

**Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW  
Branch Meeting  
March 9, 2023**

**Members Present:** There were 35 members present at the meeting held at Saybrook Point Pavillion. President Deb DeHertogh called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

**Program**

Gloria Gery introduced our speaker, Evonne Klein, CEO of the CT Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH). Evonne told us how homelessness has changed over the years. Prior to the 1980s, churches used to take care of the homeless and many with mental illness were confined to state mental hospitals. During the 1980s, dramatic cuts to federal assistance programs combined with stagnant wages and rising housing costs sent many into homelessness. CCEH was founded in 1982 to fight for services for those in need and most importantly, affordable housing. Although there has been an increase of 39% in the number of homeless people in CT, there are currently 4,400 individuals in CT who are homeless. Although this is a big number, it is a manageable number and we should be able to end homelessness in CT. CT is one of only 3 states that has ended veteran homelessness. There are bills in the CT House to address funding for homelessness. Evonne will send a template to Gloria for distribution to everyone to contact their representatives regarding this important issue.

**Business Meeting**

After a short break, the business meeting/information session was called to order by President Deb DeHertogh at 8:10 pm.

**Slate of Officers**

Jeannette Santovasi, Vice-President, introduced the slate of officers to be voted on at our annual meeting in May.

President	Deb DeHertogh
Vice-President	Jeannette Santovasi
Secretary	Barb Dimberg
Treasurer	MaryAnn Iadarola

In addition, the following have agreed to serve on the board next year:

Immediate Past President	Mary Jane Peterson
Program Chairs	Gloria Gery, Lucy Duddy
Membership	Margie Rice, Deb Herskowitz
Public Policy	Jan Furman
Scholarship	Sue Aberbach, Olga Saubermann
Communication	
Newsletter/Website & Community Liaison	Kristen Owen, Elaine Quayle
Fundraising	Linda Frigon, Penny Hein
Hospitality	Marcia Machuga, Diane Volz
By-laws	Dot Beaulieu

**Treasurer Report**

MaryAnn Iadarola presented the February Treasurer's Report. Beginning balance in Business Advantage Checking: \$10,427.27. Deposits \$5,901 (most for BAL). Expenses of \$8.28. Ending Balance \$16,319.99. Combined Bequest and Business Savings Ending Balance: \$21,596.70.

### **501(c)(3) Update**

Linda Frigon told us that lawyers are working on formation documents to be submitted. Process is a bit slower than originally thought, hope to have approval by the end of the year.

### **Book Author Luncheon Update**

Linda Frigon provided information on the upcoming Book Author Luncheon (BAL). There are 4 seats left. Cash, checks, or charge will be accepted for all sales that day (books, raffle items, membership.) Raffle tickets will cost \$10 for 10 tickets and \$20 for 25 tickets. Kathy Heebner informed us that over \$10,000 in donations have been received for the auction. Gift baskets are pretty much complete. Gloria Gery let us know that \$6,000 in sponsorships have been received.

### **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. Elaine Quayle is pursuing publicity for these grants, information to be posted in newspapers in New London and Middlesex counties. Information will be shared on Facebook and other social media sites. Question raised as to the amount of the grant. After the BAL, we may be able to increase the amount of the grant and/or the number of grants will give.

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. 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. National dues are increasing by \$5 to \$72.

### **Interest Groups**

**Gourmet Group** -- Beth Brewer told us the next event will be a dinner on May 6th. There will be a Mexican theme (think Cinco de Mayo).

**Great Decisions** -- Barb Dimberg reported that our first meeting will be Wednesday March 15th at Acton Library. Topic is Global Famine.

**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 room for one more person. Mary Jane Peterson reported that a Gargoyle tour at Yale is planned for April 18, rain date of 4/20. Limit of 15 participants, cost is \$15.

**Evening Book Group** -- Mary Jane Peterson told us that *Isaac's Storm* will be discussed on March 21st at Elaine Newgarden's home.

**Afternoon Book Group** -- Sue Aberbach shared that *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* will be discussed on April 5th. *Apeirogon* will be discussed in May. And there will be a joint meeting of

afternoon and evening book groups in June. The book has not been selected yet but will be one of the BAL books.

**Hiking** -- Margie Rice told us that the next hike is planned for March 30th at The Preserve. She will send out an email with further information.

**Mah-Jongg** -- Sharon Howell informed the group that we will be on March 14th at her house.

President Deb D adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Dimberg  
Secretary