

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting

February 6, 2025

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 Carol Anthony**. 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 Karen Francis

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 Jane Hemer

International Relations Susie Teicher

Hospitality Carol Derington, Janet Sloey

Webmaster Carolyn Brown

Winter Party Marcia Block

Co-president Sage Taber introduced Nominating Committee Chair Bette Bude. Bette described the multi-step process to complete the 2025–27 slate of officers. The committee was comprised of **Bette Bude, Jayne Kasten, Jan Horner, Marge Anderson**.

The candidates for branch officers are as follows:

Elected officers,

Co-President Janet Sloey,

Secretary/Archivist Kathy Lask

Elected directors

Program Vice-President Kathy Skiles Membership

Vice-President Sage Taber

AAUW Fund Karen Francis

Public Policy Angie Janik

Members were alerted that the annual AAUW Art Contest entries are difficult to find on the national website. Members should go <https://artcontest.aauw.org>. Two branch members have entries:

Susan Fenwick submitted *Drum Bridge in Spring* and *Prairie Smoke*.

Pam Kulp submitted *Nature's Palette in Autumn* and *Paradise in Pink Impatiens*.

The November 2024 board minutes were approved.

Immediate past president and **IBC rep Sandy Brody** reported on the 5-Star award. She will ask for information from board members so she can complete the form and submit it.

Sandy stated that Catering to You, Florissant will be the location of the IBC luncheon on March 29, 2025. The fundraiser, replacing baskets, will Sheros. Participants will recognize their Sheros with a donation in their name.

Finance Officer Jean Light gave the finance report. As of January 31, there is \$28,396.07 in the Operating Fund checking account. The proceeds from a mature CD were rolled into a short-term CD. Total funds are now \$31,477.17. To date, branch income and expenses are \$7000 ahead of budget forecast (\$4000 of that is unspent scholarship monies.)

Karen Francis, AAUW Fund director, stated that the final report on giving to the national fund \$5681.20 donated by 46 members, which is 35% of members. Karen inquired if there was a branch policy that all board members should donate, because not all board members participated. This matter was briefly discussed at a prior board meeting, but no action was taken. Karen referred members to the February 7, 2025, AAUW member gathering webinar, which described everything AAUW National does for states and branches.

Public Policy Director Marian Bauer reviewed the actions of the committee in 2024–25. The goal was to keep members informed via post cards and a multi-page letter containing voting information. A table with voting information was set up at several senior communities.

Angie Janik presented information on Missouri amendments and propositions at the committee's October 15 forum at the Daniel Boone Library.

For the second semester, the committee is monitoring bills at the state capital which are against the passed propositions and amendments. On the national level, many attempted changes are leading to chaos and anxiety. The threat to the Department of Education is concerning because it oversees Title IX. Marian quoted **Gloria Blackwell: AAUW is not giving up.**

Jean Light gave the phone number of the Senate. Members may call to express concern regarding the involvement of Elon Musk and his team: 202-224-3121.

Karen Francis promoted the upcoming AAUW MO Legislative Briefing event on February 22, 9 a.m.–noon.

University Liaison Director Mary Jermak stated that Maryville University's College/University partnership expired in December 2024. She plans to investigate who is the contact on campus who would receive and authorize payment of \$250 to renew. She reminded members that branch scholarships were funded at Maryville U, only, because of the lack of response from UMSL.

Program VP Kathy Brown stated that the FBI presentation in February will be about Cybersecurity and Infrastructure. Co-vp **Marcia Block** stated that an alternate speaker is needed for the March meeting and welcomed suggestions. Alternate speakers were mentioned for March and the next year.

The program committee will hold its annual meeting after the March branch meeting. Marcia also suggested that January meetings be held via Zoom to give the option of booking a speaker out of the STL area. Carol and Sage stated that the idea is under consideration for next year.

Kathy is currently reaching out to nursing schools for next year and asked for possible contacts. On a separate matter, Marcia reported the B-C Boosters campaign has raised almost \$4000 as of the end of January.

Membership vice-president April Walgren stated that she and **Susie Teicher**, as part of a pilot program, plan to set up an AAUW informational table at the Ethical Society for the February 11 lecture. Other branches were invited to collaborate, but did not reply.

To date there are 133 B-C members, but that number is variable.

Susie spoke informally about plans for the Summer Picnic rebranded as a Happy *Renew* Year Party. Perhaps the meeting time could be a little later and members would be asked to bring a heavy appetizer to the party. Computers will be available for members to renew at that time. Carol and Sage will check on the feasibility of a later start time for July with their contact at the Ballwin Events Center.

Upcoming Dollars for Scholars events were announced.

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 at the Twin Oaks Town Hall, 1381 Big Bend Rd. Tour of the new Clark Family Library, sponsored by **Carol Anthony**, on February 21, donation \$10. Optional lunch at Plaza Frontenac.

In **Marsha Wepplemen's** extended absence, **Pat Shores** will represent her in the near term for governance.

Hospitality Director Carol Derington stated that she will not continue in the position when her term ends. **Co-chair Janet Sloey** is moving on to another position. Leadership is needed so the committee can function for the July event and the 2025–26 year.

STEM Director Marcia Block stated that the STEM Girls of Promise is booked for April 10 at Valley Park H.S. The STL Science Fair will again be virtual this year. The Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) science event will no longer occur. STEM may need a future leader.

Susie Teicher stated that the February lecture at the Ethical Society is *Water Security in a Changing World*.

Sage polled the board to learn how many tables are needed for set up at the February 13 branch meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary/Archivist Mary Jermak