

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 3, 2015
St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie, NY

Members present: Barbara Van Itallie, Kathy Friedman, Eileen Hayden, Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, Mary Anne Hogarty, Janna Whearty, Sherre Wesley, Maria DeWald, Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, Susie Blecker, Linda Roberts, Margaret Nijhuis, Betty Harrel. Guests: Mary Lou Davis, Pat Luczai.

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Van Itallie at 7:04 PM. Members and guests were introduced. The minutes from the board meeting June 6, 2015 were accepted as corrected. The minutes from the general meeting of June 11, 2015 were accepted.

President's Report

Barbara Van Itallie read the resignation letter from Christie VanHorne, international chair, who is resigning her position as of October 1.

Barbara shared the thank you note from Debra Schon for our collaboration with the library for the March program about women in the history of the Hudson Valley. We also received a thank you note from the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val Kill for our \$375 donation to provide assistance to a Dutchess County girl to attend the Girl's Leadership Conference. We also received a thank you note from Dutchess Community College for our donation of two scholarships, and a personal note from Hey Soo Choi, a scholarship recipient.

Treasurer's report

In Diane Jablonski's absence, Barbara reported that we have approximately \$45,000 at this time.

Membership

Susie Blecker reported that the new members' reception will be held October 8 at the Boardman Road library from 6:00-7:00 PM, before the general membership meeting. Board members are asked to attend and to sign up to bring a dessert.

Open House will be September 10 at the Hellenic Center. Susie thanked Barbara Van Itallie for her help in sending out over 100 invitations this summer. Board members are asked to come and help make prospective members feel welcome, and are also encouraged to come early to help set up.

Susie reported that thirteen of the fourteen new members who signed up last year did not renew and there was a similar number last year. This shows the importance of following up with new members and encouraging them to attend interest groups and meetings. Interest group leaders will be following up new members who sign up for their group with phone calls or emails.

At this time we have 309 members. Although the numbers are down from last year, we have had well attended meetings and many active members.

Programs

Betsy Kopstein-Stuts reported on the programs for the next three membership meetings. The subject of October's meeting will be the evolution of women's clothing, and the November meeting will be about women and the automobile.

In December we will have an activity night where interest groups will conduct various games and activities, as we did last year. We will again ask members to bring donations for the women at Grace Smith house. Barbara will get a list of items that are needed for the women. Jackie suggested that we ask some new members to help organize this.

Special Committees

Linda Roberts explained that we have a \$12,000 endowment at Dutchess Community College. Income from that pays for a \$600 scholarship and we pay an additional \$600 for a second scholarship out of our Branch funds. There is an "interest and earnings fund" that consists of earnings from the endowment that are left over after the \$600 is taken out of the endowment earnings each year. That fund is now at \$3362. DCC would like us to keep \$1800 in that fund at all times. We discussed the question of what to do with the extra \$1562 in that fund. We could use it to pay for the second scholarship, or we could save it to start another endowment fund in the future. It was decided to leave it the way it is for now, but to think about what to do with it in the future.

Community Liaison

Maria DeWald reported that we are down to eight community initiatives this year. Let's do Math and Stem are in transition this year and we hope to start them up again. International relations will need a new chair, and Court Watch is still active but needs building up.

Newsletter/Website

Margaret Nijhuis urged group and initiative leaders to look at their pages on the website and make sure that the information is up to date. She reminded everyone that the deadline for the Newsletter is the 10th of the month before.

Old Business

Woman of the Year. Pat Luczai reported that the luncheon will be at noon, October 17 at the Villa Borghese. Betty Harrel is taking reservations.

\$500 State Grant. Barbara reported that we can apply for the grant again this year. Sherre Wesley suggested and volunteered to look into having a salary workshop. It was also suggested that it could be used for the Girls' Conference or used again for Leading to Reading.

Updating Working Rules. Margaret moved that we accept the changes to the Working Rules. *The motion passed.* Jackie Goffe-McNish suggested that we add a parliamentarian position. This would be an informal position and not a board position.

Bylaws. Betty discussed the changes to the bylaws that are required by National and do not need to be approved by board or the membership and the other changes that must be approved by the membership.

Betty Harrel moved that the following change to the bylaws be approved by the board and put to the membership for a vote: adding Section 8 to Article VII stating, "The immediate past president may serve on the board as an advisor for one year at the completion of her term of office. She shall be entitled to one vote." The motion passed.

Mary Lou pointed out that if we have co-chairs, for example our two program co-chairs, they are only allowed one vote for the position.

Margaret moved that we add the following to the bylaws: "If there are any co-chairs to any position on the board, each individual will have a vote." The motion passed.

Jackie pointed out that Section III, Article 7 lists initiatives, but does not list "Diversity." *Jackie Goffe-McNish moved that we add "Diversity" as one of the appointed directors.* The motion was tabled until we are ready to make the new changes at the end of the year.

Tabling. There was a discussion about manning tables at community events in order reach out to the community and inform people of our goals and activities. It was noted that there are often fees charged to do this and that many venues would not be helpful for us to reach our target audience. We will be on the lookout for appropriate events where we might try this. Jackie Goffe-McNish suggested that we could use DCC students who could fulfill their community service credits by helping us with the set-up and displays.

Program for middle school girls. Since our girls conference is on hold this year, we discussed what to do about a program for middle school girls. The consensus was that we do not want to give up on such a program. We need a committee and someone to chair it. It was decided that there will be a table set up at the open house asking for volunteers for such a committee.

Announcements

Susie Blecker encouraged board members to come early to help out for the Open House, and not to forget the new members' reception in October.

The District 4 Conference is in Queensbury on September 26.

There will be no meeting in October. The next meeting will be November 5.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Friedman
Secretary