

**AAUW Storrs/Willimantic
Welcome Back Reception
September 8, 2008
Regular Minutes**

I. Welcome

Lesley Kirchenbaum-President thanked Laura Tordenti for the use of her home. Also, thank you to all members who donated refreshments.

II. Introduce Guests

Lesley introduced the three girls from Girls State-Amanda McGowan, Brittany Fowler, and Trina Krall. She also introduced the speaker-Lin Rising.

III. Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Value Promise.

Lesley read all three statements. At future meetings, they will be presented in written form at each table.

IV. Girl State Girls

Our branch of AAUW has secured a grant from the Tri County Communications Girls Fund for the last four years to send eight girls to Girls State. Our branch pays for one girl. Thanks to Pamela Thompson for writing the grant. The three girls said they met a lot of new people and learned a lot about empowering women and how the government works. Amanda McGowan went to Washington DC in July to represent Connecticut.

V. Sue E. Harkness Book Award

Pamela Thompson presented the Sue E. Harkness Book Award to Ekram Abou El-Hamd. Ekram is a student at the Eastern Connecticut State University. She is working towards an Accounting Degree. She graduated from QVC and has been given a Student Affiliate Membership to AAUW this year.

VI. Lin Rising from Connecticut State AAUW Speaking on Pay Equity

Lin Rising gave a presentation on Pay Equity for Women. She said many woman are penalized for having children. Women, one year out of college, earn 77% of men's income. Ten years later, women earn only 69% of what men earn. Also, women are afraid to negotiate to get higher pay and better benefits. Successful women should support other women and act as mentors. This does not always happen. Lin passed out information on laws on women's issue, such as the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2007.

VII. Third Thursday

Thank you to all the members who helped staff the tables on Third Thursdays, Laura Tordenti, Leslie Gemme, Karin Randolph, Loretta Wrobel and Sue Harkness.

VIII. Know Your Town Fair

Thank you to Joan Goba for helping to staff the Know Your Town Fair table.

IX. Announcements

Laura Tordenti gave an overview of the monthly programs for this year. Our branch will meet on the first Wednesday of the month, except for October. The membership booklet will be distributed at the October meeting.

Thanks to Lorretta for the article in the Chronicle about the July 19 conference.

Susan Eastwood has been trained in the Start Smart Program. She is ready to do work shops.

Pamela Thompson announced that the first Book Author Fundraiser to benefit the Educational Foundation will be held at her house. The date is Saturday, October 4, 2008 at 10:30 A. M. A pot luck brunch will be supplied. The suggested donation is \$20.00 per person. The featured author is Lynn Z. Bloom. She wrote Several Deadly Virtues, which features essays on the experience of being a woman.

The State calendar is on the state website-aauwct/com.

An amount of \$2000.00 was received from the estate of Elizabeth Jordan and has been deposited in a CD.

Nikita Mason is at the University of Buffalo for the Fall Semester.

August 26th was the 88th Anniversary of the ratification of 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

X. Dates to Remember

Sept 27-State Meeting New Britain-8:30-11.30

Oct 2-Monthly meeting at ECSU

Oct 4-Book Author Event-Pamela's House E. Killingly

Oct 15-Movie at Lesley's house 7PM

Oct 23-Teresa Younger-Director of the Ct Permanent Commission on the State of Women will speak at 7PM at the Mansfield Library-Buchanan Center.

Oct 28-Deadline for Connections Newsletter

Oct 29-Board Meeting at Jean McCarthy's house

Nov 5-Monthly meeting at ECSU

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Betty G. Urban