

**Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW
Branch Meeting
October 12, 2022**

Members Present: There were 40 members, 1 guest present at this meeting. Meeting was held at Saybrook Point Pavilion and was called to order by President Deb DeHertogh at 7:03 pm.

Program: Gloria Gery, co-chair of the Program Committee, introduced Tim Appleton, Advocacy & Outreach Program Director of Compassion & Choices. Tim spoke about the continuum of end of life care and his work in Connecticut to get legislation approved to allow medical aid in dying, an option for mentally capable, terminally ill adults to peacefully end unbearable suffering. Ten states as well as Washington, DC currently have such laws. In February 2022 the Public Health Committee introduced SB 88, An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients, which would authorize medical aid in dying in Connecticut. After holding a hearing, the Public Health Committee voted to advance this bill by a bipartisan vote of 22-9. This bill was then referred to the Judiciary Committee, where it received a vote for the first time, but was ultimately defeated due to a rarely-used political maneuver. 75% of Connecticut voters support medical aid in dying legislation. Tim was thanked for his presentation. Links to videos related to this topic will be sent out to all members (due to technical difficulties they could not be shown during the meeting.) Gloria reiterated that AAUW is not taking a stance for this legislation and all members are encouraged to contact candidates and elected officials themselves to learn their positions.

After a short break, the business portion of the meeting began at 8:10 pm.

President's Report: Deb DeHertogh reported that she attended a National AAUW webinar and had the following highlights:

- AAUW awarded \$6 million in grants to 320 women last year, largest ever
- Tiffany Sanchez was appointed VP Programs & Fellowships
- NCCWSL, leadership conference for college women, will be in-person in 2023
- Art contest will be held in January with 6 artists selected for note cards that are mailed to all members of AAUW.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Ann Iadarola reviewed the August report. Beginning balance in Business Advantage Checking: \$8,918.65. Ending Balance \$5,898.76. Ending balance of combined bequest and savings accounts: \$21,574.29.

Membership: Deb Herkowitz reported that LCV currently has 81 members, including 12 new members. Membership Directories, sporting a gold cover for our 50th anniversary, were distributed at the meeting.

Scholarship: Sue Aberbach reported that they are in the planning stages, editing the application and looking at strategies for publicity. Next meeting is October 24th. Olga Saubermann commented that they are working with the New London AAUW branch in order to provide grants to as many deserving women as possible.

Fundraising: Linda Frigon and Kathy Heebner informed the group of the Book Author Luncheon to be held Saturday March 25, 2023 at Saybrook Point Inn. They are looking for anyone interested in helping -- contact either Linda or Kathy or attend the next meeting on October 19th at 3 pm at Acton Library.

They are continuing to research the process of changing from 501c4 to 501c3 status and have met again with a representative from SCORE. Looking for an accountant or lawyer who would volunteer their services to help with the process.

Interest Groups

Evening Book Group -- Mary Jane Peterson reported that *Lost Girls* is the choice of book for October. In addition, *The Personal Librarian* will be discussed on November 15th when the editor of this book will join us at Acton Library at 3:30 pm. All members are welcome.

Cultural Arts -- Mary Jane P & Sharon Howell reported that the next trips are 11/10 to Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven and 12/14 to Winter Wonderettes at Ivoryton Playhouse.

Mah Jongg -- Sharon H shared that the group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 11/8 at location TBD.

Hiking -- -The next hike is 10/25 at Wadsworth Falls (rain date 10/27).

Great Decisions -- Putin's Russia will be the focus of the next meeting on 10/19.

Gourmet Group -- Beth Brewer reported that a dinner is planned and you can choose either October 29 or November 5. Great way to meet people and exchange recipes.

Afternoon Book Group -- Sue A reported that Chancellor will be discussed 11/2 and Euphoria on 12/14.

President Deb DeHertogh reviewed a few of the LCV policies and procedures.

- ❖ Potential members and/or family members are allowed to attend two regular monthly meetings each year.
- ❖ Attendance at cultural trips is often limited and members would have priority.

In addition, the board recently voted on a new policy:

- ❖ Members must reply by the deadline to reserve a place for all LCV events and trips. If prepayment is required and a member has to cancel, she is responsible for finding a replacement or forfeit her payment.

President Deb DeHertogh adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm. The next branch meeting is Wednesday November 9 at 7 pm at Saybrook Point Pavilion. USCG Captain, Eva Vancamp will present "Protecting our Homeland and the War on Drugs". Please bring holiday donations for Safe Futures Shelter.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Dimberg
Secretary