

**AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting Minutes  
West County EMS & Fire House, 223 Henry Avenue, Manchester, MO**

**November 6, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by **Co-President, Carol Anthony** who mentioned Kathy Lask's absence and plans to use AI for notetaking during all meetings. She read the AAUW mission statement and shared a thank you note received from St. Martha's, expressing appreciation for the organization's support.

**Board Members in Attendance: 13 Total**

**Co-Presidents** Carol Anthony and Janet Sloey, **Public Policy**, Marian Bauer, **VP Program**, Marcia Block and Kathy Skiles, **Governance**, Pat Shores, **VP Membership**, April Walgren, **University Liaison**, Mary Jermak, **Webmaster**, Carolyn Brown, **Hospitality**, Cay Noble and Elaine Frost, **Summer Event**, Erlaine Eltomi, and **Spring Luncheon**, Michele Mangnall.

**Co-President, Janet Sloey** asked the board approval of the October 2025 board meeting minutes. They stand without corrections. She also announced the nominating committee, composed of Betty Bude, Marge Anderson, and Marcia Block, and requested additional volunteers to assist with the selection process.

**Jean Light, Finance Officer**, reported the current financial status, noting a total of \$30,681.46, including \$27,508.69 in the checking account and \$3,172.77 in a CD.

**Marcia Block, VP Program**, shared her experience with a canceled speaker engagement, highlighting the importance of communication and the potential impact of a speaker's absence on event success. She then announced that Joe Regenbogen will speak next week about public policy and international affairs, highlighting his previous positive experiences with the group. She encouraged members to contribute ideas for future speakers and mentioned that they are already working on next year's program.

**April Walgren, VP Membership**, discussed a webinar on November 19th about membership recruitment best practices and encouraged members to register.

**Marian Baur, AAUW FUND**, mentioned that she would be handling the AAUW Fund collection next week and updated **Karen Francis's** recovery from a fall. She discussed several key topics, including the People Not Politicians petition which has gathered 200,000 signatures in Missouri, though the Secretary of State is attempting to limit the number of valid signatures. She reported that AAUW Missouri has contributed \$1,000 to support the petition effort, which is facing three lawsuits. The group will continue collecting signatures at branch meetings. She also mentioned an upcoming documentary, "The Librarians" in which librarians emerge as first responders in the fight for democracy and our First Amendment Rights. It is playing at the Hi-Pointe and available on PBS. Marian highlighted AAUW National's increased focus on webinars, including one this evening about coalition building.

**Co-President, Janet Sloey**, reported on the FUNdraising survey, where members expressed a preference for smaller events despite being willing to help with larger events, and explored the possibility of organizing a game day event to raise funds for scholarships.

**Marcia Block** discussed the **Winter Party** planning, noting that she would reach out to previous volunteers and last year's participants to confirm their involvement. **Erlaine Eltomi** gave details on **Elegant Edibles** which will be available at the Winter Party.

**Co-President, Carol Anthony** proposed enhancing the DFS Honor Roll by increasing its visibility on the website and through certificates. **Marian Baur** suggested it be used to honor long-time members like Julie Triplett. **Mary Jermak** emphasized the need for the board to lead by example and consider initiatives that recognize achievements and milestones.

**Co-President, Carol Anthony** discussed the status of STEM initiatives. A STEM representative will attend the board meeting when there is news to share.

**Mary Jermak, University Liaison**, reported challenges in communication with UMSL and proposed reaching out to Webster University to offer scholarships for two students in the spring semester. The group considered exploring opportunities with Harris Stowe University, though there are concerns about its accreditation status.

**Carolyn Brown, Web Manager Director**, talked about streaming branch meetings to accommodate members who cannot attend in person. She explored options for storing videos and photos using Google Workspace. Carolyn offered to send out a Zoom link ahead of the branch meeting to members.

**Co-President, Carol Anthony** mentioned the updated Degree Equivalency Policy from AAUW National, noting its strict requirements

**Marcia Block** announced that the nominating committee is actively recruiting candidates for various offices, aiming to finalize a slate by the end of the year.

**Erlaine Eltomi, Summer Event**, provided an update on a potential July event at Chandler Hill, where Barbara Bouchart agreed to co-chair. She shared details about the proposed buffet menu and concerns regarding the cost and wine package requirement, which could be a deal-breaker for some attendees.

**Co-President, Carol Anthony**, adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.