

Minutes
Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting
Thursday, June 7, 2012

Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Geeta Desai. Present were Jeanette Cantwell, Mary Lou Davis, Cecilia Dinio-Durkin, Pat Dogil, Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, Peggy Hansen, Betty Harrel, Eileen Hayden, Gwen Higgins, Barbara Hugo, Marcine Humphrey, Doris Kelly, Ginny Marcus, Joan Monk, Shelby Outwater, Kris Puzza, Kay Saderholm, Amy Schwed, and Joanne Scolaro.

Welcome New Board-President Desai

Geeta welcomed the new board members, saying there was a bright future ahead for our branch. She also thanked the outgoing members for all their dedication and hard work, and expressed very mixed feelings about leaving the board. She explained how much she had enjoyed being president and working with such a great group of women.

Minutes of the May Board Meeting and the Annual Meeting May 8, 2012

The minutes of both meetings had no corrections, and were approved unanimously.

Membership-Amy Schwed

There are 284 renewals as of this date, one national member, and 3 new members. Over 100 members have not renewed at this time, and many of them need to be contacted by phone to remind them to renew. All renewals received by May 30 will have a chance to have their name drawn for a free state membership at the June 14 monthly meeting. Discussion was held about giving a free membership to the candidate for Woman of the Year. A motion was made by Marcine Humphrey, seconded by Doris Kelly, to continue to give a one year membership to the candidate if they are not already a member. Motion passed unanimously.

Program Planning-Barbara Hugo and Shelby Outwater

There will be a program planning meeting for next year on June 14. Ideas will be shared about the monthly membership meetings. Some are leftover ideas from last year, and new ideas will be shared. All ideas will be welcomed at the meeting.

It was suggested that programming be used as a recruitment tool, and programs should reflect a changing demographic.

Announcement- our Annual Meeting will be held on May 7, 2013 at Christos.

Report Roundtable

- Program VP's Barbara Hugo and Shelby Outwater: This was the first year as co vice presidents, and they felt the programs had mixed reviews, with decent turnouts and varied topics. They are looking to continue to increase the variety of the programs, and thus increasing attendance.

- Interest Group Coordinator Cathy Kinn (reported by Barbara Hugo): Cathy has set up guidelines for starting an interest group, and has kept in close contact with the individual interest groups.
- Communications VP Joanne Scolaro: This was the first full year with our web page as a communications tool. We now have links to social media.
- Newsletter Editor Margaret Nijhuis: Everyone should check out the website, and see if anything needs to be updated, and let Joanne know. August 10 is the deadline for the September issue of the Branch.
- Hospitality, Pat Dogil: Thank you to the Movie Interest Group for providing refreshments earlier this year, and also to Cathy Kinn for contacting the other interest groups for their part in providing refreshments.
- Community, Betty Harrel: We continue to be very involved in various projects to help our community. Also, July 20-22 is the date of the NYAAUW Summer Leadership Conference, to be held at Cazenovia College. Geeta Desai and Mary Lou Davis (who is now NYSAAUW President), will be involved.
- Nominating Chair Marcine Humphrey: a) The job descriptions for the positions on the board need to be updated. She also made a suggestion that discussion be held next year about job succession to the presidency. b) Dutchess Girls' Collaborative workshop is being planned for the fall. c) Irene Keyes Scholarship Fund- the recipient, Domonique Garrett, will write an article for the Branch about her experience at the Young Women's Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. d) Girls' Conference was a success, and Cecilia Dinio-Durkin will be the coordinator for next year.
- Public Policy Doris Kelly: Doris sent out a request to all members asking if they would be interested in receiving updates on public policy. With Doris' help the movie "Gasland" was shown. We also held a Candidates' Night for the offices of Family Court Judge and Dutchess County Executive. Doris and Marcine Humphrey went to Albany to be involved in Equal Pay Day. Doris also sent out the AAUW Congressional voting record to AAUW branches on Facebook.
- Education, Kris Puzza: This year the board approved funding for STEM. The Libery Partnership will hire a teacher for the program to start in the fall. The group GEMS (Girls for Engineering, Math and Science) needs more volunteers. One possibility is to approach school principals for volunteers, or to use college students as mentors.
- International Relations, Cecilia Dinio-Durkin: a) Girls' Conference will be held Nov. 3, and volunteers are needed to participate. The conference will have some new workshops as well as the popular ones. A video on anti bullying will probably be shown. b) My Sister's Keeper is not a functioning committee at this time. The focus will be on International Women's Day as a vehicle for collaboration with other local branches.
- Historian, Eileen Hayden: Eileen has been working on our materials in the Adriance Library History Room. She has tried to cull the materials, as the space is getting filled up. She also worked on the biographies of past Woman of the Year recipients for our records. Some are now on the website.

- Woman of the Year, Chair Mary Lou Davis: We are trying to keep the vocational focus of the recipient varied, such as careers in education, health, government, business, etc. The committee now chaired by Marge Barton has met and made its choice. The award date is set for Oct. 20.
- Assistant Treasurer Jeanette Cantwell: Jeanette has been working on the national database to keep it up to date. She has been receiving the dues and taking care of the paperwork. She and Kay Saderholm have called several people to remind them to renew their membership.
- My Sister's Keeper NYS, Joan Monk: The movie "Half the Sky" will be shown on PBS.
- Membership VP Amy Schwed: We have been using the "big sister" concept, to mentor new members and get them involved. The idea could be improved.

Working Rules-Geeta Desai

We are working on a policy and procedures handbook, which is standard operating procedure. Experience is needed as an officer to understand what goes into the working rules. Therefore, Geeta and Betty Harrel will work on this. Geeta is planning to write them, and present them to the new board in Sept. Board members should send ideas and comments to Geeta. The first draft should be completed by the end of July, and then it will be sent to the board.

Meeting adjourned 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Marcus
Secretary