

Minutes

Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc. Board Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2010

Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m. by President Geeta Desai. Present were Cyd Averill, Sharon Clarke, Mary Coiteux, Mary Lou Davis, Geeta Desai, Pat Dogil, Diana Gleeson, Eileen Hayden, Betty Harrel, Marcine Humphrey, Erika Kastel, Doris Kelly, Bergie Lebovitch, Pat Luczai, Wendy Maragh Taylor, Ginny Marcus, Liz Moesel, Sue Osterhoudt, Margaret Prescott, Trish Prunty, Linda Roberts, Joanne Sereda, Barbara Van Itallie and Sherre Wesley. The meeting was held at Betty Harrel's home.

President's Report-Geeta Desai

President Desai reported that she has three board goals for the year:

1. There should be a shared responsibility, with the support of all of us in project initiatives. We should rely on the whole group for help, and keep committed.
2. We should celebrate our successes... "shout from the rooftops". We need to publicize our accomplishments.
3. We, as a board, will become a tightly knit unit, a cohesive group. We will be a model for newer members and boards to come.

Minutes of May Board Meeting

There were some typographical mistakes in the minutes. The corrections are underlined: Page 2- Program "Programs will be selected to highlight the following four areas, etc" Page 2-Equity for Life "Linda Beyer said that the Adriance Library is holding a foundation and grant training and asked if anyone might be interested in attending. With these corrections, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Membership Report-Bergie Lebovitch

As of June 15 there are 333 members. We are the number one branch in the state, and the country! From March 15- June 15 we gained 23 new members. The sad passing of longtime member Eleanor Skov was reported. There are 17 members who have not renewed at this time.

Please remember to get your dues in on time. With new referrals, they may attend interest groups twice. If possible, introduce them to Bergie at a meeting. Send accurate personal information to Amy Schwed. Anyone can join with an Assoc. Degree or above. Students get a reduced rate. Rejoining members are considered "new" if they haven't been a member for two years or more.

With the Member Get a Member campaign, it was suggested that we keep in contact through the year, phone them, get them involved. Make the new members feel welcome. The Open House will be held at Central Hudson Auditorium on Tuesday, Sept. 21 at 7:00 p.m. Greeters and other helpers are asked to be there at 6:15.

Bergie has many members assisting with the Open House preparations, including Marge Barton, Ann Pinna, Rose Ann Scott, and Saranne Ratner, who designed the invitations.

Treasurer's Report-Barbara Van Itallie

The extensive work done by Carol and Ed Loizedes set the ground work for our treasurer.

Monthly Treasurer's Report:

Assets \$30,963.17

Money not shown \$2,178.85, given to us by the Dyson Foundation for the Diversity Conference, is set aside. It has been handled by Vassar College, before we became an incorporated organization.

We have a tax exempt number if anyone spends money for conferences, group meetings, etc. There is a **new** reimbursement form to be used for expenses.

When collecting money for a function, please include a list of names, addresses, date and amount of checks before sending them to the treasurer.

Program-Sue Osterhoudt

S. Osterhoudt reported that the program schedule for the year is now in place. Due to time constraints, it was suggested that the schedule be e-mailed to the Board instead of reading it at the meeting.

Nominating Committee-Marcine Humphrey

M. Humphrey reported that the first meeting of the committee will be on Oct. 1.

Board and Officers' Insurance-Barbara Van Itallie

There were requests from AAUW National and State to cover ourselves in event of a lawsuit. All nonprofits now do this.

Barbara investigated and found an insurance company for us. All elected officers and appointees to the board are covered by the insurance. During the summer, President Desai sent out forms to the Exec. Bd. to approve the coverage, and each Bd. Member agreed.

A policy is in place, and we now hold the insurance, under the Darwin National Assurance Company. The annual policy cost is \$861, and is covered under the insurance line on the budget.

Organizational Goals for Programs, Initiatives, Interest Groups, Projects, Issues Areas- All Vice Presidents and Chairs

Ginny Marcus, Secretary- the names should be right, and the minutes accurate.

Pat Luczai, Education Foundation V.P.-we will have fundraisers, and plans will go from here.

Sue Osterhoudt, Program V.P.-she would like input from members how programs should be run, keep them balanced (example: not all fundraisers in April), as many programs on Wednesday as possible. The programs should reflect AAUW's goals and policies. If members wish for more than one program a month, then other members need to become involved in the planning .

Sue also offered to help with the sound system if anyone needs it for a program or meeting.

Eileen Hayden, Historian-the archives are at her house, older ones are at the Adriance Library. A 1925 Membership Booklet was found. What, as a group, should we be saving for the archives?

Bergie Lebovitch, Membership V.P.- We should have at least 50 new members this fall, with a goal of 400 for the year.

Erika Kastel, International Relations Committee-We should connect with community resources, and invite people with more diverse ethnic backgrounds to join.

Doris Kelly, Public Policy/Voter Issues-Doris will do more research, have people become "2 minute activists". There will be voter registration forms at the Open House, and at other meetings/interest groups till November. Information about the new voting machines will also be available at the Open House. Doris has supplied pamphlets to willing businesses. Pamphlets and absentee ballot forms were passed out to the meeting attendees.

Barbara VanItallie, Treasurer- Barbara's goals are to learn more about her responsibilities and present the treasurer's report clearly.

Sharon Clarke, Legal Advocacy Fund-The Ribfest summer fundraiser had rain, and proceeds were less than anticipated. Sharon is considering a possible program for next year to compensate for the lesser proceeds. Perhaps membership dues could include something for LAF, or other ways could be determined to raise money.

Sherre Wesley, Diversity Committee-The project continues by interacting diversity through other activities.National AAUW has started a program called "My Sisters' Keeper", which encourages all members to be aware of women's issues and difficulties around the world.

Joanne Sereda, Women's Issues- Joanne will set goals after the school year starts.

Mary Coiteaux, Publicity Committee, Mary's goal is to publicize who we are. Please send her information and photos in advance to publish in the Branch, such as "Hats Off", individual achievements of members.

Marcine Humphrey, Nominating Committee-Marcine will have a meeting on Oct.18.

Linda Roy, Education Committee-The goal is to support issues and efforts.

Margaret Prescott, Cultural Committee- There will be a short article in the Branch on upcoming programs. The Annual Cultural Project will be held May 22, 2011 at the Howland Cultural Center, in Beacon. There will be a musical program. The Cuisine Group will take care of refreshments.

Pat Dogil, Hospitality Committee- Pat will set up the committee, and needs an updated list of bakers.

Betty Harrel, Organizational Development

These are the core beliefs that were developed, which are the basis for all we do in AAUW, and used to write working rules.

Beliefs:

- Mission guides our growth and development
- Membership is everyone's responsibility
- Programming must be mission based
- Board support is crucial: review responsibilities, have training, insure board members, value diversity
- Need good accounting methods and clear reporting
- Funding should support mission and funds should be distributed thoughtfully
- Publicity should be consistent
- Volunteers are the key to our success
- Clear communications are the key to growth and development: The Branch; directory as communications tool; calendar; website; effective use of technology, social media
- Collaboration must take place at all levels
- Community partnerships and outreach must reflect our mission

Margaret Nijhuis, editor, "The Branch"-Reminder that Margaret needs everything by the 10th of the previous month, with all details correct. She also urged all of us to go to the website and make sure our personal information is accurate

Bylaws Review and Revision

The bylaws need to be reviewed. President Desai will create an ad hoc committee with appointees in the near future.

Fundraising and Fund Distribution

Pat Luczai mentioned that we had a financial committee in the past. Discussion then continued with the questions, "What is a fundraiser? How many do we hold? How about corporate sponsorships?" Sharon Clarke pointed out that, legally, only elected people make financial decisions, committee chairs should recommend and advise. President

Desai suggested there should be a fund distribution committee, made up of elected officers.

A motion was made by Betty Harrel: **The Executive Board will be empowered to make financial decisions in reference to fund distributions.** The motion was seconded by Trish Prunty. The motion was passed unanimously.

Cyd Averill, Website Development Committee- there is no timeline as yet. This is an ad hoc committee with the plan to redesign the website. It includes the following members:

Cyd Averill, chair

Mary Coiteux

Geeta Desai

Mary King – webmaster

Margaret Nijhuis

Joanne Scolaro

Mary Lou Davis, Woman of the Year Committee- The committee is developing two invitations, one for members, one for nonmembers. Most invitations will be sent by e-mail as a money saver. The host site, Villa Borghese, promises a donation toward the fundraiser. The program will include a report on “Why So Few”? This is a survey about the lack of women in the Science, Math and Technology fields. The committee will invite businesses to send representatives to the dinner.

In the future, this will not be considered as a fundraiser. We will break even at 50-60 guests. Because the event was moved to October, next year new people will join the committee, and then one member will advance to chairwoman.

Marcine Humphrey, Girls’ Conference

Several meetings have been held to plan the conference. Principals of local middle schools will receive notification, then they will be disseminated to the schools the beginning of October.

Marcine spoke of the progress of fundraising for the upcoming conference, Nov. 6, 2010. AAUW members have given over \$1000 and the campaign continues. A mockup of the conference program was shown to the group. If anyone is interested in helping please contact her. There is a work meeting at her house on Sept. 28.

Marcine is also looking for volunteers to sit in the schools for their Open Houses in September. On the day of the conference, Marcine needs 12 volunteers for the registration tables in the morning, and another 12 for the tables in the afternoon. Erika Kastel is contributing translations and connecting to the Latina community.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Marcus, Secretary