

Minutes
Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting
February 14, 2013

Present were Board members Marge Barton, Jeanette Cantwell, Maria DeWald, Eileen Hayden, Peggy Hansen, Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, Cathy Kinn, Margaret Nijhuis, Shelby Outwater, Kay Saderholm, Joanne Scolaro, and Barbara Van Itallie. Lula Allen attended the meeting as a guest.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Jacqueline Goffe-McNish.

Welcome

Jackie invited members to reintroduce themselves by completing the sentence, “You wouldn’t believe it unless I told you....”

Approval of Minutes of October Board Meeting

Maria DeWald made a motion, seconded by Joanne Scolaro, to approve the January 3, 2013, Board minutes as corrected. The motion passed with one abstention.

Treasurer’s Report

Barbara Van Itallie reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, which shows total assets of \$31,663.69. Barbara mentioned that next year’s budget will need to be presented; this is usually done at the April Board meeting and published in the May issue of *The Branch*. Barbara will be calling on members to gather needed financial information to put together the new budget.

Working Rules

Margaret Nijhuis has volunteered to compile revisions to the Working Rules. Jackie pointed out that these rules are different from the By-Laws, which are the cornerstone of the organization. The organization is ruled by the By-Laws, but the Working Rules are meant to clarify the By-Laws and help us in our everyday activities. Jackie emphasized that the Working Rules need to be looked at in relation to the goals of the organization rather than in terms of current practices. The Working Rules cannot conflict with the By-Laws; we have to be careful to ensure this. Jackie asked that Board members review the Working Rules in the context of what is good for the organization and what will move the organization forward. She asked that members send suggested changes to Margaret by February 28 with the plan to present them at the March meeting.

Membership Report

Jeanette Cantwell reviewed the fact that we have three free national memberships under the “Shape the Future” campaign. Because of a June 30th deadline to name the recipients, Jeanette Cantwell moved, seconded by Kay Saderholm, that the three free national memberships we currently have be given as an incentive to current members for early renewal. The motion passed unanimously.

Jeanette also reviewed the fact that as a branch we can select two members for free national membership as a result of the “AAUW 130th Anniversary Membership Campaign Recognition.” (An additional four free memberships earned under this program are being given to new members by randomly selected recruiting leaders.) There was a discussion about how to select recipients of these two free national memberships. Shelby Outwater suggested having a raffle for new members joining within the required period (March 15 to June 30), and this plan was informally agreed upon.

Program Report

Shelby Outwater announced that there has been a good response to the bus trip to the United Nations for a meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women on March 6. Participants will be asked to attend a planning meeting on February 27. The March membership meeting will be a panel discussion on international women’s issues, chaired by Geeta Desai. The Writers’ Tea is in April; May is the Annual Meeting; and the June meeting is devoted to gathering ideas for next year. On March 8 the Third Annual Women’s Day Celebration will be held on the Walkway Over the Hudson; registration begins at 2:45.

Writers’ Tea

Lula Allen reported that plans for the tea are going well. Three authors will be featured. Linda Roberts and the Auction Committee members are soliciting donations for the silent auction. The tea will be held at The Links at Union Vale on Sunday, April 7.

My Sister’s Keeper—New York City Trip

Funds for the bus were approved at the January meeting; there was a discussion about which budget fund this money should be taken from. It was agreed to table this matter until the March meeting. There was also a discussion of what practical actions might result from this trip. It was agreed that Peggy Hansen would call Geeta Desai to let her know about the discussion.

New Member Profile

It was agreed to add “Bookkeeping/Accounting” under “Skills” on this form to be filled out by new members. Jackie Goffe-McNish moved, seconded by Marge Barton, to accept the form with this suggestion.

Announcements/Open Forum

Jackie announced that AAUW Rockland County hosted an event, “What’s Likely in the 2013 New York State Legislature.”

Margaret Nijhuis reminded the Board about the AAUW New York State Convention, which will be held in Lake Placid April 26-28.

Jeanette spoke about member retention; she reported that 45 people did not renew membership last year. Of the 49 new members so far this year, only 21 have gotten involved by attending interest groups or other events. Jeanette emphasized the need to be proactive in reaching out to new members. People who joined later in the year didn't receive the Membership booklets. It was agreed to print 35 new booklets so that this year's new members can receive them regardless of when they join.

Upon motion by Joanne Scolaro, seconded by Barbara Van Itallie, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Hansen