

**Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW
Branch Meeting
September 12, 2024**

Members Present: There were 43 members and 2 guests present at the meeting held at Saybrook Point Pavilion.

Pot Luck Supper: A Pot Luck Supper was enjoyed by members from 6:00-7:00 pm.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Jeannette Santovasi. Jeanette explained how to use the QR code that Barb Dimberg passed out for viewing of her treasurer's report.

Safe Futures Talk: Jan Furman introduced our guest speaker, Nazmie Ojeda, for the evening representing Safe Futures in New London, CT. Her topic was "Domestic Violence Update: What's New?" Nazmie shared the following highlights of the Safe futures program:

- Direct service is given to victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse.
- Needed support and resources are supplied to victims.
- Educational instruction is available for victims.
- Service is free.
- Emergency shelter is available.
- The agency is pet friendly.
- One in three teens experience some form of intimate dating violence.
- Only 33% of teens who experience dating violence report it.
- Physical, verbal, sexual, technological and stalking are types of abuse.

Nazmie's presentation was well received by members. Jeannette reminded us that we collect for Safe Futures in November and that gift cards, toiletries, and money donations are accepted.

Thank You Deb: Jeannette and LCV members extended a heartfelt thank you along with flowers to Deb DeHertogh for "time served" as President of LCV.

LCV Treasurer's Report: Barb Dimberg reviewed the August report as follows:

- Beginning Balance: \$2,721.03
- Ending Balance: \$3,267.06
- Money Market: \$21,224.35

Membership: Margie Rice reported that we currently have 107 members. Nineteen (19) are new members and 88 members have renewed their membership. We lost one member. Our branch has qualified for the maximum of three free national memberships. Margie is updating the new membership directory. It will be ready and distributed at our October meeting.

Monthly Programs: Liz Weinstein reported that the following cultural trips have been planned:

- Tuesday October 1st - a walking tour of Providence with lunch in the Italian section of the town.
- November -Mystic Planetarium
- December - Ivoryton
- January - Florence Griswold Museum

Interest Groups:

Evening Book Group - Mary Jane Peterson reported that *The Covenant of Water* will be discussed on September 24th at Liz Weinstein's house at 6:30 pm. Attendees will be choosing books to read for the year and looking for hosts. Mary Jane will be the facilitator. Please let her know if you are attending.

Afternoon Book Group - Sue Aberbach reported that the next meeting is Wednesday October 1st at 1:00 pm on Zoom. *The Ukrainian Night* will be discussed. On November 6th, *An Unfinished Love Story* will be discussed.

Great Decisions - Karen Christman reported that meetings are on Wednesdays at the Acton Public Library from 3:00-5:00 pm. Mary Jane P. will facilitate the first session on "Science Across Borders."

Gourmet - Beth Brewer needs volunteers and a house for the first session.

Mah Jongg - Carole Otto reported that 22 people have signed up. The first meeting is October 8th at Carole's house.

Hiking - Margie Rice and Kathy Heebner told us that the next hike is on September 25th with a rain date of the 26th. It will be at Groton Long Point. Bring your lunch and enjoy it at Sue A. home.

Crafting - Kathy Heebner reported that the next crafting session will be held on October 20th in Centerbrook. The craft will be soap making.

ESP Treasury Report:

Linda Frigon reviewed the August report as follows:

- Beginning Balance: \$2,949.50
- Ending Balance: \$1,093.96
- Money Market: \$30,250.37

Fundraising/Book author Luncheon:

Gloria Gery invited members to join the committee at the BAL meeting on Monday September 23rd, 1:00 pm, at the Essex Library. DeDe Volz explained some of the procedures involved and the need for volunteers.

Scholarships: Sue Aberbach shared that three students were sent to attend workshops at AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). The feedback from all three was positive.

Sue reported that grants were awarded to six highly deserving women. Summary information on each of the woman is on our website. All six hope to attend our January LCV meeting.

Jeannette told members that spam emails are being sent to members requesting cash or gift cards or help often using her name. Understand that we will **never** ask for money or help in this way through email.

President Jeanette Santovasi reminded members that our next general meeting is October 10th and our topic will be on the Electoral College. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.