

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting

November 7, 2024

West County EMS & Fire Protection District Station 1, 223 Henry Avenue, Manchester

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. by **Co-president Sage Taber**. She 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 Kathy Brown, Marcia Block
VP Membership April Walgren & Susie Tiecher
FO Jean Light
Secretary/Archivist Mary Jermak
Past President Sandy Brody

Elected Directors

AAUW Fund
Public Policy Marian Bauer

Appointed Directors

Branch Fundraising Sage Taber & Carol Anthony
Governance not present
Newsletter Editors Pat Shores
University Liaison Mary Jermak
STEM Marcia Block
Spring Luncheon not present
International Relations Susie Teicher
Hospitality Carol Derington, Janet Sloey
Webmaster not present
Winter Party Marcia Block

Co-president Carol Anthony announced that the Nominating Committee would be comprised of **Bette Bude, Jayne Kasten, Jan Horner, Marge Anderson**, and the co-presidents **Carol and Sage**. The board voted to approve the committee. The open positions will be co-president, secretary/archivist and program vice-president. The elected directors have agreed to continue in their positions.

Carol spoke about the Action & Advocacy Leaders call (formerly branch presidents call.) **AAUW MO President Sue Shineman** focused on succession planning. This involves looking at branch membership: active v inactive members and those who attend social events only. Branch presidents should consider having another person sit in on their planning meetings. For B-C that would mean participation by a third person. Restructuring may be appropriate considering lower membership numbers and aging members. For instance, are monthly board and branch meetings necessary?

Discussion followed on the following:

This could mean a three-year commitment by an individual(s)

Make the participation informal—sit in on two or three planning meetings, with the option to opt-out

STEM was used as an example of a branch focus and then report to other branches

Former officers could help with leadership

Combine branches

St. Louis branch meets via Zoom

Meet with other branches at a central location

Have videos of branch meetings available

Invite other branches to our meetings

Send *Branching Out* newsletter to St. Louis area branch presidents

The October 2024 board minutes were approved.

Immediate past president and IBC rep Sandy Brody announced that Catering to You, Florissant will be the location of the IBC luncheon on March 29, 2025.

Finance Officer Jean Light gave the finance report. Since July 2024 branch income and expenses are in line with this year's budget.

As of October 31, there is \$31,905.35 in the Operating Fund checking account. The first CD in the amount of \$3069 matured on October 15 and was rolled into the checking account. A second CD, \$3034.60, matures in Jan. 2025.

University Liaison Mary Jermak said that to date, there has been no response from UMSL regarding the branch's scholarship offer. Asking guidance from the board, it was decided that scholarship funds budgeted for two more scholarships would roll over to 2025–26.

Marcia Block reported on the **Winter Fundraising Party**. To date, there are 18 reservations per Sandy Kalin who takes event registrations, which are \$30. It is estimated that 75 members and guests will attend. Reminders will be included in the upcoming Friday Reminders. The event is the kickoff for the B-C Boosters Fundraiser, which runs from January through April 2025. A clever song will be part of the promotion. Emails promoting the event will be sent to all, including those who haven't recently attended branch meetings. "Thank-you" is the event theme.

Upcoming Dollars for Scholars events were announced.

A Soulard Holiday Tour on December 7 – four tickets will be available at \$60 each. Event sponsor **Sage Taber**.

On February 7, 2025, from 1–2:30 p.m., there will be a Tai Chi demonstration sponsored by **Janet Sloey**. A \$15 donation is suggested. It will be held at the Twin Oaks Town Hall, 1381 Big Bend Rd.

Julie Triplett suggested a tour of the new Clark Family Library with lunch at Plaza Frontenac. The event will be held in January or February, or thereafter, and sponsored by **Carol Anthony**.

Membership vice-president April Walgren reported on the October membership committee meeting. April stated that we've received permission to set up an AAUW informational table at the Ethical Society at each of the four lectures (January–April.) We will invite other STL branches to collaborate. **Sandy Brody** will present this invitation at the November 26 IBC meeting. We hope that the expense of flyers and other printed materials might be shared by participating branches.

The committee recommends that membership be the focus of the Summer Picnic and rebrand it as a Happy *Renew* Year Party. Renew/Retain/Renew is a long process which ideally concludes in the summer. The board was enthusiastic about the idea and the committee will work on details in the coming months. Members would be asked to bring a heavy appetizer to the party.

Susie Teicher announced a new member, **Nancy Dyer**. Nancy and two other new members will be introduced in the upcoming newsletter. The April presentation will be Effective Strategies for Organizing Museum Exhibitions.

Program VP Kathy Brown stated that the FBI presentation in February will be about Cybersecurity and Infrastructure.

Public Policy Director Marian Bauer commented that the October 15 forum at the Daniel Boone Library went very well with 29 in attendance. **Angie Janik** presented information on Missouri amendments and propositions on the November election ballot. Marian spoke about the results from the general election, most notably Amendment 3. There are likely challenges ahead—six lawsuits have been filed. Proposition A, the minimum wage prop, passed. AAUW National and AAUW MO will continue to work for equity for women and girls. She closed with some advice: it's time to distance yourself (from national election results) and do other things for yourself (your own well-being.)

Sage spoke for **AAUW Fund Chairs Karen Francis and Suzanne Couch**. They will conduct the annual AAUW Fund November Individual Giving Campaign. Members will be encouraged to support the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund by donation check or online giving.

Pat Shores, IBC NCCWSL Facilitator, shared news from AAUW regarding the National Conference for Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Starting in 2025, AAUW will no longer administer the conference. The Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education will organize and administer the event. AAUW will have a part in the conference and encourages continued branch support. Locally B-C has contributed \$500 annually to IBC toward local NCCWSL scholarship and expenses. The board was asked what to do considering the change. The consensus was to take a wait-and-see approach and to look elsewhere for opportunities to support women students. Pat added that it would be an IBC decision.

Before the meeting concluded, Sage polled the board to find out how many tables are needed for set up at the November 14 branch meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary/Archivist Mary Jermak