

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Meeting Minutes February 13, 2025

The meeting began at 9:30 a.m. and was held via Zoom because of inclement winter weather. There were 39 members in attendance.

Co-president Carol Anthony opened the meeting with the AAUW Mission statement. She thanked hostesses for January and February. Since both meetings were via Zoom, there was no hospitality table. A few more hostesses are still needed for March and April.

Bette Bude congratulated fellow member, **Donna Ross**, also known as **Fedora Amis**. Donna has a new book coming out February 14. The title is *Vanderbilt in Peoria: A Jemmy McBustle Mystery*; it is a Victorian Whodunit with a touch of humor. You may find it on Amazon.

Co-president Sage Taber spoke about the annual IBC Luncheon, to take place on March 29. **Jan Horner** will receive the **Barbara Lackritz Award** on behalf of B-C. There is a new fundraiser at this year's event. Instead of taking chances to win a basket, the fundraiser will honor Sheros, from the past or present. Attendees may honor their Sheros with a \$40. Donation.

Finance Officer Jean Light announced that there was income of \$19721.66 and expenses of \$11,150.77 with a CD of \$3,081.10 which matures in June. The 2024-25 budget on track currently.

AAUW Fund Co-director Karen Francis thanked members for their recent donations to national. Forty-six members contributed \$5681.20, which is 34.5 percent of branch members. The donations go to the AAUW Operating Fund.

Public Policy Co-director Angie Janik stated that the committee is working to determine actions to take that relate to the AAUW Mission. She recommended that we collaborate with organizations with similar goals and follow them for information, such as LWV. The 2-Minute Activist and webinars from national are excellent. Angie highlighted the upcoming AAUW MO Legislative Briefing event on February 22 from 9 a.m.–noon. Information about state legislative activities is on the branch website and is updated each Friday afternoon prior to bills that will be in committee each Monday morning.

Program Co-VP Marcia Block spoke about next month's speaker, **Havana Watkins**, Director of Almost Home that is partially funded by the B-C Silver Anniversary Grant.

FUNdraising – Marcia Block encouraged donations to the B-C Booster campaign which runs from January-April. To date, there is \$4000 in donations with a goal of \$6000. Send your donation check to Linda Roberson.

Carol Anthony spoke about the upcoming Dollars for Scholars Clark Library Tour and urged members to sponsor more DFS events. Members can find planning packet on the branch website.

Spring Luncheon Co-chair Michele Mangnall gave details about the May 8 Spring Luncheon at Marriott West. The theme is "Dare to Color Outside the Lines." Some improvements are planned for this year's event. The social hour is from 11 a.m.–noon. The ballroom will be divided into a social

area and a dining area. This way there will be adequate seating prior to luncheon. Reservations are by \$45 check and may be made at the March and April branch meetings.

The business meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m. and resumed at 10:15 a.m.

Program Co-VP Kathy Brown introduced speaker **Carla Maley**, Director of Community Engagement for St. Martha's (formerly St. Martha's Hall.) She has advocated for survivors of intimate partner violence for 20 years in various capacities and has been recognized with several awards for her important work. Her topic was "The Impact of Domestic Violence on Our Community."

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jermak

Secretary/Archivist