Springs on October 17,
Bean soup packets for purchase,
The Bellefontaine Tour on October 24.

Pat Shores and **Michele Mangnall** reported on the Eleanor Roosevelt Walk held in conjunction with the branch Walking Interest Group. There were 22 participants and \$1250 was raised for scholarships.

University Liaison Co-chair Mary Jermak announced that two Maryville University senior nursing students are the recipients of \$4000 in scholarship funds for the fall and spring semesters. Mary stated branch criteria for recipients and encouraged members to support DFS events as sponsors and attendees.

AAUW Fund co-director Karen Francis spoke on behalf of the Greatest Needs Fund at AAUW. Members may support the national fund throughout the year. In November the annual campaign for donations will occur. Online donations are encouraged. AAUW's grants and fellowships program has \$120M in funds available. Whereas the Greatest Needs Fund has only \$5M. Donations go to the NCCWSL conference, LAF advocacy, public policy research, educational mission-based webinars, and monthly meetings with AAUW committee chairs and their corresponding officers at the state level. AAUW has been invited to United Nation events and ceremonies at the White House. Your donations count towards 10-Star recognition and special recognition is given to the top five branches in per capita donations. Further, donations support the AAUW Mission: research, education, and advocacy.

Co-president Carol Anthony added that donations can be made through your IRA and as part of your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

Directory chair Joyce Katz reminded members that the *Directory* is the only place to find member contact information. Joyce asked members to pick up their printed copy today.

The **Used Book Sale** returns and will be run each month by volunteers. You are invited to sign up to organize a sale in the upcoming months.

After the break, **Kathy Brown** introduced speaker **Vivian Gibson**. Her presentation was titled *Women of a Certain Age Have Stories to Tell*. She focused on Millcreek, an area of St. Louis city that was demolished to make way for a highway. Gibson's book, ***The Last Children of Millcreek***, keeps its history alive. Gibson advocates in St. Louis for recognition of Millcreek.

The meeting concluded at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jermak
Secretary/Archivist