

**Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW
Branch Meeting
February 15, 2023**

Members Present: There were 40 members at our Valentine Luncheon held at Acton Public Library. After lunch, Gloria Gery introduced our speaker, Colleen Bouffard of the CT DEEP. Colleen spoke about Climate Change and Long Island Sound's Changing Fisheries. Long Island Sound is the largest estuary on the east coast. Colleen presented information on the temperature changes in the sound which show that the average temperature has been increasing. Although this has likely led to lobster die-off (1998), there is hope that warm-temperature species are still thriving and there is still high biodiversity in our waters.

After a short break, the business meeting/information session was called to order by President Deb DeHertogh at 1:35 pm.

Deb reminded everyone that starting next month our monthly meetings will be held on Thursdays due to scheduling conflicts at the pavilion. Our next meeting is Thursday March 9th at 7 pm. The topic will be Ending Homelessness in CT.

Book Author Luncheon Update

Linda Frigon provided information on the upcoming Book Author Luncheon (BAL). The committee is working hard and everything is going extremely well. We should be at max capacity by the end of the week. We have over \$7,000 in auction items plus \$5,400 from sponsors. 20 people have purchased patron tickets. A small group did a walk-through of Saybrook Point Inn and found we have more flexibility in the timing (coming in early, may stay later since no event after us) as well as were given some additional space if needed.

A question was raised as to contributing to AAUW National grants and programs. The BAL has been promoted to sponsors and donors for raising money to give locally. We recently contributed money (\$330) from our Holiday Chance Auction to AAUW National.

Linda and Elaine Quayle asked the group if hardcover or softcover books would be better to sell at the luncheon. Since there is a \$10 difference in price, the paperback books were preferred.

501(c)(3) Update

Linda also told us that we have been accepted by Pro Bono as a client and have been "picked up" by an attorney who will assist us in going through the process to file. We expect to complete this process in the next 6 months.

Scholarship

Sue Aberbach reported that NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) registration is open. Carol House recommended a young woman who we will sponsor and hope to sponsor one more. If anyone knows someone (undergraduate) who would benefit from this program, let Sue know.

Information and the application for this year's grants are starting to be posted. Applications will be due June 12th.

Mary Jane Peterson informed us that there are three branches (New London, Storrs and LCV) each donating to the AAUW-CT scholarship. This scholarship for CT women attending college in

CT will consist of \$6,000 over two years. Women can apply for both the state scholarship as well as our scholarship.

Membership

Margie Rice reported that we currently have 86 members, an increase of 14 new members. Hope to enroll new members at the BAL. Since this is an event open to the public, it is a Shape the Future event saving new members 50% of national dues.

Deb Herskowitz is organizing a New Member Meet & Greet for February 28 at Mirsina's from 1-3 pm. If you are a new member, contact Deb to attend.

Treasurer Report

MaryAnn Iadarola presented the January Treasurer's Report. Beginning balance in Business Advantage Checking: \$7,229.37. Deposits \$8,129.50 (most for BAL). Expenses of \$4,931.60. (includes \$3,000 for grants). Ending Balance \$10,427.27. Combined Bequest and Business Savings Ending Balance: \$21,592.38.

Afternoon Book Group -- Sue Aberbach shared that Magnolia will be discussed on March 1st. Beekeeper of Aleppo is scheduled for April 5th.

Evening Book Group -- Portrait of the Scientist as a Young Woman will be discussed on Tuesday 2/21 on Zoom. The author, Lindy Elkins-Tanton will be joining us. All are invited to attend, let Mary Jane Peterson know if you would like the invite.

Cultural Arts -- Sharon Howell informed us that a trip to the State Capital and Supreme Court with lunch at Red Brick Tavern is planned for March 16th. Cost is \$10 and there is a limit of 15 people. Mary Jane Peterson reported that a Gargoyle tour at Yale is planned for April.

Great Decisions -- Barb Dimberg reported that our first meeting will be Wednesdays March 15th at Acton Library. Topic is Global Famine. Cost is \$50 for the book.

Gourmet Group -- Beth Brewer stated that the brunch held a few weeks ago was well received. The last event of the year will be a dinner sometime late April or early May.

Hiking -- Margie Rice told us that the next hike is planned for Wednesday February 22 at Canfield Meadows Wood. She will send out an email with further information.

Mah-Jongg -- Sharon Howell informed the group that we will be on March 14th, place TBD. All are welcome to attend, even if you don't know how to play.

President Deb D adjourned the meeting at 2:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Dimberg
Secretary