

**Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW
Branch Meeting
December 14, 2023**

Members Present: There were about 40 members present at the Holiday Party and meeting held at Saybrook Point Pavilion. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by President Deb DeHertogh.

Deb informed the group that we now have 106 members! Margie Rice has been asked to speak to AAUW-CT about LCV and our membership results.

Treasurer's Report: MaryAnn Iadarola was unable to attend so the report will be given next month.

Book Author Luncheon Update -- Penny Hein

Mark your calendars for April 13th for the luncheon to be held at Saybrook Point Inn. You will be able to register online beginning next week. Prices are set at \$75/ticket or \$125 for a patron ticket that includes 2 drinks and 10 raffle tickets. All profits go to scholarships for local women.

Gloria Gery told us that donations of \$6,500 came in last year. If you have a relationship with a professional (contractor, financial planner, ...), consider asking them to sponsor us. Sponsor forms will be available for download on the website soon. If you want help on how to ask, contact Dede Volz, she will walk you through the steps.

Lists of businesses that have contributed in the past to the BAL were made available. Members were asked to sign up to contact any that they may have a personal connection with. These lists will be at the January meeting as well.

Scholarship -- Sue Aberbach

The application has been updated. The committee will be using the FAFSA for the first time this year as one factor in their decision making. The deadline for applications is June 10, 2024. This year's grant awardees will be invited to our January branch meeting. If anyone knows of a college student who would be interested in NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders), see Sue or Olga Saubermann.

Membership -- Margie Rice

Questionnaire to be sent to all members, looking for members to serve on the board. The Book Author Luncheon will be a Shape the Future event so that anyone joining then will enjoy ½ off national dues.

Interest Groups

Evening Book Group -- Mary Jane Peterson reported that *Slaughterhouse Five* will be discussed on 12/19 at Liz Weinstein's house. The Other Einstein will be discussed in January.

Afternoon Book Group -- Sue Aberbach reported that the next meeting is 1/3 on zoom to discuss *Lessons in Chemistry*.

Cultural Arts -- Sharon Howell reported that the next trip is 1/12 at the Florence Griswold Museum to view Abandoned in Place. Cost is \$15.

Hiking -- Margie Rice told us that the group hiked at Mamacoke Island and had a great day. Kathy Heebner will be co-chair of this group. No date yet for next hike.

Gourmet Group -- Beth Brewer reported that a cocktail party was held 12/3 at Deb DeHertogh's house, very nice event. Plans underway for a February brunch.

Great Decisions -- Barb Dimberg reported that the new year for Great Decisions will begin in February. If interested in joining, send check for \$45 to cover the cost of the booklet to MaryAnn Iadarola ASAP.

Crafting -- Barb Dimberg and Kathy Heebner are looking to start a crafting interest group. Several members participated in the inaugural event, Wine Cork Christmas Trees. Contact Barb or Kathy if interested in this group.

Mahjong -- Carole Otto said that the group meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 12:30. Next meeting is on 1/9 at Joanne Kennedy's house.

January Branch Meeting -- Deb DeHertogh

The January meeting is our annual Tea & Trivia event to be held January 6th from 1-3 pm. Bring your special teapot and tea cup and a plate of goodies or sandwiches and "competitive team trivia". Sharpen your wits for this fun afternoon.

Other

Gloria Gery announced that \$5,500 has been donated to AAUW-LCV by members since we have become a 501(c)3 organization.

Chance Auction

Tickets were drawn and raffle items were distributed to much excitement! Over \$500 was collected and will be donated to AAUW-National.

President Deb DeHertogh adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

The next branch meeting is Thursday January 6th at 1 pm at Saybrook Point Pavilion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Dimberg
Secretary