

September 11, 2025, Branch Meeting Minutes
2025 Branch Kick Off Event

As members arrived, they were invited to enjoy the breakfast snack buffet, to socialize, and to visit the sign-up table for opportunities to be involved on branch committees and activities.

Co-president Carol Anthony called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. with the recitation of the AAUW Mission statement. She thanked **Pat Shores, Marian Bauer**, and their committee for the delicious buffet.

Co-president Janet Sloey remarked that this was the 24th anniversary of 911. She led members in a moment of silence. In addition, she asked for the approval of the minutes for the April 2025 branch meeting. The minutes were approved as written.

Janet stated that there was a STEM zoom meeting recently to consider ways to re-organize STEM.

AAUW MO STEM Chair Pam Kulp shared ideas. Please see her display and take the opportunity to sign up to participate.

Finance Officer Jean Light stated that the Operating Fund is at \$31,717.84 and our CD is valued at \$3162.18. The balance of the Operating Fund is \$34,880.02.

Program VP Marcia Block announced that the October programs features **Chris Krehmeyer** on the topic Beyond Housing.

Membership VP April Walgren said there are no guests today – 66 members attended today's event.

Public Policy Director Marian Bauer spoke on behalf of the public policy committee. She stated present concerns from Jeff City include redistricting, the initiative petition, Amendment 3, and Proposition A. Amendment 3 is in the courts, and the legislature has gutted Proposition A. Missourians have had the right to voice their opinion for over one hundred years through the initiative petition process. Call your elected representatives. New members are welcome to join the public policy committee.

Carol Anthony stated that FUNraising includes the Dollars for Scholars Program, now under the leadership of the presidents. Carol and Janet are asking for a think tank for fundraising. There will be a zoom call later in September.

Upcoming DFS events were highlighted:

- **Janet Sloey** will hold a Tai Chi exercise after today's meeting. Five dollars is the requested donation.
- Signups are available for the Ulysses Grant tour on October 10, donation \$15.
- **Marcia Block** reported that Loopy, scheduled for October 3, is almost full. There is a waitlist.
- **Pat Shores** and **Michele Mangnall** stated that the ER Walk will be Wednesday, September 24 at 9:30 a.m. All donations go to DFS. This event was the largest DFS fundraiser for the branch in 2024 raising \$1245.

AAUW Fund Director Karen Francis promoted the AAUW Fund Greatest Need Fund and the newly added Defend Higher Education and Public Policy Funds. Her comments were as follows:

- B-C is one of 10 percent of branches with membership of one hundred or more members.
- Ninety-six percent of AAUW's budget is restricted.
- Year-to-date branch donations to national total \$1106.
- Please donate to one of AAUW's Funds.
- AAUW fights for women's economic security.

Karen encouraged all to attend AAUW's Member Gathering on September 18 online.

Joyce Katz announced that members received a digital copy of the B-C 2025–26 branch Directory. If you want a printed copy, it is \$7 by check. Deadline to request this is October 1.

Carol engaged the group in an AAUW B-C crossword puzzle. Puzzle answers were AAUW and branch items. Goal: finish first.

Gloria Campion and **Mary Jermak** finished first, soon followed by **Sage Taber** and **April Walgren**. Winners at each table were rewarded with gourmet cupcakes.

Representatives of the interest groups spoke briefly.

- **Alice Crippen** –Literature I meets on the third Thursday in group members' homes.
- **Erlaine Eltomi** – Literature II meets on the fourth Monday at the Hearth Room.
- **Barb McQuitty** represented Out to Lunch, which meets at various restaurants on the third Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. She described the process involved with restaurants and managing the group to interest another member to help co-ordinate.
- **Pat Shores** represented Munching Matters, which started in 2017. Meetings feature a branch member speaker. It meets at the Hearth Room, January through April.
- **Marcia Block** stated that the Reading Reality Non-fiction group meets on the second Tuesday at 1 p.m. in members' homes.
- **Ellen Friedman** spoke about the social bridge group, which currently has two tables and would like to add a third table. Members were encouraged to sign up to play or to sub. This group meets on the third Monday in the Hearth Room.
- **Ann Riley** spoke for Movie Group chaired by herself and **Mersine Kallaos**. The group meets on 4th Thursday at 11 a.m. in a local restaurant. New members are welcome.
- The Walking group, represented by **Michele Mangnall**, meets on the fourth Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. from April through October in different county parks.
- **Linda Roberson** chairs the Book Sale. Monthly volunteers now organize the book sale.

Janet Sloey said new sign holders have been ordered. Please return sign holders to Janet when done using them.

Marcia Block asked those who want to work on the Winter Party meet after the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jermak for

Kathy Lask, Secretary/Archivist