

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting

March 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 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 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 Pat Shore substituting
Newsletter Editors Pat Shores
University Liaison Mary Jermak, Karen Francis
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 Carol Anthony stated that the IBC luncheon is March 29. She encouraged board members to attend the event at Catering to You in Florissant.

Carol said that the DFS tour of the Clark Family Library tour was a great experience. Eighteen people attended and Carol will organize another tour. She also told board members to correct the term Secretary Officer to Secretary/Archivist on their agendas.

Mary Kay Wolfe, co-editor of the Friday Reminder, spoke about the history and purpose of the Friday Reminder. She provided a handout (see Addendum) and asked that the term Friday Reminder be used consistently in all branch communications. The question was asked “who sends branch communications?” It was clarified that such messages must be approved by the co-presidents and then electronically distributed by **Webmaster Carolyn Brown**. Sage asked board members to change Friday Notes to Friday Reminders on their agenda.

Finance Officer Jean Light gave the finance report. As of February 28, there is \$28,688.89 in the Operating Fund checking account. The CD earned \$10.27 and is now \$3091.37. Total branch funds are \$31,780.26. Jean commented that the tour director of the Clark library tour stated that library meeting rooms are available at no cost. However, meeting rooms are booked all next year. Jean will check availability at other local libraries. Using a library meeting room has the potential to save the branch about \$2000.

Karen Francis, AAUW Fund director, encouraged all to donate to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. Donors at the \$100 level are designated as Century Club members. Donors of \$250 are Century Club Plus members. Our Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch membership number is one of only ten percent of AAUW branches. Most branches have between ten to 49 members. Ninety-six percent of the national budget is restricted, with four percent of the budget is unrestricted. Thus, the need for donations to support AAUW’s advocacy work.

Public Policy Director Marian Bauer encouraged members to be informed about legislative matters. Each week, co-director **Angie Janik** researches current legislative bills to include with the Friday Reminder. Marian stated that the legislature is considering the abortion ban– SJ33. Contact your senators to vote NO. There are threats to the initiative petition, SJR33–citizens won't have a voice. Nationally, the US Congress is in chaos with tariffs and firings. The *Save Act* will result in voter suppression. Married women will have to provide documentation of birth and a marriage license. This will be a deterrent to young married women to register and may affect 69 million women.

Program VP Kathy Brown stated that the April speaker, **Jamie Grandinette**, will speak about strategies for organizing exhibitions at the St. Louis Art Museum. **Co-Program VP Marcia Block** said that the program committee will hold its annual meeting after the March branch meeting. There was discussion about leaving a slot open in the speaker schedule to include a speaker on a timely topic/issue. Most board members seemed to think that scheduling speakers for all slots has worked for the branch. Kathy stated that four speakers have already been contacted for next year.

Membership vice-president April Walgren stated that she and **Susie Teicher**, plan to set up an AAUW informational table at the Ethical Society for the March 11 lecture. April and **Co-Membership VP Susie Teicher** spoke about plans for the Summer Picnic rebranded as a Happy *Renew* Year Party. The committee met yesterday, March 5, and will coordinate with the current **Hospitality Directors Janet Sloey** and **Carol Derington**.

Susie Teicher stated the March 11 International Relations Lecture Series speaker is **John Furland** whose topic is Modern Geo.

Sandy Brody, immediate past president, stated that the STAR award application is completed and ready to submit prior to the April 1 deadline.

Carol Anthony stated that the February DFS events were very successful. She and **Janet Sloey** mentioned doing a Tai Chi activity after each branch meeting with contributions for DFS.

Marcia Block reported that the B-C Boosters campaign has raised over \$4000. She has composed a letter to be emailed to all members to serve as a thank-you to those who have contributed and as an encouragement to those who have not yet donated.

The February 2025 board minutes were approved as written.

Hospitality Director Carol Derington stated that new hospitality chairs are needed for refreshments for next year's meetings.

Pat Shores, the NCCWSL director for IBC, stated that the event will occur May 28–29 at the same location and will continue with the same name.

Pat asked if our branch wanted to share programs with other branches and gave several examples of program sharing among branches.

Pat, who is also a member of the League of Women Voters (LWV) stated the school board election in the Rockwood School District bears watching.

University Liaison Director Mary Jermak submitted a motion as follows:

University Liaison moves that the \$4000 scholarship funds not claimed by UMSL roll over into the 2025–26 branch scholarship fund.

April Walgren seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mary said that as of now, Maryville University's College/University partnership expired in December 2024–National does not report its renewal. This, plus the lack of response from UMSL, may indicate the possibility of a change to our scholarship program, which is a tradition rather than a policy. A discussion followed which included the following points:

- Other Missouri branches award scholarships to outstanding high school students.
- High school students seek scholarships to offset high college/university fees.
- B-C gender specific criteria are not in sync with national laws. Institutions receiving federal aid cannot accept scholarships that are gender specific, resulting in a change of climate for our scholarship program.
- Could we donate our scholarship funds to National to be awarded?
- National only awards graduate grants and fellowships.
- Webster University and Washington University are C/U members or reach out to other St. Louis universities.
- Could we give scholarship funds to a university(s) and let them disburse?
- Scholarships could possibly be awarded to junior girls recognized in the STEM Girls program with three area high schools.
- We don't want to be in the position of selecting recipients.
- The branch would set criteria, but high school counselors and administrators would select.

Co-UL Director Karen Francis and Mary recommended the formation of a study group to review the issue. The group's recommendations could be implemented as timing dictates. They invited board members whose present or past positions would provide insights into branch scholarships programs/distributions: **Marian Bauer, Marcia Block, Jean Light,** and **Carol Anthony,** in addition to the two UL directors. Each accepted. Any meetings would be held on Zoom. Mary will further pursue investigating who is the Maryville staff member to authorize payment of the \$250 C/U renewal fee.

STEM Director Marcia Block invited board members to participate in the upcoming STEM Girls of Promise awards breakfasts.

Spring Luncheon Co-Director Jane Hemer stated that reservations for the May 8 event, themed *Color Outside the Lines*, will be taken at the March and April branch meetings. The cost is \$45 and it will be held at the Marriott West. Entrée choices are chicken, pasta, or salmon.

Sage asked board members how many tables are needed at the March branch meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary/Archivist Mary Jermak

Addendum

FRIDAY REMINDER REQUEST TO THE BOARD 3/3/25

The Friday Reminder editors request that the title for the Friday emails be written and referred to as *The Friday Reminder*, or *The FR*. This is the original title and denotes its purpose. The title *Friday Notes* appears in the Directory, the newsletter, the website, and is used in meetings, shifting the narrow purpose to a more expansive one.

What is the purpose of *The Friday Reminder*? The following is taken from the Job Description:

The Friday Reminder

- Recounts events for the current week already published in the newsletter and on the website,
- Makes corrections/lists time-sensitive information not published in the newsletter or the website, and
- Assures consistency of communication.

As of the 2020 COVID lock-down, the repurposed FR also

- Publishes current DFS events (two Fridays before the event or any deadline),
- Includes a recap of branch meetings,
- Includes an “Other Opportunities” section for interesting, out-of-branch offerings, and
- May include creative/historical/etc. information.