

**Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW
Branch Meeting
May 9, 2024**

Members Present: There were about 40 members and guests present at the meeting held at Saybrook Point Pavilion. The event began at 7:07 pm when Lucy Duddy, Program Co-Chair, introduced our speaker for the evening. Dr. William Tarimo, Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Connecticut College, New London spoke on the Basic Principles of Artificial Intelligence (AI). He discussed the basic principles of AI, its positives, and its high risk issues for our society. Many questions were raised including “who is going to regulate this technology?” It was very interesting and timely presentation.



After a short break, the business meeting was called to order at 8:20 pm by President Deb DeHertogh.

After a short break, president Deb DeHertogh began the business portion of our meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Cheryl Barnum made a motion, seconded by Elaine Newgarden, to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2024 branch meeting. The motion passed.

Election of LCV Board Officers

There were no additional nominees from the floor. The nominees were:

- Jeannette Santovasi – President
- Penny Hein – Vice-President
- Barbara Dimberg – Treasurer
- Mary Jane Peterson – Secretary, LCV and ESP Boards
- MaryAnn Iadorola – Secretary, LCV Branch Meeting

Deb DeHertogh asked for a voice vote and the slate passed unanimously. These officers will take their positions as of July 1, 2024. Congratulations to our new officers!

Proposed LCV Budget 2024-2025 – MaryAnn Iadorola

MaryAnn reviewed the proposed budget comparing to the current budget and the current year-to-date expenditures. A motion to approve the budget as presented was made by Liz Weinstein and seconded by Cheryl Barnum. The motion passed. Thank you to MaryAnn for your dedication to the job of treasurer!

Book Author Luncheon Update – Linda Frigon

The Book Author Luncheon made \$26,000 this year, compared to \$12,000 last year! We doubled the money made from both chance and silent auction. The proposed ESP budget will be presented at the next board meeting, know that we will start the fiscal year with ~\$45,000.

Becker's Precious Metals Event – Deb Kupfer

Deb informed us that we made \$4,500 from this event! Thank you to everyone who participated.

Scholarship – Sue Aberbach

NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) will be held at University of Maryland at College Park, MD May 30 – June 1. We are sponsoring 3 local young women to attend this conference.

The amount of the grant money to be awarded this year has been increased to \$4000 to each of 6 female students pursuing an Associate or Bachelor degree. Applicants must be from Middlesex or New London county and 20 years or older. Application is online. The deadline is June 10th. Please encourage anyone eligible to apply.

REMINDER – Deb DeHertogh

AAUW National Vote by 5/15/24. Question on the ballot is to allow non-college graduates to join AAUW. Deb DeHertogh told us that certain grants are not available to AAUW and its affiliates due to membership limitations. In addition, by opening up membership to more people, this would be a way to maintain numbers in our organization.

Update – Judith Slisz

Judith gave a follow-up on the talk given at last month's joint meeting by Professor Anna Terwiel, AAUW fellowship awardee, and co-director of TPEP, Trinity College Prison Education Program. TPEP will be collaborating with the CT Community College system to support the women at York Correctional Institute working toward certificates and degrees.

Professor Terwiel mentioned that novels for the women at York could be dropped off with Jackie at 2 Pine Knoll in Chester. Judith will also collect any donations at Evening Book discussion, May 21, at Jane Kelly's home.

Membership – Margie Rice and Deb Herskowitz

Fourteen new members in April, two more recently and 1 more just tonight! We have 121 members! We are by far the largest affiliate in Connecticut.

Dues renewal reminders should be coming by e-mail for many members. You can renew online or mail a check made out to AAUW-LCV to PO Box 379 Old Saybrook. Renewals due by July 1st. Note that 100% of National dues is tax deductible (\$74).

Interest Groups

Afternoon Book Group -- Sue Aberbach reported that the next meeting is the joint Afternoon/Evening meeting on 6/5 to discuss *First Ladies*. Meeting will be at Acton Library at 3 pm. We will have a social time after our discussion with appetizers and desserts. Plan to bring some finger food to share!

Evening Book Group – *The Chancellor* will be discussed on 5/21 at Jane Kelly's home.

Cultural Arts – no trips planned for May or June. Pat Prendergast thanked Sharon Howell and Mary Jane Peterson for doing such a fabulous job! Pat and Liz Weinstein will be leading this group come fall.

Crafting – Kathy Heebner reported that a small group did watercolor painting at Carole Otto's and that our next activity is 5/24 at Acer Gardens to put together a planter with annuals. Contact Kathy if interested in attending.

Gourmet Group – the next event is June 2nd in the afternoon. Contact Beth Brewer for further details.

Great Decisions -- Barb Dimberg reported that we will be discussing Climate Technology and Competition on 5/15. Contact her if you would like to join.

Hiking -- Margie Rice told us that 12 people hiked last month and that the next hike will be 5/20, further details to be e-mailed out.

Mahjong -- Carole Otto said that the meeting will be held next Tuesday 5/14 at Joanne Kennedy's home. New members always welcome, we will teach anyone how to play.

President Deb DeHertogh adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Dimberg
Secretary, AAUW-LCV

**AAUW Lower Connecticut Valley Branch
Budget to Actual as of May 2024
And Approved FY 2024-2025 Budget**

	Income		
	Budget FY 2023-2024	Income Fiscal YTD	Approved Budget FY 2024-2025
Dues			
Budget for 100 members @ \$28 FY23-24 Budget to Actual 116 members as of May Budget for 100 members @ \$28 for FY 24-25	\$2,800.00	\$3,143.00	\$2,800.00
Interest from Commercial Savings Account		\$574.70	
Income Total	\$2,800.00	\$3,717.70	\$2,800.00
	Expenses		
	Budget FY 2023-2024	Budget to Actual May 2024	Approved Budget FY 2024-2025
Hospitality	\$700.00	\$406.64	\$700.00
Rentals (05 Pavilion)	\$400.00	\$245.00	\$400.00
Programs (Honorariums)	\$600.00	\$300.00	\$600.00
Membership Expenses (printing booklets, etc.)	\$550.00	\$468.90	\$700.00
Insurance	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Website (To be Removed)	\$120.00	\$0	--
Library Donation (Acton)	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Miscellaneous	\$100.00	\$82.22	\$100.00
Publicity (To be Removed)	\$75.00	\$0	--
Post Office Box (\$102 to 501c3)	\$202.00	\$108.00	\$108.00
TOTAL	\$3,047.00	\$1910.76	\$2,908.00

Approved 5/9/24