

AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch, Inc.
Board meeting minutes
Thursday, November 6, 2013

Members present: Marge Barton, Susie Blecker, Jeanette Cantwell, Mary Coiteux, Jackie Goffe-McNish, Betty Harrel, Marcine Humphrey, Cathy Kinn, Margaret Nijhuis, Linda Roberts, Kay Saderholm, and Barbara VanItallie
Present by invitation: Peggy Kelland

The meeting was called to order by Jackie Goffe-McNish, president, at 7:00 pm. It was held at the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Wappingers Falls. Everyone was welcomed by the president.

Minutes: The minutes of the October 3 board meeting were presented as emailed. They were approved as corrected.

Chair's Remarks – Jackie Goffe-McNish: Many positive comments were made about the district Diversity Conference held in October. All who worked on it were thanked, especially Margaret Nijhuis, Marcine Humphrey, and Mary Coiteux. Jackie Goffe-McNish spoke at both the Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown Branch and the community college on diversity issues. She will be hosting the December board meeting at her home. The January board meeting will be chaired by program vice presidents Mary Coiteux and Susie Blecker at a place to be announced. A discussion was held on the Health Care Initiative to determine if insurance coverage concerns were met. St. Paul's Episcopal Church has coverage and a letter was submitted to AAUW from the pastor. It was decided that Treasurer Barbara VanItallie will ask for verification and send it to board members for review. If members feel it is necessary she can contact our AAUW insurance agent. A motion was made by Margaret Nijhuis to release the money for the project since we will be supporting it. The motion was approved.

Old Business:

Woman of the Year – Marge Barton: The event went very well with 64 paid attendees and many members were touched by what Patti Peck has done. We made a small profit since there were some donations and some who paid and didn't attend. Marge was thanked for her role and given a round of applause.

International Relations – Cecilia Dinio-Durkin: The topic was tabled since Cecilia did not attend.

Girl Scout project – Peggy Kelland: The project was approved last month. A proposal was made to make the project an AAUW initiative. A number of members have been involved, there is community interest in the program, and the Girl Scouts are providing funding and a school venue. A motion to make the project an AAUW initiative was approved.

Treasurer's Report – Barbara VanItallie: We currently have \$41,432.18 in our checking account, and that money will decrease through the year as we pay our expenses. Since the bank started charging for one of our accounts, they were changed to a checking account that pays interest and has no fees. The Diversity Conference generated a \$169.67 surplus, which would have covered the rental cost for the rooms. A Treasurer's Committee met and made several proposals. It was moved that the working rules be changed to read "Donations can be provided to other organizations which further our mission and are within IRS and AAUW state and national guidelines. Organizations would have to submit a statement showing how the donation furthers our mission. Any such donations must be approved by the board. The motion was approved. A motion was made that all initiatives would submit a funding request form by May 15, which would be reviewed by a committee and presented at the June board meeting. It was help ensure that all initiatives are treated fairly. Some money would be left for funding new programs or projects. A friendly amendment was made that the committee

would be chaired by the treasurer. Following a discussion on the timing of the submissions, the motion was approved. It was also moved that non-members will pay at least full price for attending any AAUW event and may incur a non-member additional cost as indicated on the particular event notice. AAUW members will receive priority when attending an event where space is limited. The motion was approved.

Legal Advocacy Fund – Marcine Humphrey: The goal for this year is to make LAF more visible and find some creative ways of fundraising. \$413 was raised from the Rotary Ribfest. A motion was made to send the money to the case support fund, which will support specific workplace sex discrimination cases. The motion was approved unanimously. Cathy Kinn made a motion to round the amount up to \$500. The motion was approved unanimously. Members were asked to think about ways to raise more money (the suggested donation is \$5/member) and a discussion will be held next month.

Interest Groups – Cathy Kinn: a proposal was made for Sheila Zweifler to start a new interest group on biking the rail trails. A discussion was held on having each participant sign a waiver form similar to the Trekkers. Margaret Nijhuis will send the form to Cathy, and it was suggested that it become part of the working rules. The motion to start the new group was passed unanimously. The issue was also raised about hosting people the night before the UN Conference. It was tabled until December.

Membership Assistant Treasurer – Jeanette Cantwell: A membership retention committee was recommended to find ways to connect with those new members who don't rejoin. The committee would be made up of members who hold key positions in the branch. A suggestion was made that the membership committee do this and that each of the groups involved (interest groups, initiatives, etc.) should have retention as one of its goals. A motion was made to table the discussion until December. The motion passed.

New Member Reception – Kay Saderholm: Board members were asked to sign up to bring a dessert to the New Member Reception on November 14th. It was also requested that members seek out new members (identified by special name tags) and make them feel welcome.

Open Forum: It was eliminated due to lack of time.

Announcements:

Hospitality – Jackie Goffe-McNish: It was announced that we need a Hospitality Chair, since both have resigned.

Writers' Tea – Margaret Nijhuis: A volunteer has not been found to take reservations. All groups who benefit from the tea should be helping with the work.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Harrel
Secretary