

**Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW
Branch Meeting
November 9, 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 7:10 pm.

Program: Deb D thanked members for their donations to the Safe Futures Women's Shelter and then introduced Captain Eva van Camp, Commander, Sector Long Island Sound, U.S. Coast Guard. Van Camp is Sector Long Island Sound's first female commanding officer. Sector Long Island Sound comprises seven small-boat stations, three cutters, two aids-to-navigation teams, one marine safety detachment and one sector field office. There are 500 active-duty military members and civilians, 200 uniformed reservists and 1,800 Coast Guard Auxiliary members serving in Sector Long Island Sound. Captain van Camp spoke about her background, her responsibilities as commander and what we can do to help.

Earlier in her career, van Camp worked as a search and rescue and law enforcement leader, which most notably saw her lead the "boots on deck" effort to make safe and clean up following the Deepwater Horizon disaster that spilled hundreds of millions of gallons of oil in the Gulf of Mexico.

Things you can do to help the Coast Guard:

- Wear your life jacket!
- Have a "float plan" -- tell someone where you are going when you're out on the water.
- Bring your cell phone when boating.
- Don't wait until dark to report someone missing, it's much easier to find people/boats in the daylight.
- Stay with your craft if you do go into the water, it's much easier to find a vessel than a "bobbing coconut" (your small head).

Captain van Camp also suggested that anyone interested could be an Auxiliary Member of the Coast Guard, with primary duties consisting of leading safe boating courses.

The Coast Guard is recruiting for active members as well, including for positions such as Cyber Specialist. The age limit has been increased to 42 (maybe some of our children or grandchildren may be interested!)

After a short break, the business portion of the meeting began at 8:12 pm.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Ann Iadarola reviewed the October report. Beginning balance in Business Advantage Checking: \$6,182.76. Ending Balance \$5,892.41. Ending balance of combined bequest and savings accounts: \$21,581.50. Mary Ann also reported that the transition to M & T Bank has gone well.

Fundraising: Linda Frigon is the point person looking at the 501c3 designation and a small group including Linda, Deb H, and Kathy H have attended zoom meetings to get more information about the process. They have learned that this may be less challenging and quick(er) to do than originally thought. If the application is completed before the March 25th Book Author Luncheon, the 5013c status would be retroactive making donations tax deductible.

The full fundraising committee, consisting of 24 members, met in October. Five sub-groups have been formed and are meeting as needed. Next meeting of the full group is January 4th.

Dede Voltz told us that donations and ads are being coordinated by town captains. Information will be sent to all members, please contact the town captains before seeking any donations.

Scholarship: Sue Aberbach reported that they are editing and revising the application. Next meeting is December 12th. Grant recipients will be invited to the January branch meeting.

Membership: Margie Rice reported that LCV currently has 82 members. We have 3 free national memberships available, this represents a \$67 savings, new members would pay \$31 for state and local dues. Directories that have not been picked up will be delivered or mailed.

Interest Groups

Hiking -- Margie R reported that the next hike is 11/17 in Niantic.

Afternoon Book Group -- Sue A reported that *Euphoria* will be discussed 12/14.

Evening Book Group -- Mary Jane Peterson reported that *The Personal Librarian* will be discussed on 11/15 when the editor, Kate Seaver, 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. Tickets are \$45, please send payment to Mary Jane by 11/28.

Mah Jongg -- Sharon H shared that the group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 12/13 at Margie R's house.

Gourmet Group -- Beth Brewer reported that a very successful dinner was held last week. Recipes were sent out and were a big hit. Next function will be a brunch in February, weather permitting.

Great Decisions -- Space Age will be the focus of the next meeting on 11/16. Discussion of the new format of the group will be held at this meeting..

President Deb D adjourned the meeting at 8:34 pm. The next branch meeting is the Holiday Party on Wednesday December 7 at 7 pm at Saybrook Point Pavilion. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share as well as an item that you no longer use to be "auctioned" off.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Dimberg
Secretary