

**Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW
Branch Meeting
September 11, 2025**

Members Present: There were approximately 40 members and 1 guest present at the meeting held at the Old Saybrook Pavilion.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Jeannette Santovasi.

Jeanette welcomed everyone and after inviting everyone to enjoy food and dessert, began the meeting by asking Kathy Branch to introduce our guest speaker, CT River Historian Erik Hasselberg, who would speak about his new book, *Candid New York*. Some important ideas from Brad's presentation follow.

Erik explained that while George Eastman has been called the father of the snapshot, more than a decade earlier, a Connecticut born inventor devised a hand-held camera, which he used to record daily life on New York streets. As early as 1870, another inventor developed photographic plates with a new technology that allowed him to freeze action in his photos, which previously were a blur.

Erik took us through the history of photography. His presentation was interesting and well-received. His book will be published in October.

Business Meeting

LCV Budget Report:

Treasurer, Barb Dimberg presented the LCV budget, which can be viewed on our website.

Membership

Margie Rice had new members introduce themselves to the group. She then shared that we now have over 100 members. The new membership books will be available at the October Branch meeting.

ESP

ESP has 5 directors. Judith Slisz is the Chair.

ESP has a focus on scholarships for women and is also funding \$10,000 for courses at Trinity College for women from York Prison.

ESP spends \$3,000 to support women in leadership through the program NCCWSL.

ESP sponsors the Book Author Luncheon and receives donations from Charitable IRA Qualified Distributions, corporate sponsors, and others.

Interest Groups

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

It was explained that Hospitality needed two volunteers to facilitate it. Debra Zurka and Kate Hannon both volunteered to take on this task. Thank you Debra and Kate!

Next Branch Meeting

October 9 Program: The speaker from Safe Futures will speak on "Elder Abuse."

Margie Rice made a motion to adjourn the meeting. MaryAnn Iadarola seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectively Submitted,
MaryAnn Iadarola