

**Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW
Branch Meeting
September 7, 2022**

Members Present: There were 42 members and 1 guest present at this meeting. The meeting was held at Saybrook Point Pavilion in Old Saybrook and was called to order by President Deb DeHertogh at 7:04 pm.

President's Report: Deb gave an overview of AAUW to begin the meeting. AAUW was started over 140 years ago with the goal of achieving equity for all women. There are currently over 170,000 members nationally with 1000 branches. National AAUW awards fellowships and grants to women. They also run a leadership program, NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders). In addition they provide an online course on Negotiating Salaries for women. AAUW also helps challenge sex discrimination with a Legal Advocacy Fund. Our local branch is dedicated to providing scholarships to local women with our major fundraising event being the Book Author Luncheon to be held in the spring.

This is the 50th Anniversary of the Lower Connecticut Valley branch. Deb recognized two of the founding members who were present at the meeting -- Elaine Newgarden and Barbara Hall.

This is also the 50th Anniversary of Title IX. This landmark legislation was part of the Education Amendments of 1972 which prohibit sex discrimination in all areas of education, protecting students and staff in any educational institution that receives federal funds.

Membership: Margie Rice reported that we currently have 75 paid members for 2022-23. (We had 86 members in our last directory 9/2021.) 12 members are not renewing, still waiting on 8 renewals. 6 new members were introduced: Timothee Graze, Jane MacMurray, Carol Otto, Cheryl Pytel, Maureen Tarbox and Nancy Teolis. There are 2 free National memberships available. Membership Directory booklets will come out in October.

Monthly Programs: Both chairs were out of town so Deb reported that our first program of the year will be on Wednesday 10/12 End of Life Care & Medical Aid in Dying CT Legislation. Tim Appleton, Director of Compassion and Choices will lead the program. Be sure to check the Membership Directory for the remainder of the programs that have been planned.

Scholarship: Olga Saubermann spoke of the committee's work to add diversity to the applicant pool. They felt three key factors led to an increase in the number of applicants (18, up from 7 the previous year.) The geographic area was expanded from Middlesex county to include New London county; the time period to apply was extended from June 1st to June 13th; and social media was used heavily to promote this scholarship. Many people on the committee were thanked for their hard work.

Sue Aberbach reported that grants were awarded to three women: Aryanna Fontanez, Jessica Sponheimer, and Isabella Sigersmith. Members of the Scholarship Committee met with all three women for lunch to present their grants. All three hope to attend the January LCV meeting. Sue also reported that the committee is hoping to make the online application interactive and live.

Treasurer's Report: MaryAnn Iadarola reviewed the July report. Beginning balance in Business Advantage Checking: \$7,781.61. Ending Balance \$8,918.65. Outstanding expenses: \$3,195 which include grants to 3 students. Ending balance \$21,570.39.

Fundraising: Linda Frigon and Kathy Heebner informed the group of the Book Author Luncheon to be held Saturday March 25, 2023 at Saybrook Point Inn. This event has not been held for 3 years due to COVID restrictions. Prices have gone up so they are looking at tickets prices which will need to increase. They are looking for anyone interested in helping -- contact either Linda or Kathy or attend the next meeting on October 19th at 3 pm at Acton Library.

In order to improve our fundraising (to allow for donations to be tax deductible for instance), they are looking at changing from 501c4 to 501c3 status. They have met with a representative from SCORE to learn more and get assistance with this process.

Hospitality: Diane Volz and Marcia Marchuga were introduced and thanked for a lovely potluck dinner event. They sent around a sign-up sheet to bring dessert to a branch meeting. Contact them if you are willing to help out.

Interest Groups

Afternoon Book Group -- Sue A & Elaine Q reported that the next meeting is October 5th on zoom. The author of *Angels of the Pacific* will be present and all members are welcome to attend.

Evening Book Group -- Mary Jane P reported that *Horse* will be discussed on September 20th at Deb D's house. *The Personal Librarian* will be discussed on November 15th when the editor of this book will join us at Acton Library at 3:30 pm. All members are welcome to attend.

Cultural Arts -- Mary Jane P & /Sharon H reported that the next trips are 9/22 at New Britain Museum of Art and 10/6 at the Lockwood-Matthews Mansion Museum in Norwalk.

Gourmet Group -- Beth B reported that they are looking at a dinner for the end of October. Great way to meet people and exchange recipes.

Great Decisions -- Kaye G & Judith S reported that 15-20 women meet at Acton Library for a presentation and discussion of topics ranging from Demographics, Industrial Policy, to Climate Change. Myanmar and ASEAN will be the focus of the next meeting on 9/21.

Hiking -- Margie R told us that the next hike is 9/20 at Bluff Point (rain date 9/27).

Mah Jongg -- Sharon H shared that the group will meet on 9/13 at 12:30 at Margie's. All are welcome, newcomers can be taught the game.

Bridge -- several have signed up, this group needs a chair.

President Deb DeHertogh adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

The next branch meeting is Wednesday October 12th at Saybrook Point Pavilion.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Dimberg
Secretary