

AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch, Inc.
Board meeting minutes
Thursday, February 6, 2014

Members present: Susie Blecker, Jeanette Cantwell, Mary Coiteux, Mary Lou Davis, Maria DeWald, Jackie Goffe-McNish, Betty Harrel, Marcine Humphrey, Cathy Kinn, Linda Roberts, Kay Saderholm, and Barbara VanItallie by remote access.

The meeting was called to order by Jackie Goffe-McNish, president, at 7:15 pm. It was held at her home.

Minutes: The minutes of January 9, 2014 meeting were approved as amended.

Chair's Remarks – Jackie Goffe-McNish : Many interim reports have been received and will be read into the minutes. These include Program Vice Presidents, Newsletter Editor, Interest Group Coordinator, Secretary, Girls' Conference, International Relations, Historian, Public Policy, Leading to Reading, Girl Scout Program, Our branch will be allowed 8 or 9 delegates to the state convention and all members were urged to attend. Board members will be given delegate status and any additional openings will be made available to general members. Those planning to attend include Jackie Goffe-McNish, Mary Lou Davis, Linda Roberts, Marcine Humphrey, Cathy Kinn, Kay Saderholm, Jeanette Cantwell, Barbara VanItallie and Betty Harrel.

Old Business:

Treasurer's Report- Barbara VanItallie: Our bank balance is \$37,246. At this time of the year, expenses are higher than income. More detail will be provided after Barbara's return. A discussion was held on whether to submit a proposal for a board retreat on May 28-30 at the Omega Institute. A motion to submit the application was approved.

Several bylaws amendments were discussed. (1) A member may attend board meetings remotely and have voting privileges as long as they can be heard by all members in attendance and all members can hear them. To institute this procedure it must be in the bylaws. A motion to present this to the membership for a vote at the annual meeting was approved. The bylaws proposal must first be submitted to the AAUW-NYS bylaws chair for approval. A motion to add this statement to the working rules was approved. (2) Amendments to the bylaws must be sent to members in writing at least 30 days prior to the vote at a membership meeting. A motion to present this to the members at the annual meeting was approved. (3) The Executive Committee shall be composed of the elected officers of AAUW. This committee shall act for the Board of Directors on an emergency basis in the interim between board meetings. After discussion, the motion was tabled until the next board meeting.

Membership Retention – Jeanette Cantwell: Discussion was moved to the next meeting. With current pending applications, we will have 409 members after March 15.

Membership – Kay Saderholm: Kay is developing color-coded name tags for board members. Jackie Goffe-McNish volunteered to print and cut the new nametags.

New Business:

Nominating Committee – Mary Lou Davis: The following slate was proposed for 2014-2016: President, Barbara VanItallie; Secretary, Kathy Friedman; and Treasurer, Diane Jablonski. The slate was approved. A motion was made to change the working rules so that, with board approval, a member could remain in a position longer than two terms. The motion was approved. Mary Lou was thanked for all of her work and for being so willing to take on additional tasks as needed.

Meeting dates – Cathy Kinn: A motion was made to establish the board meeting and general membership meeting on the first and second Thursdays of the month. Although flexibility may be needed in arranging meetings, members will be informed that the meetings would continue to be held on the first and second Thursdays unless there are unforeseen circumstances. The motion was approved.

Leading to Reading – Betty Harrel: The Leading to Reading project is in its 10th year and would like to do some special “10” events. One possibility is having a 10 book Readathon and asking members for a voluntary donation of \$1 for each book read. If it is held it will be in September-October so it doesn’t compete with the Writers’ Tea. A suggestion was made to donate books to the Beacon women’s prison for their children’s visits.

Open Forum:

Writers’ Tea – Linda Roberts: Donations can still be made for the auctions and a committee member can pick them up. Items related to travel or leisure are needed for the raffle. Some smaller items will be bundled to alleviate some paperwork and make the member checkout process easier.

Community – Maria DeWald: The Mothers’ Group is doing well and Kay Bishop will present more information at the next board meeting. Cecilia Dinio-Durkin suggested some changes for the Girls’ Conference, one of which is to create a video for school websites. She can do that from her conference budget.

AAUW-NYS – Mary Lou Davis: Peter Yarrow (from Peter, Paul and Mary) has a program on bullying and is a possible presenter. Joan Monk has started a state-wide book group based on Robin Gerber’s Eleanor Roosevelt book. Members are invited to join in the conference call discussions. She is also collecting bras for the Free the Girls campaign, with a goal of 1,000 bras.

Leadership - Jeanette Cantwell : Due to the large size of our branch, Jeanette has observed that some leaders are overburdened in their roles. The possibility of assistants should be considered for those having a lot of responsibilities.

Honors and Awards – Mary Lou Davis: Susie Blecker has been nominated for the Emerging Leader Award. New leaders will be recognized at the state convention. The motion was approved and Susie and Mary Coiteux were congratulated on the outstanding programs this year.

Announcements:

Minutes - Betty Harrel: Susie Blecker volunteered to take the minutes at the March board meeting and Maria DeWald volunteered for the June board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Harrel

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Secretary

NOTE: Interim reports are attached.