

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 5, 2015
St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie, NY

Members Present: Barbara Van Itallie, Kathy Friedman, Margaret Nijhuis, Diane Jablonski, Linda Roberts, Maria DeWald, Susie Blecker, Marcine Humphrey, Kay Saderholm, Cathy Kinn, Mary Lou Davis, Betty Harrel, Barbara Hugo. Guest: Cecilia Dinio-Durkin.

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Van Itallie at 7:06 pm. The minutes of January 3 were approved as written.

President's Report

Barbara Van Itallie reported that our February 4 joint meeting with the World Affairs Council was very successful and well attended, although there was little publicity surrounding it. We look forward to our next meeting which will be another collaborative event with other organizations.

Treasurer's Report

Diane Jablonski reported that there has been little activity January and our treasury is in good shape.

Membership

Kay Saderholm reported that we have two new members, including Lila Meade, who is co-founder of the Vassar Haiti project and presented at our January meeting. There are three more women who have expressed interest in joining.

Programs

Susie Blecker reported that everything is in place for the March program, *Historical Journey of Remarkable Women of the Hudson Valley*. However, the plans for the April program have not been finalized. Ann Hedgepath has agreed to speak on the subject of sexual abuse on campus, but due to communication difficulties, the date has not had a final confirmation. The Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church and Congregation Shir Chadash are eager to collaborate with us on this program, so we should try to tie down a specific later date if the April date does not work out. The May program, discussion our Health Care initiative is set. Barbara commented that we should make sure to pass on to the initiative leaders that the Author's Tea is the way we raise money for them, so we hope that they will push for higher attendance.

Community

Cecilia Dinio-Durkin submitted an extensive report on the *Live Your Dream* 7th Grade Girls Conference. 59 girls attended for workshops and activities and the board members agreed that it was a wonderful event. Cecilia pointed out that the conference raised an extra \$1631 through registration fees and donations, and questioned if this extra money can be added to the Conference budget of \$2000. Barbara Van Itallie commented that the anticipated extra money should be included in the budget when asking the board to provide needed expenses.

Cecilia had a core group of members that worked on the initiative all year long. She commented that it would be helpful to have more members involved who could form committees and split up the tasks more efficiently. Especially needed are people to attend parent nights in school to inform parents of the program. Suggestions to help get more volunteers included: Putting a "Help Wanted" ad in the

Newsletter, having one designated day occurring monthly for the volunteer meetings, and using more phone calls rather than emails to recruit prospective volunteers.

Cecilia commented that she would like to incorporate the other initiatives in our branch, for instance Girl Scouts, Let's do Math, to help with workshops at the conference.

Interest Groups

Cathy Kinn reported that interest group coordinators are now informing members about the upcoming Branch activities at each interest group meeting.

Newsletter/Website

Margaret Nijhuis presented the invitations to Writer's Tea that Jana Whearty did on the web. An invitation will be mailed to each member, and Interest Groups are distributing extras for members to give to their non-AAUW friends. Linda Roberts added that April 10 is the last day for donations. She has updated the donor letter. That and other forms will be put online.

Special Committees

Marcine Humphrey reported that the Irene Keyes Memorial Scholarship is in good financial shape, with over \$2000. We have been giving out one scholarship a year, and have also donated to the AAUW scholarship fund.

Marcine also reported that our branch's total contributions to the LAF (Legal Advocacy Fund) for 2014 added up to \$1,074. This includes Rib Fest volunteers, personal donations, proceeds from the basket at convention, table decoration sales, memorial donations, and donations made to the Evvie Currie Fund, LAF, New York State.

New Business

Barbara Hugo recommended that Kristy Van Horne receive the Emerging Leader Award at the state convention. We need a picture and bio to send to state.

Barbara also recommended the following members, who have been very active in leading our interest groups and initiatives, for the Named Gift Awards at the state convention:

Jacqueline Goffe-McNish

Kay Saderholm

Ann Wade

Mary Ann Ryan

Linda Ronayne

Peggy Hanson, in memoriam

All recommendations were approved by the Board.

Barbara Van Itallie reported that State has asked for nominations for the 21st Century Program Award. Barbara suggested that we nominate *Leading to Reading* and the Board agreed.

Barbara Van Itallie announced that the state convention will be held on April 17. We can have up to 9 delegates in addition to our delegates of the state. The state must have our number by March 30, so members that wish to attend should let Barb know by that date.

Linda Roberts announced that Barbara has donated a week in a time share for the silent auction. Dina Gleeson has donated a quilt that she made. Every square is a famous woman from the Revolutionary War. She wants only the \$500 cost of the materials. It was suggested that we auction this off separately at the Tea. Perhaps, we could display the quilt at our March meeting, as it goes with the theme of that meeting.

Betty Harrel will ask members to donate stuffed animals for *Leading to Reading*. Members will be asked to bring the donations to the May meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.
Respectfully Submitted

Katherine Friedman
Secretary