**Austin AAUW General Meeting Minutes**

October 11, 2016

AAUW board met at Riverland Community and Technical College. Present were Catherine Haslag, Jill Maxfield, Nicole Cizik, Marijo Alexander, Dorothy Krob, Katie Ulwelling and Peggy Benzkofer.

Jill and Catherine called the meeting to order. Jill commented that the member feature in the newsletter was a good addition. A concern was expressed about members not reading the newsletter. Jill offered to bring hard copies to the meetings. She also suggested a trivia quiz based on information in the newsletter. There will be a small prize. There was good feedback on the sign on the door to direct people to the meeting.

Marijo made a motion, seconded by Dorothy, to approve the minutes of the July board retreat and the September general membership meeting. The motion carried.

Nicole reported an opening balance of $5,997.61 with a closing balance of $9346.37.

The program for November will be Richard Lemons talking about the poverty in Austin project which grew out of the Blandin training. In December we will have our Christmas party at the Coffee House on Main. It was suggested that we bring mittins, socks, hats etc. for children in the elementary schools who are ill equipped for winter.

There are 69 paid members with three new members at the wine and cheese event.

By laws updates and website update were tabled until the next meeting.

Jill reported on the House Tour. Proceeds totaled $3,605.50. Jill commented on what a group effort it was. She said that three members have not replied with proceeds or unsold tickets. Each home owner received a thank you card, picture of the home and $25 in Chamber bucks. Jill reported that two houses are committed for next year so we will have another tour then instead of waiting two years. Jill said she will chair it again.

Women’s History Month Update tabled until next month.

Catherine Haslag reported on the Science Fair Mentoring project. An addition this year is a cooperative project with the Austin Public Library. The first session will be November 17th from 10:15 – 11:15. Each child will receive a science experiment in a bag. Also, Austin Rotary and Worlein Funeral Home are donating money so each child in the Science Fair Project will receive a copy of the Mad Margaret book. A sticker in each book will recognize the donors.

NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) brings together college women for all over the country. Our branch can sponsor a student leader. We will ask for a committee of four to work on this.

After the board meeting, members enjoyed a brief social time followed by a short general membership meeting. Catherine Haslag presented the program which described the Science Fair project and plans for this year.

Respectfully submitted

Peggy Benzkofer, Secretary