

AAUW MISSOURI STATE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SATURDAY, October 31, 2015
ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI

List of Attendees:

Board Members: Sue Barley (via FaceTime) Linda Berube, Patt Braley, Shirley Breeze, Suzanne Couch, Karen Francis, Ellen Johnson, Joyce Katz, Pam Kulp, Diane Ludwig, Carol Davis McDonald, Yvonne Morrison, Doris Nistler, Ardy Pearson, Jan Scott, Pat Shores, Nicky Stanke, Alyse Stoll, Betty Takahaski, and Julie Triplett.

Also present, Mark Hopkins, Chief Strategy Officer, AAUW National Headquarters.

Call to Order:

AAUW Missouri State Board Meeting was called to order by President Diane B. Ludwig at 8:40 a.m. at Whitmoor Country Club, St. Charles, Missouri. Her inclusion was, "How do you unplug?"

Welcome: Diane welcomed new Board member, Carol Davis McDonald, Newsletter Editor, and guest Mark Hopkins.

Quorum: Linda Berube reported 9 of 10 voting positions were represented, which is a quorum, 20 Board members, one via Facebook, one guest, with a total of 21 present.

Readers: Diane appointed Nicky Stanke and Julie Triplett as readers for today's Board Minutes.

Mark Hopkins: Diane introduced today's guest, Mark Hopkins, who is present today to speak about AAUW Fund, Start Smart and Work Smart in the afternoon Fall Focus session.

Mark thanked Yvonne Morrison for suggesting him as today's speaker. He briefly discussed the AAUW building in Washington D.C, which has become in need of renovation or replacement. New office space has been leased in Washington DC and AAUW headquarters will move next June. He also gave an overview of Start Smart and Work Smart programs, answering questions from Board members. AAUW has set a goal of training 100,000 women in the next five years. He will more thoroughly discuss these programs this afternoon.

President's Report: Diane B. Ludwig – State Directories were mailed out in mid-October. Diane circulated a copy of the Directory requesting members review and note corrections or changes on the Master copy. Bylaws are not included because of the impending revisions to proposed Model Bylaws sent by National. The Star Award did have a few adjustments. Several things we want to consider today in addition to our consideration of participation in Start Smart, or Work Smart: State Meeting coming up in April, and funding option for that; Ardy will talk about finalizing the Richardson Fund and do a Board Campaign today; Patt will report from the task Force on Board Restructuring; and Karen and Pat will discuss Public Policy and getting ready for election year with the Get Out The Vote (GOTV) campaign.

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Secretary's Report/Approval of July 18, 2015 Minutes: Doris Nistler – Doris noted that the minutes of July 18, 2015, Board meeting were electronically distributed to all Board members prior to the meeting. There being no changes or corrections, Jan moved, 2nd by Pat that minutes of 7-18-15 be approved. Motion carried.

Finance Officer Report: Ellen Johnson – Ellen distributed June and September reports. Ellen will email reports to Julie for distribution, and to Secretary who will attach them to today's minutes. Contingency Fund is \$12,593.45. Last year we had \$7,400 expenses on income of \$12,789, and 1st quarter of this year spent \$2381, of which \$1500 went for deposits for April 2016 state meeting. No questions on reports dated 6-30-15 or 9-30-15. Jan moved 2nd by Nicky that financial reports be accepted for annual review later. Motion carried. Linda Berube will do a financial review of the books. Linda Berube also suggested the financial reports be sent out in advance of the meeting.

Program VP Report: Nicky Stanke – Nicky thanked Diane for guidance on the annual state program. Nicky, Ellen and Diane made a site visit to Doubletree by Hilton, Jefferson City location. Nice facility – and will meet our needs. Contract was signed and deposit paid. Board meeting and dinner will be Friday night and conference will be Saturday. Due to costs, the two day session originally planned cannot be held. The portion on cost of the Board meeting and dinner will be out of a different fund. 12 guest rooms (double double) are reserved at \$104 per night. Minimum for the room rental and food is \$5000 for the Saturday with 65 expected paid registrations, 65 expected for lunch and 50 for continental breakfast. Taking nothing from contingency, the charge would be \$77/per person.

Julie asked whether amounts included extras, such as guest speakers, AV charges or other costs. Taking \$1500 from contingency takes registration to \$54.00. Suggestion was made to make this figure \$60.00 to cover extras. 63 people attended last year's state meeting, including guest speakers.

Motion by Pat, to move \$1500 from contingency fund, to help pay for registration/conference expenses. Motion carried. Julie moved that the registration fee be \$60.00 instead of \$54 in order to cover extra expenses. Motion carried.

Suggestions from the Board on programming included training such for Start Smart, Work Smart, and Get out the Vote. Julie suggested speaker from AAUW National, Patricia Ho, our national board chair (president). Diane suggested this discussion be saved for the January 2016 meeting. Mark advised us to request a staff member immediately as they will be in great demand during April.

Membership VP Report: Sue Barley (via computer/FaceTime) – Sue referred to her report of 10-25-15, and attachment which contains list of branches, number of members of each branch as of 2-2-15 and 10-21-15 and number of members in each branch who have not renewed.

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Branches need to contact those members who have not renewed. These members will be removed from the AAUW branch rosters on November 30, 2015. Total AAUW MO membership as of 10-21-15 is 738 branch members and 427 national members.

2016 Midwest Regional Conference Update: Shirley Breeze - Regional is June 3 - 4 2016 in Kansas City, Kansas. 10 States are coming to this conference which will be held at The Great Wolf Lodge, Kansas City. Need to discuss potential speakers so the speakers do not overlap with the MO State Convention. She distributed brochure on Great Wolf Lodge. Regional doesn't want to take from National, but this offers members an additional conference as a supplement to National conference.

AAUW Updates – Shirley distributed an updated AAUW Calendar, flyer on Maya Angelou bust for Hall of Famous Missourians and several other documents on AAUW issues. Please send email to Speaker of the House that you want Maya Angelou to be next bust in the Hall of Famous Missourians. House Speaker not determined yet, but this is who selects the Bust.

Governance/Bylaws Report: Patt Braley

Board Structure Task Force: Patt reported on the Board Structure Task Force. She thanked members on the committee. They had many ideas and considerations. They tried to take a look at all suggestions. Committee discussed what would work, or not, and Patt had a telephone conversation with Jill Birdwhistle, national AAUW COO. Final recommendation is that at this time, we make no major changes to our Board structure or voting privileges. Diane thanked the Task Force. Members were Linda Berube, Joyce Katz, Ardy Pearson and Jan Scott.

Bylaws Changes: National Bylaws changes were approved at the 2015 convention and were sent to all Missouri branch presidents and/or bylaws chairs. However, there are some challenges at the national level that are complicating the required updates. Diane and Patt are recommending that Missouri branches wait until these changes and wordings are clarified by the national organization. At that time, Patt will be available to assist branches in updating all branch bylaws. The deadline for all mandatory updates is May 15, 2016. With branch and state cooperation and action, we will be able to meet that deadline. (Note: AAUW-MO Bylaws are available on our website.)

Diane noted that the proposed bylaws changes were not in the State Directory. Neither Bylaws nor Policy were included due to expenses and need to revise them shortly. Policy is operating guidelines and can be changed if needed. Sue noted that the MO Policies were updated July 2014. Sue has asked for one slight addition and policies will be amended to correct omission in the job description of Membership VP. Diane asked that all board members review their position job description and advise any changes or corrections prior to January Board meeting, and send corrections to Julie, Communications Chair, for distribution before the January 30, 2016, meeting.

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AAUW Funds Report: Yvonne Morrison - Total contribution for Missouri State and branches for third quarter was \$34,398.95, as compared to total contribution for Missouri State and branches for last year, 2014, which was \$38,024.38. Still have one quarter to go for 2015 total. 16 branches have sent in contributions. Also received contributions from the disbanded branches of Warrensburg & Northern Clay County.

Richardson Fund Update: Ardy Pearson - Initially \$35,000 was needed to complete the Research and Project Fund. Including the \$2500 from the Ballwin/Chesterfield branch, the amount needed to complete the Fund is now **\$1,746.19**. B/C has another collection coming up in November and the St. Charles Branch has an auction coming up and will contribute money from that event. With the Board Campaign today, Board members may choose to make a pledge or gift in order to help finish the Fund. Rebecca Richardson, Elaine's daughter, said that some relatives might like to donate, but Ardy has heard nothing definite from her.

Ardy then conducted the Board Campaign via pledge forms and envelopes. She later announced, "WE PLEDGED \$1,000 TODAY! We only have \$746.19 to go. Ballwin/Chesterfield has another event as does St. Charles – so we can safely say by end of this calendar year we will have closed the books on the Richardson Fund and it can finally be awarded to someone." Since each branch, B/C and St. Charles, is going to donate to the Fund, it was recommended that each branch contribute \$500 to avoid too much excess in the Fund.

Diane thanked Ardy and all the board for their wonderful support in completing the Richardson Fund – and finishing it 6 months ahead of time! Now need to let all other branches know that the goal has been met to avoid overfunding. We can decide on the January board meeting call what we want the April auction to be for since it will not be needed for the Richardson Fund.

Public Policy: Karen Francis and Pat Shores. Pat and other Public Policy Chairs have been on two state calls with Kate Neilson, on-staff attorney, National level. She assists in tracking legislation and advising about legislation at the national level. There will be a Federal ERA Bill, but not in Missouri, because of equal pay bill at the Federal level.

Pat noted that there is a new state trend; bills are being passed that say bills at local level will be overturned. Public Policy chairs will be working two primary areas - Pay Equity and Campus Sexual Assault. They heard Aaron Kennedy, talk about COSM, which is a tool for tracking state legislation and they will be trained on this. State NET also tracks state legislation. This information, along with other relevant information is being distributed and handed out at the meeting for board members to take to their branches. (info packets handed-out at today's meeting). Big push is going to be Get Out The Vote (GOTV). We work both sides, with no lines drawn on political affiliations; we need to work on the issues.

Legislative issues – Karen highlighted different tools at National level – like the legislative tracking. The focus is for us to decide what bills we want to push and what we want to oppose.

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Focus is going to be legislation review and a big push for Equity Action Day, April 12, 2016. We will be working with other like-minded organizations, such as League of Women Voters, YWCA, NOW, and Women's Political caucus. We will have a legislative briefing and then discuss specific lobby talking points and then visit our legislators.

On the April Rally, – we do have the steps reserved that overlook the MO River for the Rally. We are trying to respect the time so as not to create conflict with legislative speakers. At this time we are not sure who our rally speaker will be.

Shirley noted a briefing room has been reserved – house room #2 – if someone more important comes along, they could take it away. Need help from all. This forum started with Holly Burgess five years ago - push this in memory of Holly. Important thing is change in legislation.

Diane added that AAUW Columbia Branch is doing the first Holly Burgess Public Policy Forum on November 7, 2015 from 2:00-4:00 in Columbia. Speakers will be Nicole Galloway, MO State Auditor, Margo McNeil, State Rep Dist 69, and Janet M. Thompson, Dist II Commissioner. This information needs to be pushed at State level, flyers were distributed to all branches.

Karen's next issue was a letter Pat and Karen sent to Branches about what National is doing on Planned Parenthood. There is a disparity between numbers of women reporting sexual assaults on campus, (1 in 5) vs. small percentages of college authorities who believe sexual assaults on campus is a concern.

Karen and Pat, also members of League of Women Voters, saw the movie, **Suffragettes**, which is being promoted nationally. It opens in St. Louis Friday and covers the suffragette movement in England. AAUW is promoting it nationally. Excellent movie and telling of the story.

Communications Report: Julie Triplett - Julie called attention to conference calls from National that you are invited to participate in. There were two this fall. One was an interesting wrap up of what had happened in the U.S. Supreme court and the 2nd one was a prediction on what might happen where all our favorite things are in jeopardy. You do not have to be with anyone, but can participate by yourself at home. She also heard that the Sorority Council and Frat group are opposing Clare McCaskill's proposal on Campus sexual harassment.

On local news, John Diehl's office will be up for election. Going to be interesting if a democrat is going to run against the Republican taking John Diehl's office. This is District 89, watch it and see what happens.

Website Manager: Joyce Katz – She is still posting information on Jill Schup & Claire McCaskill on legislative issues. She also posts a running calendar that tells about AAUW activities. If any board member has any additions let her know. She also has all the Missouri Legacy Circle members and their branches listed.

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Newsletter Editor: Carol Davis McDonald - Except for a few changes, Fall issue is ready and will be sent once final updates from board meeting are included. Diane requested that a photo be taken of all the Board members for Winter newsletter to be a cover photo as a celebration shot for completing the Richardson Fund. (Photo was taken at end of Board meeting).

Branch Incentive Program Report: Pam Kulp and Alyse Stoll – There have been no applications for 2015-2016 as of October 26, 2015. Propose changing application form to make it simpler and easier for branches to complete, with a change in deadline dates. One proposed change is requesting potential applicants write a 4-5 sentence paragraph explaining what they would like to accomplish with a grant. After approval, ask applicants to complete application adding more detail. Also suggested is changing deadline dates, using dates of November 1, March 1, and July 1, Board input requested. A revised proposed application will be ready for Board to look at by January meeting.

Diane asked for discussion on use of Incentive Grant money for “travelships” as we need to get people to our April conference. The money is there, \$6000 MO reserve. But there is a restriction in our policy. Peg Witt Fund was originally setup for branches to have seed money to create things and sell them for money to send to national AAUW Educational Foundation. Times have changed, but the donor’s intent should be respected.

Our financial year is July 1 to June 30. Need to change our policy and deadlines on the applications. Using figure of \$775 from fund, we can do 12 registrations at \$60.00 each. Consider deadlines for applying March 1, November 1 and July 1. We will get this information in our newsletter and also written up to branch presidents, so branches are aware of availability and deadlines for applying.

President Elect: Jan Scott – Woman of Distinction to be awarded in 2016. List of those who have received it is in the directory. There is a nomination process.

College/University Relations Report: Mary Emily Kitterman – absent. Deb McWard, committee member, will be here this afternoon to hear about Start Smart and Work Smart.

MO History Day Report: Betty Takahashi - Missouri History Day is April 30, 2016 (the same day as our State Meeting). Topic is Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange in History. Board should let her know if any want to be a judge.

Kansas City IBC – Winnie Weinrich, absent - Ellen Johnson reported the Reentry Scholarship Award Brunch is scheduled for April 23rd.

St. Louis IBC: Jan Scott - Current focus is Spring Fling event, March 12, 2016. Sweet Adeline’s (singing group) will be featured. Have new C/U rep from UMSL – Lynn Boss, she joined and will be here today for Fall Focus session.

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Past President: Linda Berube – She is on the National AAUW Branch Resource Committee and they have had 2 conference calls dealing with states and will contact branch presidents on programs and issues. She has 7 states she will be contacting. Also, she will be talking to Nicky. If anyone has ideas on how national could help branches better in program planning, let her know and also contact her about branch program resources at the National level.

Mark noted that a Diversity Tool Kit is in final development for branches. Diane asked Mark about programming on Start Smart and Work Smart and he indicated there were programs available.

Administrative Assistant: Suzanne Couch – Diane thanked Suzanne for her work with Whitmoor Country Club and our Ballwin/Chesterfield member, Barbara Butchart. Through Barbara's efforts we were able to use this facility.

OLD BUSINESS

Nominating committee: Linda Berube – Members are listed in State Directory. Linda noted there are two offices open on board for next biennium, Membership VP and Finance Officer.

NEW BUSINESS

Pam Kulp asked if there was anything being done about starting a new fund like the Richardson Fund, and are there any other funds that need to be completed?

Mark indicated that he does not believe there are any other incomplete funds in Missouri, but branches can make funds for any purpose they want. There are lots of other ways, such as a memorial fund in memory of a deceased member. Right now, National is prompting funds for unrestricted use.

With no further business, Diane adjourned meeting at 11:31 a.m.

Doris Nistler,
AAUW Missouri Board Secretary

