

**Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW
Branch Meeting
October 9, 2025**

Members Present: There were approximately 40 members and 2 guests present at the meeting held at the Old Saybrook Pavilion.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by President Jeannette Santovasi.

Jeanette welcomed everyone and asked member Orlene Gallops to introduce our guest speakers, Sheila Horwitz, a family law attorney and one of the founders of the Elder Abuse Committee of Safe Futures; and Nick Swider, the new Safe Futures Abuse Advocate. Both speakers focused their presentation on "Elder Abuse".

Types of Elder Abuse: physical, emotional, sexual, financial, neglect, abandonment

Signs Of Elder Abuse: injuries, mood changes, money issues, poor hygiene, fear of family members or caregivers

Who are abusers: 60% family; caregivers; friends/neighbors; financial advisor; scammers

What Can You Do?

Call:

- Safe Futures Domestic Violence Hotline: 860-701-6001
- CT Safe Connect: 888-774-2900
- Elder Justice Hotline: 1-860-808-5555
- Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-7233
- Report your concerns to Protective Services for the Elderly
 - By Phone: 888-385-4225
 - Online at: dss.service.ct.gov/referrals

Business Meeting

Hospitality:

Jeannette introduced the chairs of the Hospitality Committee, Kate Hannon and Deb Zurka. A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to bring cookies and water to the monthly Branch meetings.

LCV Budget Report:

Treasurer, Barb Dimberg presented the LCV budget for September. The checking account has a balance of \$ 4,330.90. The money market has a balance of \$19,100.87. A total of \$288 was donated at a previous Branch meeting for AAUW National. The donation was made for the Action Fund in honor of Deb DeHertogh for her service to both LCV and ESP.

Membership

Margie Rice shared that we now have 104 members. One new member, Tara Winch, was introduced. We have one more free National membership at \$38. Member booklets are ready and available at this meeting. They will also be brought to the next Branch meeting.

November Branch Meeting:

The "Chance White Elephant Auction" takes place at the November Branch meeting. Proceeds will go to AAUW National. Also. Safe Futures donations will be collected. Information to follow.

ESP

Linda Frigon gave the following treasurer's report for September:

Checking account balance: \$8,284.39

Money Market balance: \$55,338.98

Scholarship:

Olga Saubermann introduced members of the Scholarship committee. She explained that the committee is working on streamlining the application process. Olga shared that Scholarship Recipient Ava Frost was interviewed by the Valley Courier. The interview was published.

TPEP-York Correctional:

Judith Slisz reported that the summer courses sponsored by ESP for eleven York women were completed successfully.

Gloria Gery reported that 50 recipe cookbooks were collected and sent to the culinary art instructor at York. She thanked everyone who donated the cookbooks.

Book Author Luncheon:

Glory Gery reported that the Book Author Luncheon (BAL) is our major fundraiser. The first meeting of the BAL is on October 28th from 12:00-2:00 at the Essex Library.

Interest Groups

Each interest group shared what their focus is and when and where they meet.

Next Branch Meeting

November 13 - Program: General Meeting; Thanksgiving Party/Chance White Elephant Auction; Bring donations for Safe Futures (gift cards [preferred]).

Gloria Gery made a motion to adjourn the meeting. MaryAnn Iadarola seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectively Submitted,
MaryAnn Iadarola