

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, November 6, 2014  
St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie, NY

Members Present: Barbara Van Itallie, Barbara Hugo, Pat Luczai, Kay Saderholm, Mary Coiteux, Mary Lou Davis, Diane Jablonski, Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, Christie VanHorne, Susie Blecker, Betty Harrel, Cathy Kinn, Kathy Friedman.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Barbara Van Itallie. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Reports:

President – Barbara Van Itallie reported, with regret, on the death of member Peggy Hanson and took a moment to honor her. She announced the appointment of a new Assistant Secretary, Sue Doyle, whose function will be to compose thank you notes, condolences, etc. and to substitute for the secretary when necessary. Barbara expressed thanks to the following people: to Cecelia Dinio Durkin for her work on the Girls Conference; to Pat Luczai for organizing the Woman of the Year Event; to Sharon Clarke for her work on the Rib Fest, our fundraiser for LAF; to Sheila Zwiefler for taking charge of the plans for the Annual Dinner; and to Diane Jablonski for her work as treasurer.

Treasurer – Diane Jablonski reported that we made we made \$481 from the Rib Fest. We have budgeted \$2700 for our Contribution to the Educational Opportunity Fund. There will be more from individual member contributions, but we do not know the total yet. We traditionally contribute \$3000. We will make up the difference if the individual contributions do not bring up the total to that number. Diane Jablonski moved that the branch contribute \$3000 to the EOF. The motion passed.

Membership – Kay Saderholm reported that the new membership reception went very well. We get about 5 inquiries a month about membership in our organization. The directories will be out in December.

Programs – Mary Coiteux and Susie Blecker report that the November Program will be “Everyone at the Table.” Reverend Richard Witt, of the Rural & Migrant Ministry will speak about educational opportunities for migrant children. Betty Harrel will also talk about the Leading to Reading initiative. The December meeting will be “AAUW Branch Activities Night.” Tables will be set up with different activities – Math Games, Word Games, Scrap booking, Jewelry making. Members will be asked to bring an unwrapped gift for the Grace Smith House.

Interest Group Coordinator – Cathy Kinn reported that the Poetry & Play Readings group is being planned to start in January. Carol Loizides and Jackie Sweeney have volunteered to take over leadership of the group.

Special committees:

Girls Conference – Mary Coiteux reported that 59 girls participated, a lower number than usual. The girls were enthusiastic about the activities and 80% wanted a reunion. \$1311 was donated for the conference. Fifteen Branch members donated their time to help with the activities.

Woman of the Year – Pat Luczai reported that the Ship Lantern Inn did a great job for the event. We took in \$2200 income from the 55 paid reservations, clearing \$154 over our costs. Only 51 people attended, a smaller number than in previous years. We had the usual number of Branch members, but fewer community attendees, possibly because it was Make-a-Difference Day. In the future we should plan to avoid that day when honoring someone from a service organization like Habitat for Humanity, since it is an important day for them. Barbara Hugo suggested that we try honoring a group of women or an organization, instead of an individual. It was suggested that we could honor a group at a regular program meeting. Barbara Hugo and Pat Luczai will get together and work on new ideas and future changes to the Woman of the Year format.

RibFest – Barbara Van Itallie reported that our share of the Highland Rotary’s Ribfest profits is \$481, the most we have ever had. This money will be donated to the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). Since we already have \$181 earmarked for that fund we will donate \$662 to the general fund of the LAF. Money that was donated in honor of the late Ellenora Oberhofer will go to the Evvie Currie Fund of the LAF, which will use the money only in New York State.

#### New Business

Leading to Reading – Betty Harrel reported that she has applied to New York State and received funds of \$500 which will be used to start the “Books for Babies” program, giving a book to every child born at Vassar Hospital. She also applied to a program sponsored by Macy’s and RIF and we will be receiving 881 books from them.

Awards and Recognitions – Barbara Hugo suggested that we honor members who have died during the year at our Annual Dinner. We already have three members who have passed away this year. Some suggestions were made about how to do this – a program insert, or a poem or reading in honor of the departed. There will be further discussion about this and a decision will be made at the February board meeting.

#### Announcements

Cathy Kinn gave kudos to Jackie Goffe-McNish for presenting an extraordinary class at CLS, “The Literature of the Other.”

#### Workshop for Strategies

The board was split into two groups to discuss the following two questions: How can we better reach out and interact with the community, and how can we reach out to women at colleges.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Friedman  
Secretary