

Minutes

Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc. Board Meeting Saturday, February 5, 2011

Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by President Geeta Desai. Present were Mary Lou Davis, Eileen Hayden, Marcine Humphrey, Doris Kelly, Cathy Lane, Pat Luczai, Ginny Marcus, Liz Moesel, Sue Osterhoudt, Margaret Prescott, Trish Prunty, Barbara Van Itallie, and Sherre Wesley.

Minutes of December Board Meeting

There was one addition: Dina Gleeson's name was added to the Strategic Plan Committee. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report

Our current assets are \$29,744.68, with \$16,850.69 available, and \$12,893.99 as dedicated funds.

Executive Committee Business

Named Scholarship Honorees:

The Executive Committee met on Dec. 30, 2010 to recommend the following honorees:

Eleanor Skov, In Memoriam

Linda Beyer, Past President

Gwen Higgins, very active member, support of Girls' Conference

Carol Loizides, past Treasurer, set up Lotus spreadsheets for treasurer position

Sue Osterhoudt, service to Board as VP Membership and VP Program

Pat Luczai, serving on the Board for six years as VP Program and VP EOF

A motion to approve the names was made by Barbara Van Itallie and seconded by Cathy Lane. Motion passed unanimously.

The Executive Committee also recommended the following names as Emerging Leaders:

Kim Butwell and Jackie Goffe-McNish, together, these women have launched a very active and informative interest group called Professional Women's Network

A motion to approve the names was made by Ginny Marcus and seconded by Pat Luczai.

These names will now be forwarded by application to the state AAUW.

Fund Distribution:

The Executive Committee has also recommended approval of funding for Leading to Reading projects, including big Books for Astor Headstart Centers and Community Family Development, string bags for foster emergency care at the Children's Home, and bilingual books for Rural and Migrant Ministry Summer Program. The amount needed is \$1020, which will come from the proceeds of last spring's Writers' Tea.

A motion to approve the funding was made by Barbara Van Itallie, and seconded by Sue Osterhoudt. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

Donation Requests

President Desai has received two requests for donations. One is from the Crime Victims organization for their fundraiser called "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes". The other was for placing an ad in the Beulah Baptist church bulletin, in honor of Margaret White, who has been named Black Achiever by the church.

Discussion was held about these two requests. A motion was made by Pat Luczai, and seconded by Cathy Lane, that we not buy an ad in the Beulah Baptist Church bulletin, or make a donation to the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes fundraiser. Furthermore, we need to consider making a policy decision for requests of this type in the future. Motion passed.

Legal Advocacy Fund

There was a discussion about providing baskets for the LAF fundraiser at the NYS Convention in April. Pat Luczai made a motion, seconded by Cathy Lane, that we not provide baskets, and donate the same amount we gave last year. Motion approved.

D.C. Science Fair

Discussion was held about publishing an article in the Branch calling for Science Fair judges. Also, it was suggest that we raise the dollar amount for the gift certificates we present to the AAUW winners each year. Sherre Wesley moved, and Mary Lou Davis seconded, that we award two \$50.00 Barnes & Noble gift certificates to the winners. Motion approved.

Woman of the Year

Mary Lou Davis reported that she plans to book the Villa Borghese again for our dinner, to be held some time at the end of October.

Interest Group Coordinator

Cathy Lane reported that a new interest group is being formed, and needs approval by the Board. It will be called Movie Night, and will meet the second Monday of each month, starting in March. Movie Night participants will go to the movies together, and then meet to discuss it afterwards. Cathy Lane moved, Pat Luczai seconded, that we approve this new interest group. Motion passed.

Old Business-January Reports

Margaret Nijhuis, newsletter editor, reported that a suggestion was made to perhaps mail one or two issues of our newsletter each year. The cost for postage, paper, printing, etc. would be: one month \$298.76, two months 597.52. A discussion was held, and the following motion was made by Cathy Lane, and seconded by Pat Luczai: there will be no change in the dispersal of the Branch, due to the expense of mailing through the Post Office.

Strategic Plan

The strategic plan was presented by President Desai. Suggestions were made, and the completed plan will be submitted to NYS AAUW.

Program Report-Sue Osterhoudt, Dina Gleeson

The Northern Dutchess Symphony was to have been our program for January. Due to inclement weather it had to be canceled. We have spoken to the presenters and they would very much like to present this program next year and we feel that this should happen. We had a similar incident with the program “The Other Side of Slavery” and were able to present it the following year.

We would like to discuss a cancellation policy-especially if a need occurs that is not weather related. We also feel that there should be a few programs “on the back burner” that we could substitute on a moment’s notice when the presenter cannot make the scheduled snow date or if the presenter had to cancel at the last minute. This should be discussed by the board.

We need to finalize a meeting time and date to discuss the Annual Dinner.

Discussion was then held about these concerns. We need a cancellation policy-contact radio stations, or possibly Cancellation.com, even if not weather related. This possibility will be checked out.

A plan will be formalized in the future for having a substitute program available.

Public Policy-Doris Kelly

Doris has made up a questionnaire for members about their involvement in Public Policy and its issues. She asked the board members to look it over and give feed back about it at the March meeting.

Meeting adjourned 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Marcus
Secretary