**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN**

**METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS INTERBRANCH COUNCIL**

**stlouis-ibc.aauw.net**

**February 23, 2021, via Zoom**

Attendance – Names in Bold are Voting Members

**IBC Chairs**

Co-Chair Barbara Johnson (KWG)

Co-Chair Deb McWard (KWG)

Secretary Marsha Koch (KWG)

Finance Chair Carol Davis McDonald (KWG)

**State Positions**

Membership VP Lynne Roney (KWG)

Public Policy Chair Karen Francis (BC)

**Ballwin-Chesterfield (BC)**

Co-President **Jan Horner**

Program VP **Yvonne Ward (1/2)**

Program VP **Carol Anthony (1/2)**

Finance Officer **Pat Shores**

Member-at-Large **Jean Elliott**

**Ferguson-Florissant (FF)**

Co-President

Co-President **Pam Meyers**

Program VP **Shirley Breeze**

Newsltr Editor

**Kirkwood-Webster Groves (KWG)**

Co-President **Eugenia Webdell**

Co-President **Chris Nobbe**

Program VP **Kay Meyer**

Membership VP **Deb McWard**

**St. Charles (STC)**

President **Betty Takahashi**

Member-at-Large **Teri Brecht**

Director **RoseAnn Weeks**

**St. Louis (STL)**

Co-President **Ellen Irons**

Membership VP **Carol Davis McDonald**

Member-at-Large **Jan Scott**

Rose Ann Weeks is replacing Grace Poertner as a representative of St. Charles branch.

Approval of November 24 Minutes

Corrections: The name of the film is “The Octopus Teacher” and “Dilemma” has two m’s.

**MOTION** by Jean Elliott and seconded by Kay Meyer that “we accept the minutes as corrected.”

**CARRIED.**

Financial Report: Carol Davis McDonald

Carol reported that there have been no changes in the financial picture.

Branch Program Sharing: Deb McWard

BC: Their February program was Shawntelle L. Fisher, Founder/CEO SoulFisher Ministries, about “Life After Lock-Up: The Reality of Re-Entry.” Because BC received National’s Five-Star Award, they had a private Zoom meeting with Kim Churches.

FF: Daniel Shavers, an instrumental teacher in University City schools, and Jeanine York Garesche, a private clarinet teacher and professional musician, shared the challenges and successes they have experienced during COVID. Several members from other branches attended. FF is working on membership, with Karen Francis as C/U chair, and Lisa Taylor has been active with Public Policy and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion scheduling quarterly events utilizing the new National toolkit.

KWG: KWG will award two STEM scholarships to high school senior women pursuing STEM careers. A group of members attended the suffragist display at the MO Historical Museum in December.

STC: They have not been having Zoom meetings because not enough members were interested in doing a program virtually. Teri reminded everyone to vote for members with artwork in National’s Art Contest. Since 1994 STC has been holding an award event to honor young women who are graduating from our local high schools who excel in science and math. Each girl is given a STEM certificate, and those who are awarded scholarships are given a special packet. Last year they had 50 applicants.

STL: Ellen reported that their movie club has been drawing 9-10 people each outing. Sue Barley invited them to her Naples, FL, branch program to see Rigged and then discuss it. At their last meeting Sue did a presentation on the proposed Bylaws change. The Girls Scouts are interested in creating a program around STL’s “250 Notable Women in St. Louis.“ Ellen was also contacted six weeks ago by Buder Library’s manager to do a program on the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment.

2021 Spring Fling: Deb McWard

There will be a dress rehearsal for Spring Fling this Saturday, March 6, at 10 am. Deb asked for the names of guests so that they can be introduced. Deb clarified that IBC raises money to support the International Relations Lecture Series, an ad in the Women’s Yellow Pages, deposit money for Spring Fling, projects such as the bookmarks listing all branches, and sending students to NCCWSL. At the end of the event, we will gather past Barbara Lackritz awardees into one meeting room to take screen shots.

Jean Elliot said that in this year’s raffle, a person can only win once.

About March 1 branch presidents will be receiving a flyer about Spring Fling. The program and handouts will be sent to attendees prior to the meeting. About March 10 the link to the Zoom event will be sent to branch members. March 8 is the deadline for purchasing raffle tickets.

Pat Shores reported that she has a scrapbook full of pictures from every Barb Lackritz event.

AAUW MO Program VP Lynne Roney reminded us that April 1 is the deadline for submitting Star Award applications and to contact her if there are any questions.

NCCWSL Update: Deb McWard

Deb would like the name of one person from each branch to serve on a committee to develop a contingency plan should there be a last-minute cancellation. Members can make donations to IBC. Karen Francis reported that National sent NCCWSL invites to partner Universities; NCCWSL will be virtual and cost $95. Karen and Deb met with reps at Washington University and UMSL. WashU is asking students to apply for a scholarship and to attend through their scholarship programs. If a student applies for a scholarship and does not get it, they will be advised by National to contact their local and state AAUW for financial assistance. Could IBC sponsor more students if we are approached? The consensus was “Yes.”

Women’s March: Karen Francis

In the past, Karen and Jean Elliott represented AAUW at a table in the tabling event at a sponsorship cost of $250. There will be no tabling event this year. Does IBC want to sponsor the March by making a contribution?

**MOTION** by Jeanne Webdell and seconded by Betty Takahashi “that we donate $150 to the Women’s March.”

**CARRIED.**

Karen will contact the Women’s March to tell them about our donation and be sure we are listed on the program.

Need one person from each branch to be on the Barb Lackritz selection committee. Lillian Boly has one more year as the FF representative. Kay Meyer will represent KWG.

Deb McWard asked if we should continue to meet at night [versus daytime]. Jean Elliott likes the idea of Zooming every meeting, but Jeanne Webdell and Ellen Irons believe we should meet in person at least half of the meetings. There was no decision made at this time.

When we can meet in person again, the Diversity Book Group will be revived.

Follow Up on Centennial Celebration: Ellen Irons

Ellen Irons and Lynne Roney will be planning an event to be held on August 26 that will include a panel discussion. Ellen mentioned that there is work being done to add plaques on a trail across the country to designate

New Business and Announcements

Carol Davis-McDonald asked about the suggested project to actively seek women for vacant positions on boards. The consensus was that this may be too much for IBC to take on this year.

Karen Francis told us that AAUW’s Robin Lucas, Grassroots Advocacy Manager, is a speaker at the Women’s Voices Raised for Social Justice program on Thursday, March 11, at 7 pm. The program is titled, “What Would You Do with $250,000+? Diversity, the Gender Pay Gap, and You. Karen was instrumental in securing her for the event.

Kay Meyer asked everyone to be sure their members are encouraged to vote **for** the AAUW Bylaws change. Voting begins April 7. We want our organization to be inclusive of all women.

The state meeting will also focus on passing this Bylaw change. Jeanne Latz, National board director, will speak to this at the state meeting. Members can wait to vote until after they have heard her presentation. The state board meeting will be on April 24 from 10-3 with a lunch break, and the annual state assembly meeting will be on May 1, all virtual.

Karen explained that Public Policy Priorities are also voted on by members every two years; that is what makes our organization “member driven.” After the recent open comments period, tweaks were made to the 2021-2023 policies that members will vote on. Karen has not heard from the Board whether they accepted all the suggested tweaks.

The 3rd and 4th International Relations Lecture Series are:

March 9, 10:45 via Zoom--*“Artificial Intelligence: An Ethics Perspective”*

Dr. Anshuman Singh, UMSL Associate Professor of Information and Technology

April 13, 10:45 via Zoom--"*Historical Heritage And Racist Art*”

Dr. Akiko Tsuchiya, Professor of Spanish and of Women, Gender, And Sexuality Studies

Women’s Equality Day will be celebrated in St. Louis on August 21.

Jean Elliott will send an invite to make a video congratulating Mary Jermak.

The next meeting is May 25 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Koch

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