

American Association of University Women
President's Dining Room, ECSU
Regular Meeting
October 3, 2012

Call to order: 6:00 p.m.

Welcome Members and Guests: A warm welcome was given to Claire Gates, guest of Kay McNabb. All members were welcomed back at this, the first formal meeting of the AAUW, for the 2012-2013 school year.

Speaker: The group was joined by State Representative, Susan Johnson who discussed her various roles in state and local governments including the Education Committee; Energy and Technology Task Force; and Finance Revenue and Bonding. She explained the process she went through in order to arrive at her role as State Representative: volunteer, serve your constituents, run and get elected, listen to you constituents, write Bill Concept(s), get these through the Committee to the floor of the House and finally on to the Senate to possibly become law. She further discussed the identification of problems in all of the Committees she works and ways to conquer them, i.e., Voices for Children, created in order to help integrate children whose first language is not English into the English Speaking School System. Questions were asked and answered and all in all Representative Johnson was very well received by the Group.

Carol Williams gave special thanks to S. Johnson, citing her endless energy, hard work and a job very well done.

Business Meeting: Co-President's Message: J. McCarthy once again welcomed new members, guests and returning members to AAUW. She also thanked Speaker Susan Johnson for her insightful and informational speech.

Report on NICWSL: Two students from QVCC, Caroline Switchenko, Psychology major and Lu-Liu Lamb, Radiology major currently working as a CNA at a nursing home, were offered the chance to go to the annual NICWSL program. They stated that they loved the program, that it has really stuck with them and they still speak about it almost every day. They broke it down into 3 categories:

Women's Power: They met with and were very impressed by Lilly Ledbetter, Michelle Martin (radio talk show host), and others. It was very moving for them.

Community: Because Caroline is a member of the International Relations Club and interned at a hospital in MA. And Lu-Liu is a CAN at a nursing home as well as a member of the town's Democratic Committee and works with voter registration they particularly enjoyed this segment of the program because it fed so well into the things they are already doing within their communities to make them a better place to live. Again, they were very impressed with the speakers.

The Catch-All/Fun Part/Grown-Up Part: In this segment the girls learned meditation, belly dancing, and yoga, took self-help classes, and even one on learning how to do your taxes. They had never before been exposed to such a program and it was invaluable for them. The following

statements were made by the girls about the program: "You have to find yourself before you can help others", "It changed my life", "We bonded", including with a girl in Georgia "who we are still in touch with", "We appreciate this opportunity more than we can say. Thank you!!!". All members felt that it was really great that we had such mature and thoughtful girls to send to the program and that this was the first time that girls brought back such a positive and cohesive report on their experiences. J. McCarthy thanked L. Kirshenbaum for her hard work and efforts on behalf of this program.

Board Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Eugenie Bagley reported the balances of our checking and savings accounts at \$2,316 and \$3,177 respectively. She also noted that there is a new format for the balance sheets and statements as seen on the back side of her report. Currently she has set her budget up based on 60 members but we currently have only 59.

Education Foundation: Pamela Thompson reminded the group that the Book Author Event is on Saturday, October 20, 2012 at her house in Killingly. The speaker is Linda Wojcik and her talk will be on "Connecting our Physical Symptoms to our Emotional Pains". From 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 P.M., be ready for some treats after the talk. Sign up now so we can have a best idea of the number of people to expect.

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. Due to lack of funds, this program that was previously opened to all AAUW members is now only opened to Presidents of regional Groups.

Legal Advocacy Fund/Karin Randolph: After many years of dedicated service to the LAF, Karin Randolph has decided to step down due to other obligations. Ms. Susan Meisler has graciously accepted the position left vacant. We all wish Karin well and thanked her for all of her hard work, loyalty and effort she has put into the LAF program over the years.

Newsletter: Denise Bachand noted that she would like to have the newsletter put back on a schedule.

Anything you wish to have reported on the NOVEMBER/Winter Newsletter should be given to her (via e-mail, Jean McCarthy, Cathy Sampson, or a call to Denise) by October 15th in order to be included.

Reminder: On Wednesday, October 24, 2012 there will be a Conference held by the Mansfield League of Women Voters hosting Denise Merrill at E. O. Smith High School from 7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M. Her speech is titled "Your Voice, Your Vote" and promises to be very insightful.

Adjournment: The Regular Meeting of October 3, 2012 of the Storrs-Willimantic Branch of the AAUW was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Francine Hodovan
Recording Secretary