

Minutes
Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Geeta Desai. Present were Mary Coiteux, Mary Lou Davis, Pat Dogil, Diana Gleeson, Betty Harrel, Doris Kelly, Cathy Lane, Bergie Lebovitch, Pat Luczai, Ginny Marcus, Margaret Nijhuis, Sue Osterhoudt, and Barbara Van Itallie.

Minutes of March Board Meeting

There was one correction: Under contribution thanks you notes from Pat Luczai, the word “anonymous” should be removed before “gift of \$1000 was given to the Dutchess Community College Endowment Fund”.

Minutes approved.

Treasurer’s Report-BarbaraVan Itallie

Barbara reported that we have \$28,865.72 divided between dedicated and nondedicated funds. She then presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2011-12. A motion was made by Margaret Nijhuis, and seconded by Diana Gleeson to approve the budget. The motion was approved unanimously. The budget will be published in the May Branch. A discussion was then held about the decreasing availability of grant monies due to the economy. We are working on ideas to improve the process of receiving grants.

President’s Report-Geeta Desai

President Desai has received a thank you letter from Catherine Hackton, one of our DCC Science Fair award winners. Her letter was well received by the Board.

Geeta reported about a request for funding for an upcoming convention called “National Convention for College Women as Student Leaders”. Discussion was held about the possibility of giving a scholarship for one young woman to attend. This could be an outreach to make college women aware of AAUW. This will be considered for the future, and information will be available at the NYS Convention. Another possibility would be to use corporate sponsorship.

We have a new Education Chair. Her name is Kris Puzza, and she plans on developing STEM programs for the fall.

Program Report-Sue Osterhoudt and Diana Gleeson

Sue reported that the annual meeting is at Christo's on May 10. One of the events will be to present the new website.

A discussion was held about the pros and cons of inviting the DCC Scholarship winners to the annual meeting. A motion was made by Mary Coiteux and seconded by Cathy Lane to give a student affiliate membership in lieu of an invitation to the annual meeting. Motion approved.

Round Robin

Bergie Lebovitch, Membership VP, reported that our branch is being showcased at the NYS Convention, due to our membership and visibility. Kudos to us!

Writers' Tea: Margaret Nijhuis reported that there are 195 attendees as of now and 50 items in the silent auction.

Website Committee: The website has been developed and updated by Mary and Dave King. The committee got a note from Dave King, about his appreciation of our comments and suggestions. The website is flexible and expandable, and Mary and Dave have worked very hard and have saved us much money with the development of the site. They are invited to the Annual Meeting.

Margaret suggested that we name scholarships in their honor for next year. Mary Lou Davis then made a motion to name two \$500 EOF Scholarships for both Mary and Dave King. It was seconded by Pat Luczai. Motion approved.

Doris Kelly-Public Policy

The Public Policy Questionnaire is on the website and will be in the May Branch.

Margaret Nijhuis-Newsletter Editor

If you are on the Board, or an interest group coordinator, your name, phone number and email are in the newsletter. Our email addresses are encrypted so that they are hidden from search engines. If you are choosing **not** to have this information published in the Branch, you must notify Margaret by a certain date. Margaret will send out an email annually dealing with this issue.

Interest Group Coordinator Report-Cathy Lane

Pat Luczai suggested to me that it would be helpful to develop a brief guide to starting and maintaining an interest group.

I place an article in the Newsletter that explained this goal and invited any interested members to join us at a meeting and/or email or call me with suggestions for points to include in the guide.

About six of us met and a few other members called or emailed me with input for the meeting.

Karen Haynes created a draft of points she found helpful when she started Trekkers. Our group then added information and some procedural suggestions that we thought would be helpful to anyone who wanted to start an interest group as well as to anyone who is currently coordinating an interest group.

We would like the board to review the draft for approval and/or guidance for constructive changes to be made.

Newsletter Editor Report-Margaret Nijhuis

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 "launch" near the first of April (we need to wait until near the Tea since the website will be down a few days).

Girls' Conference Report-Marcine Humphrey

The Live Your Dream Girls Conference held a Reunion on March 11, 2011. At this reunion the girls played "math games"- The girls were very engaged and the 7-8 women (under the Direction of Mary Lou Davis) who worked directly with the girls were pleased with the program. The girls did a puzzle craft during the registration period and were fed Pizza, Salad, Juice Drinks and cookies. We divided the girls into 2 small groups. The sad part is that 9 girls did not show up. Follow up phone calls were made to most of the parents the week before the reunion as a reminder. This is the second time we had such a small response. However, the girls who were there really seemed to benefit. One mother took the time to write a letter telling me how delighted she was to be invited. We spent 131.50 on supplies, Pizza, drinks and cookies and \$59.23 on the games/game materials. The puzzles were left over from a conference. The room rental was \$170.00 which is the nonprofit rate. Salad was donated. The games can be used at other events are being stored with Irene Keyes/Mary Lou Davis. I was very pleased with the participation of AAUW women!

The first meeting for the 6th Girls Conference was held on March 29th. Planning has begun and we are currently seeking individuals who would like to be a part of the planning committee. The request has been made for the first Saturday in November.

Community Report- Betty Harrel

The community outreach programs are growing and attracting new members. The Girls' Conference held its March reunion focusing on math activities. An initial planning meeting for the fall 2011 conference was held, and additional members are being sought. Leading to Reading used the \$1020 grant approved by the board to purchase string bags for several programs, big books for the pre-schools, and bilingual books for the Rural Migrant Ministry program. The Astor Center in the City of Poughkeepsie is a new community partner, and a meeting has been held with a representative from the Poughkeepsie City School District to discuss future programming. The Thinking Globally, Acting Locally initiative had the first meeting and is in the process of approaching community partners. The United Way of Dutchess County has expressed interest in working with the program.

International Relations Report- Erika Kastel

Thinking Globally Acting Locally

An organizational meeting for the multi-cultural initiative was scheduled for Tuesday March 15th but was canceled due to inclement weather.

A discussion during the first meeting 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. We are still in the process of inviting members to join the committee.

Erika contacted the United Way of Dutchess County who seem very interested in supporting the initiative, they even offered their facility to host the committee meetings.

The official logo of the initiative was introduced by Margaret Nijhuis and will be presented to committee during the next meeting.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14 at 7:00 pm at Panera Bread.

Poughkeepsie AAUW My Sister's Keeper Project

1. MSK Meeting Schedule

- MSK Committee meetings will be held at Sugar and Spice Café at 4:30 pm. Hoping to secure a consistent location for our 'mission based meetings.'
- Committee meetings have been scheduled for Thursday, April 14th, 2011 & Monday, June 13, 2011.
- Next 'mission based meeting' is scheduled for May 12, 2011 (location to be announced).
- "The Girl Effect" will be shown on May 12, 2011 and Joan Monk will lead the discussion.

2. Development of MSK Elevator Speech/Tagline

- Work on the elevator speech/tagline will be conducted via e-mail. We hope that everyone will participate.

3. Reflections/Reactions to International Women's Day – March 8th, 2011

- Responses were positive to the event. Members enjoyed the video of the event.

4. MSK Fundraising & Initiatives

- No monies were raised by committee members on International Women's Day.
- Process of receiving funds from the branch were discussed.
- Suggestions were made as to what to do with the money we have raised.
 - a. -Spend some/save some
 - b. -Support four initiatives from "Half the Sky" – education/economic empowerment/Obstetric fistula/Iodized Salt

5. Highlights of Discussion of 'The Canvas Prison'

- What was the purpose of this video – inflame/incite/propaganda/inform
- Different perspectives and points of view
- Lack of source information and copyright
- How much of the information reported here was factual?
- Was this a balanced presentation?
- What is the true status of women in Muslim countries?
- Become informed - what NGOs are working "on the ground" to improve the status of women?
- What actions can we take as individuals/groups/as a branch?

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Marcus

Secretary