

Minutes
Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 4, 2012

Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Co-Vice President for Program Barbara Hugo, due to the absence of President Desai. Present were Marge Barton, Mary Lou Davis, Cecelia Dinio-Durkin, Pat Dogil, Betty Harrel, Marcine Humphrey, Cathy Kinn, Ginny Marcus, Margaret Nijhuis, Shelby Outwater, Kris Puzzo, and Linda Roberts.

Minutes of the December Board Meeting

The minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report-Barbara Van Itallie

The Treasurer's report will be emailed to the board, due to Barbara's being out of the country.

Board Vote on Executive Committee Recommendations

- Policy on short-term investments of AAUW funds
Recommendation: Treasurer should be allowed to invest AAUW funds in short term, higher yielding instruments, based on her best understanding of the organization's needs for liquidity and program funding
Passed unanimously.

- Policy on donations to other organizations for honoring AAUW members; ads in programs; attendance at honoring events, etc.
Recommendation: We should support the recognition of our board members by other community organizations. We should have a fund to place ads in event brochures (\$250) and a fund to allow a representative of the AAUW to attend the event (\$500).
Defeated unanimously, after much discussion about how we only keep \$16 of the dues we collect from each member, and that the money can be put to better use for our programs and scholarships. If there is a need to send someone to these events, it will be considered on a case by case basis.

- Decision about Diversity Funds held at Vassar College
Recommendation: If the Diversity Committee does not invoice Vassar College for these funds, (which the college has carried for us since 2007), by the end of fiscal year 2011-2012, we should draw these funds down for other AAUW programs in need of funds. The funds will support the diversity component of these programs.
Passed unanimously, with the recommendation that a letter be sent to the Chairperson of the Diversity Committee, informing her of the Board's decision.

- Policy about donations received for Irene Keyes

Recommendation: We should create the Irene Keyes Fund for Women Student Leaders. This fund will be used to assist sending one, possibly two, women students from our local campuses to the annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in Washington, D.C. The fund will be replenished with profits from the Writers' Tea, grants writing and corporate donations and other revenue sources. The fund currently holds \$1000.

Passed unanimously, with the recommendation that an application form for funding student's request be designed before we award the funds.

- Decision to raise DCC scholarship amounts

Recommendation: In view of rising costs of college tuition and books, we should raise the amount of each scholarship from \$500 to \$600. This would mean that the endowment would be raised from \$10,000 to \$12,000. We currently have \$11,500 on hand.

Passed unanimously.

- Policy on Funds Allocation to AAUW Programs

Recommendation: Rather than have a once –a-year review of requests for funding each of AAUW's programs, we should review requests on an as needed basis.

Passed unanimously.

- Named gifts for this year

Recommendation: We have already chosen Dave King and Mary King as honorees for EOF named gifts on the basis of their extensive work on our website. The remaining 4 gifts should be named after Irene Keyes, Liz Moesel, Susan Kemp (in memoriam) and Mary Coiteux.

Passed unanimously. It was suggested that a committee should be formed to make recommendations for named scholarships, and an article should be placed in the Branch calling for suggested names.

Decision regarding existence and role of Executive Committee

The reason that the above listed items/suggestions are being brought back to the Board is because it was pointed out that our bylaws do not mention an Executive Committee (made up of elected officers). Discussion was held and consensus was reached about having an Executive Committee that will meet on an as needed basis, to make recommendations to the board-a practice that makes more effective use of the board members' time.

Continuation of Strategic Plan Review

Discussion was held about various initiatives, and how they should be organized on the plan, with updates and changes being made. A review will be done by Margaret Nijhuis and Betty Harrel, with input from the minutes by Ginny Marcus. Updating of the plan will continue at the Feb. 1 meeting.

Date for Woman of the Year-Marge Barton

Marge is planning ahead to the fall, and needed to make a reservation for our Woman of the Year event. The suggested dates are either Oct. 20 or Oct 27, 2012.

Meeting adjourned 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Marcus, Secretary