

Minutes

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by President Geeta Desai. Present were Sharon Clarke, Mary Coiteux, Eileen Hayden, Marcine Humphrey, Erika Kastel, Doris Kelly, Bergie Lebovitch, Pat Luczai, Ginny Marcus, Margaret Nijhuis, Sue Osterhoudt, Margaret Prescott, and Trish Prunty.

Minutes of February Board Meeting

There were no corrections or additions, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report-Barbara Van Itallie

Barbara could not attend this meeting, but she sent a summary of our finances. Total assets are \$30,626.21, with \$14,668.99 set aside as dedicated funds. There was very little change from last month's report.

President's Report-Geeta Desai

Dues: President Desai informed the Board that the NYS dues will be raised by \$3, from \$10 to \$13 for the next fiscal year. Our total dues will be \$78 without a raise from our local branch. Trish Prunty moved, and Eileen Hayden seconded, to raise the local dues to \$80. Discussion followed about the pros and cons to this motion, with the majority expressing that it is not prudent to raise the dues this year, considering the current economic climate. The motion did not pass. The board will consider a possible raise in dues next year, if needed.

Request for Funding Form: A process is starting to develop a form for funding requests from the local initiatives. The form should be in use by the end of May.

Round Robin

Policy re: Small Fundraisers

Margaret Prescott reported that there will be a concert at the Howland Art Center Sunday afternoon, May 22. The tickets are \$10 each, and the concert would be self supporting, with just enough to cover expenses. There may be a small profit, and a discussion was held about what to do with these proceeds, if there are any. Consensus was reached to place that profit into the general fund, since we have tried to have only one main fundraiser (the Writers' Tea), for scholarships and community projects.

All fundraisers should be brought to the Board for information and subsequent approval.

Contribution Thank You Notes-Pat Luczai

A gift of \$1000 was given to the Dutchess Community College Endowment Fund. Pat will write thank you notes and in memoriam acknowledgements to the named contributors to the fund. A discussion was held about publicizing name of contributors in the Branch. Pat will inquire whether contributors want their names known.

Organizational Chart

President Desai presented a chart to display the reporting responsibilities of the executive committee and the board appointees. There should be a structure in place to enhance communication among board members. This will improve information sharing and understanding. Discussion was held about the placement of positions on the chart, and suggestions were made for improvement. In the future, this chart will be available for viewing on the website.

NYS Convention-April 15-17

We can visit the NYS AAUW website to see what the issues are and what will be voted on at the convention.

If we are concerned about keeping the “University” requirement in our name and organization, we should go to the website www.keeptheu.com.

There will be our branch’s displays at the convention, supplied by Mary Coiteux and Marcine Humphrey.

Other Issues

International Women’s Day: There will be a walk to commemorate international women’s issues on March 8, at the Walkway over the Hudson. Please meet on the Poughkeepsie side starting at 2:30 p.m. Everyone can sign up when arriving.

Planned Parenthood: the House of Representatives has cut funding drastically. We can share our concerns and show our support at www.plannedparenthoodaction.org.

EF Report-Pat Luczai

We have learned that DCC is holding \$943.24 in account for AAUW. This means that the total funds applicable toward our DCC endowment now stands at \$8122.39.

Nominating Committee Chair Report- Marcine Humphrey,

The Nominating Committee has been working for several months to select a slate of officers for the coming two years. Other officers will continue to serve the second year of their term. A vote will be held at the May annual meeting. After which the new officers will be installed. Work is continuing on the appointed positions that are due to expire this year.

Co VPs Program – Barbara Hugo and Shelby Outwater
Co VPs Education Opportunities Fund (EOF) – Trish Prunty and Linda Olsen Roberts
VP Communications – Joanne Scolaro

Co VPs Membership - Amy Schwed and Kathy Brown
Assistant Treasurer - Elizabeth Moesel

A suggestion was made to invite the co VPs for Program to the Board meetings since they are first year members. This will give them an opportunity to observe and become familiar with how our Board functions.

Report to the Board for Live Your Dream Girls Conference-Marcine Humphrey

The invitations are in the mail for the Reunion called Calculated Fun. Mary Lou Davis is organizing “math” games. The girls are asked to pre register and after the meal and the games girls will join a “Girl Talk Circle” and discuss their feelings about studying math and science and life in middle school in general. The event is from 5:30 to 8PM. Our first organizational meeting is scheduled for March 29 at 7PM. We hope to see some new faces!
Thus far there are 24 girls attending, and 15 volunteers to help.

Newsletter Editor Report-Margaret Nijhuis

- 1) The new website is progressing nicely. Several members have learned to update. If anyone has information they would like included they should contact one of the committee members: Cyd Averill, Joanne Scolaro, Mary Coiteux, Geeta Desai, or Margaret Nijhuis. We are hoping for a late March “launch.”
- 2) Writers’ Tea: as chair of the invitation committee, I would like to request that each board member feel it their responsibility to get a table of 10 for the Tea. It is our major fundraiser and each of us benefits from the funds raised. You can fill your table with AAUW members or friends and relatives. We have 25 tables and 35 board members – officers, appointed and special project coordinators – we would more than fill the 250 seats.
- 3) We have had 26 members make contributions to the newsletter this year. My thanks to everyone.

Woman of the Year Report-Mary Lou Davis

The Woman of the Year luncheon will be
Saturday, October 22, 2011
12:00 to 3:00
Villa Borghese

Criteria for AAUW Woman of the Year

She has made outstanding contributions to the community in either a voluntary or paid capacity. (Most recipients have served in both ways)

She reflects AAUW’s mission statement: advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Branch membership does not disqualify a candidate, but selection should be based on accomplishments outside AAUW.

Woman of the Year Nomination

I would like to nominate _____

Submitted by: _____

Please list the contributions of the nominee to the community below or on an attached. Return the form to Mary Lou Davis, davehdavis@aol.com or send to 125 Andrews Road, Lagrangeville, NY, 12540

Publicity Report-Mary Coiteux

Identity Theft Feb 9th-

Jan 4th Flier and press release are prepared.

January 6th flyer and cover letter to libraries and recreation centers

Jan 20 Newspapers sent press release

Press release for the March program for the Poughkeepsie Branch, AAUW Inc.

Your readers are invited to this free informational seminar.

Identity Theft and Protecting Your Personal Information

Presented by:

Kim Butwell, AAUW member and

Financial Advisor

Merrill Lynch Conference Room

2649 South Road (Rte 9) Poughkeepsie

Wednesday, February 9th, 7:00 pm

The seminar covers:

Why you should worry about identity theft.

What defines your "personal information?"

How to spot "phishing" attacks.

What you can do to protect yourself and your family.

What to do if your personal information is stolen.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in the United States. With account fraud in the United States totaling over \$31 billion dollars and victims spending over \$5 billion trying to undo identity theft, this is a timely and important presentation.

Kim B. Butwell is a Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch in Poughkeepsie. She has a long-standing commitment to outreach in our community. Before becoming a Financial Advisor she was a consultant to the Dutchess County Office for the Aging focused on helping seniors coordinate their Medicare Insurance benefits and heading up the Long Term Care Insurance Education and Outreach Program.

Her varied professional background includes working as a Bereavement Counselor at Hospice in Dutchess County, Assistant to a Real Estate Attorney in Millbrook and Director of the Connoisseur Art Gallery in Rhinebeck, NY. Kim received her Master's Degree from Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY and her Bachelor's Degree from The New School in New York City.

Women in Diplomacy March 9th

The Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW is pleased to invite you and any interested students to join us for

American Women Diplomats: A Powerful Force

Ellie Charwat will speak about how the role of women in the American Foreign Service has changed from consular clerks to Secretaries of State in the past 50 years.

Ellie Charwat is the wife of a former Foreign Service officer and someone who has qualified for Foreign Service herself. She will share her amusing, scary, and sometimes exasperation experiences as the wife of a Foreign Service officer in Brazil, including dealing with terrorism threats, servants, entertaining, and teaching “under the table.”

The program is free and open to the public. There is no registration.

Date: Wednesday, March 9th, 7:00pm
St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church
55 Wilbur Blvd. Poughkeepsie, NY

For more detailed information please see the March 2011 issue of “The Branch” newsletter at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Information was sent to:

Political Science Dept. Vassar

Mr. [Andrew Davison](mailto:andavison@vassar.edu), Professor of Political Science and Chair of Political Science. andavison@vassar.edu sent sent to the whole dept.

Dr. Katherine Hite kahite@vassar.edu sent

Sarita Gregory sagregory@vassar.edu sent

Dr. Leah Haus lehaus@vassar.edu sent

Dr. Timothy Longman **Email:** tlongman@vassar.edu sent

Dr. Himadeep Muppidi himuppidi@vassar.edu sent

Professor Richard Reitano (Summer Scholars) rreitano@vassar.edu sent

Dr Steven Rock stroock@vassar.edu sent

MS Mary Shenley shanley@vassar.edu

Dutchess Comm. College

Dr. Andrew Rieser

Department Head rieser@sunydutchess.edu

Dept. Secretary maureen.horton@sunydutchess.edu

Writer’s Tea April 9th

Feb. 18th: Cornelia Seckal Art Times Journal pr & photos. She said she would put it on their calendar.

Feb 20: Publicity Packets made up and will be distributed from now to Board Meeting. All area libraries, Recreation Departments, and Book Stores will be canvassed. Additional fliers will be put in other stores and public venues and area college campuses.

Nancy Smith will do follow up calls to all the News paper contacts.

Save the Date and the First e-mail invitations have been sent by Margaret Nijhuis.

Geeta Desai is sending various community leaders an e-mail invitation.

International Relations Report-Erika Kastel

Thinking Globally Acting Locally

An organizational meeting for the multi-cultural initiative was held on Wednesday, February 16th at 7:00 pm at Panera Bread. Erika Kastel, International Relations director, chaired the meeting. A discussion was held on whether AAUW hoped to provide direct services to women or partner with other organizations serving these women and providing workshops about the resources. Possible partners include Vassar Brothers Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, Dutchess County Health Department, and United Way of Dutchess County, Greater Poughkeepsie Chamber of Commerce, Ahora, Somos la Llave del Futuro, and the many direct providers of services. *The initial focus would be on those who are economically disadvantaged.*

It was decided that we have to build a strong committee, comprised of both AAUW members and community members, set goals, and develop objectives for meeting the goals.

In order to involve others in the committee, Erika will speak briefly about the initiative at the March general meeting.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, **March 15 at 7:00 pm at Panera Bread.**

Poughkeepsie AAUW My Sister's Keeper Project

Meeting was held on Thursday, February 10th at 4:30 pm at Sugar & Spice. Joan Monk & Cecilia Durkin chaired the meeting.

1. NYS AAUW is applying for the Breaking Through Barrier's Award to be presented at the National Convention in June.

2. Goals and Objectives for MSK

a. Increase the size of the MSK planning committee.

b. Suggestions:

- Speaker's Bureau with "MSK Ambassadors" going out into the community to speak about key issues either global or domestic
- Coalition of Women's Groups in Dutchess County (possible 2012 project)
- Create more **awareness within the branch** – creating coalitions with Diversity, International Affairs, or Think Globally, Act Locally. Possibility of having an MSK committee member on each of these committees.
- One MSK event per month
- Their first Mission Based Meeting will be on March 10, 2011 from 5-6 pm. The topic for this is the slideshow, "The Canvas Prison." The discussion will be lead by Geeta Desai.
- "The Girl Effect" was suggested as a topic for the future.

3. MSK Tagline and/or Elevator Speech

a. The MSK committee decided that it was important to add a tagline or create an elevator speech to help members understand MSK is all about.

b. Information will be distributed to all committee members so that this can be developed.

4. International Women's Day – March 8, 2011

a. Registration for this event is 2:30 pm with the walk at 4:30pm.

5. Discussion of Branch Fundraising Policies

a. Must contact the PAAUW Board if we want to do our own fundraising.

b. Branch funds are to be used within the branch.

c. Will apply for some available funds for an upcoming project, possibly the fall cocktail party.

6. Future Events

- a. **MSK** Celebration and Fair Trade Marketplace – date selected was November 17, 2011.
- b. Cocktail type party with focus on one of key issues of MSK, possibility Maternal Health to be held during the first week of October. Cindy Brown will contact the Wallace Center as a possible venue.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, **March 10 at 4:30 pm at Sugar & Spice.**

Program Report-Sue Osterhoudt and Dina Gleeson

Our annual dinner has been set at Cristos, May 10, 2011. Cash bar at 6 p.m., with dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Public Policy-Doris Kelly

Doris shared a draft of a public policy questionnaire for our members at our last Board meeting in February. A suggestion was made to add an e-mail address on the form for communication ease. The form will be ready soon, and will go on our website, and distributed at our membership meetings.