

**American Association of University Women  
Regular Meeting  
September 5, 2012**

**Call to order:** 6:00 p.m.

**Thank you and Introductions:** A warm thanks was given to Kay McNabb for the use of her house at our first event of the 2012-2013 school year. Excellent food and beverages were served.

New members Carol McCarthy, Jan McCollough and Sarah Gretsky were welcomed into our Branch.

**Report on Girls' State:** Two E. O. Smith students, Jamila Mama and Jennifer \*\*\* spoke of their experiences at Girls' State. They both agreed that it was awesome, a unique experience. They both felt they learned about themselves as well as how politics in the U.S.A. works. They both stated that they had a fabulous time and thanked AAUW for sponsoring them.

**Report on the Sue E. Harkness Book Award:** Emily Brown, recipient of the Sue Harkness Book Award is in her Junior year at UConn majoring in biology. She thanked the group and stated that her books are very expensive so her scholarship of \$200 will come in very handy. Currently she is working at the UConn Student Union and as a student aide to a Professor. Previously Emily had been a page at the Babcock Library in Ashford CT.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Shelved for the next Regular Meeting.

Membership and Dues were discussed.

**AAUWCT College/University Rep Conference:** Jean McCarthy and Catherine Sampson will be attending this Conference to be held at Wesleyan University, Allbritton Center, Room 311, 222 Church Street, Middletown, CT on Friday, October 12, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. Keynote Speaker will be Denise Merrill, Secretary of State. Cost currently is unknown. All are invited to attend.

**Report from Laura Tordenti:** Laura stated that the Mission of the AAUW is to break educational and financial barriers for women. There has been some reorganization done within AAUWCT at the student level with greater emphasis on student-teacher relationships, both locally and statewide. Stating that AAUW has good working relationships with Eastern, CCSU, and with greater numbers of college and university partners, Laura stated that currently Tunxis and Goodwin Colleges are joining with AAUW to work to help women break barriers in education and finance. She is seeing more colleges and students taking part and hopes they will join in the Student Advisory Committee. A Conference will be held on September 12, 2012 to establish relationships with women in higher education. She and the AAUW hope to see more young women join the organization and represent students, becoming more involved in taking up the Mission.

**Clarifications/Caveats regarding National:**

- Neither donations nor mailing lists can be provided from a Branch of AAUW for the candidate's political race.
- We may invite a candidate to speak, but not on his/her platform.
- We could have a debate between a Republican vs. Democratic candidate.
- If a candidate is running he/she could speak on other issues that do not touch on their candidacy.

**Treasurer's Report:** Per Eugenie Bagley our checking and savings accounts have approximately \$6,000. The Elizabeth Jordan Fund is in a CD to be paid out for scholarships.

**Program Committee:** Sue Harkness gave a rundown of the programs for the 2012-2013 year. You can also find them on the website (<http://storrswillimantic-ct.aauw.net/aauwstorrswilli@gmail.com>), or in a hardcopy of the Branch Membership Application. If you need a copy of the events, please contact Sue H., Cathy S., or Jean McCarthy.

**Newsletter:** Jean McCarthy noted that our major fund raising event, The Book Author Brunch, will be held at Pamela Thompson's home on Saturday, October 20, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., for \$25.00 per person which includes a talk by Linda Wojcik entitled "Connecting our Physical Symptoms to our Emotional Pains". Brunch will be provided by some of the Branch Members. All donations are totally tax-deductible and go directly to the AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund. Pamela lives at 659 Bailey Hill Road in East Killingly. Please join us as a good time is expected to be had by all.

The Educational Opportunities Fund is part of the National AAUW to provide Community Grants for Special Projects worldwide and for Scholarships both in the U.S. and abroad.

**Legal Advocacy Fund:** Karin Randolph has been in charge of this fund raising event at branch meetings for the last 4-1/2 years and has need to step down. We applaud Karin for a great job done and sincerely thank Susan Meisler for filling the absent position.

**Website:** Denise Bachand noted that for all information that we want to have published either in the newsletter or on the website we should contact Jean McCarthy (860) 487-0305 or Denise Bachand, via e-mail at [dsgnrhs2009@gmail.com](mailto:dsgnrhs2009@gmail.com) by October 15, 2012 have it in the Fall Newsletter.

**Comments:** The December Holiday party will once again benefit the Covenant Kitchen. Please come with canned or non-perishable foods, bring a friend and enjoy. Noted that the Willimantic Grammar School has a new program for all children where they are provided with breakfast, snack and lunch because the number of children without lunch tickets far outweighed students how had bought them.

Once again, big thanks to Kay and Frank McNabb for allowing us the use of their home for our meeting.

**Public Policy:** Kathy Labadorff noted that the CT Permanent Commission of the Status of Women will host a meeting on September 12, 2012 entitled "Be the Change". Look for more information on our local website.

At the end of November for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UConn Women's Center will host a showing of the documentary titled "The Invisible War". Gloria Steinem is scheduled to speak at this Program. Be on the lookout for this event as more information becomes available.

Also check out the CT Women's Hall of Fame at the Babidge Library, which will be holding a photography show which depicts CT women from the 1800's to present.

In conjunction with the 16 Days of Activism and in connection with Rutgers University, women are urged to host an event on the subjects such as gender violence. More information to come as it becomes available.

**Adjournment:** The Regular Meeting of the Storrs-Willimantic Branch of the AAUW was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Francine Hodovan  
Recording Secretary