

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting

April 3, 2025

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:28 a.m. by **Co-president Sage Taber**, who was filling in for **Co-President Carol Anthony**. **Sage** 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

VP Program Kathy Brown, Marcia Block

VP Membership Susie Teicher

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

Governance – Pat Shores, substituting

Newsletter Editors Pat Shores & Joyce Katz

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/B-C Boosters Marcia Block

Co-President Sage reminded board members that end-of-year reports are due at this time. Also needed is your job description, updated as needed. She stated there are appointed director positions which need to be filled: two for hospitality, one person each for spring luncheon and university liaison, and two for winter party.

The March board meeting minutes were approved as written.

Joyce Katz, Directory, spoke to the board about the 2025–26 Directory, which will not be printed and distributed to members. Instead, each member will receive a digital copy via email. It will include links to bylaws and policies on the web. The format is 8.5”x11 and pictures will be included. Members may print their own copy. Taking photos of new members will be reinstituted. Joyce will continue to distribute the monthly database to board members.

Finance Officer Jean Light gave the finance report. As of March 31, total branch assets are \$33,144.07 which includes a CD in the amount of \$3081.10. The Finance Review Committee will meet soon: **Jean Light, Sage Taber, Carol Anthony, and Mary Jermak**

Public Policy Director Marian Bauer encouraged members to be informed about legislative matters to prepare for the April 8 election. She spoke of legislative challenges to Prop B, Amendment 3, the \$15 minimum wage, sick leave, and initiative petitions. Co Public **Policy Director Angie Janik** posts timely information on the branch website. **Karen Francis** stated that AAUW Action Alerts are a good way to make your voice heard. It is also easy to give testimony to the US House via a phone call.

Program VP Kathy Brown distributed a list of speakers from the program committee meeting after the March branch meeting. She stated that several speakers have been contacted for next year.

For planning purposes, Kathy asked Sage if the January 2026 meeting would be held via Zoom? Board members expressed a preference for an in-person meeting, so it was decided to plan for an in-person meeting and tell the speaker that Zoom may be an inclement weather option. Comments regarding the Zoom meeting were:

- There was low attendance, each month 38 approximately
- The Book Fair didn't occur
- Two months were lost for collecting items for St. Martha's Hall
- Booster Club collections didn't take place
- Better publicity is needed for branch members and IBC members.

The April branch meeting speaker is **Jamie Grandinette**, who will speak about strategies for organizing exhibitions at the St. Louis Art Museum.

Membership vice-president Susie Teicher stated that five new members would be honored at the April branch meeting and will receive a gift bag. Plans continue for the Happy *Renew* Year Party and prices are being checked.

Susie Teicher stated that the April 8 International Relations Lecture Series topic is *Food Insecurity: Hunger and Famine in the Future*.

Marcia Block reported that the B-C Boosters campaign surpassed the \$6000 goal. To date, \$6000+ in donations have been collected, including \$2000+ from the Winter Party.

STEM Director Marcia Block showed the medals to be awarded to high school STEM Girls of Promise. She invited board members to participate in the upcoming STEM Girls of Promise awards breakfasts:

April 10 at Valley Park HS, April 18 at Maplewood Richmond Heights, and
April 22 at Pattonville HS.

Please contact Barb McQuitty to donate breakfast items for the events.

In addition, letters are sent to senior girls who received this honor as a junior and to wish them well in college and offer timely suggestions as they start colleg. The St. Louis Science Fair continues as an e-event. Branch judges will select two girls with outstanding projects. Each will receive \$100 to their MOST account.

Janet Sloey said that there will be a Tai Chi activity after the April branch meeting with free-will contributions accepted for DFS.

Spring Luncheon Co-Director Jane Hemer stated that reservations for the May 8 event, themed *Color Outside the Lines*, will continue at the April branch meeting. To date, there are 48 reservations. The cost is \$45, and it will be held at the Marriott West.

Hospitality Director Carol Derington asked how refreshments should be handled for the September branch meeting (formerly the Fall Brunch). New hospitality chairs are needed to oversee refreshments for next year's meetings. The chairs would seek volunteers for monthly branch meetings and organize the buffet table. A general discussion followed about past September hospitality and options for this year.

Mary Jermak recommended that for September hospitality, each current and incoming board member donate \$10 with the remaining expense covered by the Operating Fund. Refreshments would include bagels and cream cheese, donuts, fruit and coffee. The board unanimously approved the motion. **Sage Taber** seconded the motion.

Pat Shores and **Marian Bauer** volunteered to coordinate the September refreshments.

Karen Francis stated that if no one fills the co-chairs positions there would be no refreshments at subsequent meetings.

University Liaison Director Mary Jermak reported on behalf of the Scholarship Study Group comprised of herself, **Karen Francis, Carol Anthony, Marian Bauer, Marcia Block, and Jean Light**. FO Jean confirmed that there are sufficient funds in the 2025–26 Operating Funds to award four \$2000 scholarships. Since Maryville University has renewed their College/University partnership, we seek to award scholarships at another university. **UMSL, Harris Stowe State College, Webster University** and **Washington University** were discussed. The latter two are C/U partners. **Karen Francis** volunteered to contact an UMSL Student Aid Director and was successful. UMSL was given a deadline of April 15 to identify two scholarship students. The board discussed the requirement of a university being an AAUW partner and other scholarship criteria.

The committee submitted this motion to the board (seconded by **Marcia Block**).

The B-C Scholarship Study Group recommends the following updates to scholarship criteria:

- The college/university need not be an AAUW C/U partner
- Scholarship recipients should be at least five years post-high school
- Awardees should maintain a 3.2, or higher, GPA
- It is preferred that a scholarship recipient is a junior or senior (close to completing studies and starting a career)
- It is preferred that a scholarship recipient be pursuing studies in STEM
- Females are preferred in keeping with AAUW's Mission: AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

The motion passed unanimously.

Pat Shores, the NCCWSL director for IBC, stated that the event will occur May 28–29 at the same location and continue under the same name. One or two students from Webster University are expected to attend supported by IBC.

Karen Francis reminded us to look for a voting email from AAUW on April 14.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary/Archivist Mary Jermak

