

**Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW
Branch Meeting
May 10, 2023**

Members Present: There were 40 members and guests present at the meeting held at Saybrook Point Pavillion. President Deb DeHertogh called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Program

Lucy Duddy introduced our speaker for the evening. Dick Shriver is a founder of Estuary Magazine and is publisher and editor. Estuary is the “Voice of the Connecticut River watershed”, featuring articles about the history, science, people, wildlife, and the environmental future of the watershed. Dick’s talk focused on “The Connecticut River: Origins, Evolution and Today”. It was so interesting to learn about this great river, from Canada to the Long Island Sound. Dick shared copies of the Estuary magazine with us.

Business Meeting

After a short break, the business meeting/information session was called to order by President Deb DeHertogh at 8:00 pm.

Slate of Officers

Jeannette Santovasi, Vice-President, introduced the slate of officers selected by the nominating committee:

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

There were no nominations from the floor. Carol Otto moved to accept the slate which was seconded by Anne Pierson. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report

MaryAnn Iadarola presented the Proposed 2023-2024 Budget. MaryAnn explained that our local has been running at a deficit for many years and local dues have not increased in that time. MaryAnn went through the line items of the budget explaining the need for additional expenses such as a Zoom account (rather than relying on members’ personal accounts) and a post office box (previously checks were mailed to the home address of the treasurer.) She also shared that some items (rentals, website, post office box, and zoom) are actually expenses that will be shared with the 501c3 offshoot of LCV (to be known as AAUW LCV Education and Scholarship Program, Inc.) In addition, many items in our latest budget have increased (printing costs for booklets in particular.) A dues increase of \$7 from \$21 to \$28 was recommended.

A question was raised as to where the funds for the 501c3 came from with the answer being the fundraising event/Book Author Lunch. Several comments were made that \$28 is a bargain to belong to such a fine organization with so many activities. We were reminded that the total dues is \$110 including National (\$72) and State (\$10). It was also mentioned that anyone can make a donation to our branch and designate the donation to operating expenses, go to the LCV website to make such a donation.

Barb Dimberg made a motion to accept the budget and the dues increase to \$28. Mary Jane Peterson seconded. After discussion the motion passed 14 to 9.

MaryAnn was thanked with a round of applause.

Membership

Margie Rice reported on her investigation of the yellow postcards many of us had recently received. AAUW-National is working with a company, PCI (Publishing Concepts) to conduct a comprehensive member data verification project for an Oral History Project. The project's goal is to collect stories from our members to memorialize the history of AAUW through the years. Information is available on the website. There is no cost to participate although there is a cost to purchase the final product. AAUW receives a small royalty of \$10 per package purchased. While a royalty is received this does not represent a significant fundraiser for AAUW – the greater value is in the updating of our member data and collection of stories and memories from our members, at no cost to AAUW.

Margie also reported that now that local dues have been set she will contact National so that members can renew their memberships. Dues of \$110 will be due by the end of June. You should receive an email from national soon. Please be sure your information is correct and if anything in the membership booklet needs to be changed or updated to let her know.

Evening Book Group -- Mary Jane Peterson told us that *Afterlife* will be discussed on May 16th at Jane Kelly's house at 4 pm. The joint meeting of the evening and afternoon book groups will be June 7th at 4 pm at Mary Ann Kistner's home.

501(c)(3) Update

Linda Frigon told us that there is a new lawyer working with us through the process. Making a lot of progress and hope to be finalized by Labor Day.

President Deb D adjourned the meeting at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Dimberg
Secretary