

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

Present were Jeannette Cantwell, Sharon Clarke, Mary Coiteux, Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, Peggy Hansen, Gwen Higgins, Barbara Hugo, Cathy Kinn, Linda Roberts, Kay Saderholm, Amy Schwed, Joanne Scolaro, and Barbara Van Itallie.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Jacqueline Goffe-McNish.

Welcome

Jackie invited members to reintroduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes of September Board Meeting

Sharon Clarke made a motion, seconded by Mary Coiteux, to approve the September 6, 2012, Board minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Remarks

The "University Partner Membership Program" is being established at Dutchess Community College. Students will be able to join our Branch for \$3, and will be entitled to free national and state membership in AAUW. They will receive all information from National Headquarters in Washington D.C. electronically and will have full privileges as members of our Branch. They will be classified as "student affiliates." Jackie also reminded everyone to sign up for the Woman of the Year luncheon on Saturday, October 20.

Treasurer's Report

Barbara Van Itallie reviewed the Treasurer's Report, which shows total assets of \$43,049.45. Jackie reported that the Girls' Conference is not requesting any additional funds at this time.

Open House/Membership Report

Amy Schwed's overall assessment of the Open House was "Wow!" Over 100 regular members and many potential new members attended. The response was very positive, and the Hellenic Center proved to be an excellent location for the event. Using index cards for existing members speeded up the registration process. Thanks go to Marcine Humphrey and Shelby Outwater for their assistance with refreshments. Cathy Kinn did a wonderful job coordinating the participation of the interest groups. Thirty new members joined at the Open House. Suggestions for improvements included having more space for refreshments, moving registration of new members to a different location, and developing better communication with the initiatives/community outreach groups.

There will be a New Member Reception on Thursday, November 15, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Zion Episcopal Church. Thanks to Peggy Kelland for facilitating that arrangement. Existing members are encouraged to come welcome new members to the Branch.

A motion was made by Peggy Hansen, seconded by Linda Roberts, to give an additional \$100 honorarium to the Hellenic Center for the use of their facilities for the Open House. The motion passed unanimously.

Kay Saderholm reported that we currently have 389 members.

Programming Report

Barbara Hugo reported that the performance for Michael Fowlin on November 8 will be held in the Poughkeepsie Day School auditorium. There was a discussion of publicity and other needs for this event.

A venue is needed for future events. St. John's Church is no longer available, and we are unable to use facilities generously offered by Dutchess Community College due to accessibility issues.

Girls' Conference Report

Gwen Higgins reported for Cecilia Dinio-Durkin. So far thirteen girls have registered and paid for the conference, which will be held November 3. The deadline for pre-registration is October 22. Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union has made a \$200 donation, and other donations are being sought. Schools throughout the area are being contacted, and brochures are being distributed through local libraries.

Writers' Tea Report

Linda Roberts reported that the Tea committee is about to meet. The Tea will be held April 7, 2013, at the Links in Unionvale. An Authors Committee Chair is needed.

Standing Committees Report

Reports have been received from Membership and Interest Area Groups. Jackie asked other committees to submit reports.

Interest Group Report

Cathy Kinn defined her role as the Interest Group Coordinator and the duties of Interest Group Leaders. She stressed the importance of seeing the interest group members as part of the AAUW whole, and of encouraging interest group members to participate in AAUW events.

Linda Roberts asked how new interest groups are formed; a proposal must be presented to Cathy, who will present it to the Board.

Barbara Hugo suggested meeting with Cathy to discuss ways to enhance interest-group members' involvement in AAUW events. Amy Schwed would like to join the discussion.

Diversity Committee Report

Gwen Higgins reported that the Diversity Committee met on October 3, and described the committee's focus as the exploration of "how others stop being others." The committee defined its vision, goals, and activities. Proposals included events for the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and for women and public health; the creation of advocates to help non-reading or newly immigrated parents navigate the education system; working in parallel

with the STEM and Let's Read Math programs to help sensitize girls to other cultures. The group agreed to support the Michael Fowlin presentation in any way needed.

Jackie mentioned the need for someone to oversee and manage the calendar of Branch events.

Jackie made a motion, seconded by Barbara Hugo, to approve two new co-chairs for Hospitality: Barbara Lemberger and Fran Raucci.

The Board decided to make a \$50 donation to the Make-A-Wish Foundation in memory of Shelby Outwater's husband, Carmine Curcio.

The Court Watch program is being recognized at an October 17 breakfast at Vassar College in connection with Domestic Violence Month.

The Board agreed to hold its future meetings at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church with thanks to the church trustees.

On motion by Kay Saderholm, seconded by Amy Schwed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Hansen