

January 8, 2026 AAUW Branch Meeting Minutes

*See bottom for video link.

There were 36 members in attendance.

Co-President, Carol Anthony, called the meeting to order and read the AAUW mission statement. The Winter Party Committee, led by Marcia Block and Kathy Lask, was acknowledged for their successful December event. **Co-**

President, Janet Sloey, requested approval of the November branch meeting minutes, which were assumed to be approved as written.

Treasurer, Jean Light, reported the branch's financial status, including a checking account balance of \$30,342.84 and total assets of \$33,534.83 as of December 31st. The branch decided to roll over \$4,000 that was not given as a scholarship this year for potential use in next year's scholarships.

Program Vice-President, Marcia Block, provided a program report, introducing the upcoming speaker Emeara Burns from Story Stitchers and mentioning the next month's speaker Sarah Ruiz from ASHRAE Foundation, who will discuss photo ID access and economic justice issues. The program committee plans to meet in March to gather suggestions and feedback for the following year's speakers.

Karen Francis, AAUW Fund reported over \$2,800 in donations through November, with \$1,395 from 17 people in December, though they may not meet the benchmarks for a 5-star branch status.

Membership Vice-President, Sage Taber, announced the IBC Spring Luncheon will be held on March 28th at the Racquet Club Ladue, with tickets priced at \$45 with details to follow at a later date.

Public Policy, Angela Janik, presented updates on Missouri's legislative session, including key dates, upcoming amendments, and the status of H.R.1, which is currently awaiting court rulings. Angela explained changes to voter registration and voter ID requirements in Missouri, noting that organizations will no longer be able to pay staff to register voters, and registrations must be submitted by Election Day to be counted. She mentioned an upcoming PBS documentary about Missouri Supreme Court female justices titled "Not in Our Wildest Dreams", scheduled for Monday at 7pm.

Co-President, Janet Sloey, reported on a game day fundraising event with 13 reserved tables, which could expand to accommodate more participants, and discussed plans for raffles and other prizes. **Co-President, Carol Anthony**, mentioned that 52 people have already signed up for the event, with the possibility of using a larger space if more people attend.

Program Vice- President, Marcia Block, discussed the success of Winter Party holiday event, which had 78 attendees and generated over \$2,000 in profit, exceeding the budget by almost \$1,000. Marcia announced plans to find new volunteers for next year's winter party, as she and others are looking for fresh ideas to keep the event engaging.

Co-President, Carol Anthony, reported that \$1,694 had been collected for B-C Boosters so far. This is a branch fund used for expenses.

Linda Roberson will display a poster at the next meeting showing the different giving levels. The group agreed to take a 10-minute break before resuming the main presentation.

Youth Creative Development Program Presentation (Video Link - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RnoL1qjTvbMIAVhXZaQDdig8a_XeltJO/view)

Emeara Burns presented on **Story Stitchers**, a St. Louis-based organization that uses creative youth development to prevent youth involvement in gangs and violence. She explained how the program started 11 years ago and described their various offerings including Peace in the Prairie, podcast workshops, public performances, and visual arts initiatives. The organization receives funding through grants and individual donations, and serves youth aged 16-25 in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Marcia and other attendees asked questions about the program's funding, visual arts components, and youth selection process, with Emeara providing detailed responses about their grant-based funding model and their focus on providing safe spaces for creative expression.

Submitted by Carol Anthony