

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, October 6, 2016  
St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie, NY

Members Present: Maria DeWald, Kathy Friedman, Janna Whearty, Margaret Nijhuis, Eileen Hayden, Dian Jablonski, Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, Barbara Lemberger, Betty Harrel, Bonnie Auchincloss, Barbara Van Itallie, Sandy Goldberg, Cathy Kinn, Barbara Hugo, Sabashnee Govender. Guest: Mary Lou Davis.

The meeting was called to order by President Maria DeWald at 7:08. The September minutes were amended and approved.

### **President's Report**

Maria DeWald shared a thank you note from the Children's Home for the donation of \$100 for supplies for the SmartStart program. Dutchess Community College also sent a thank you note for this donation.

Maria reminded the membership that we must remain non-partisan in politics when we are representing AAUW. Judy Elkins is coordinating volunteers for voter registration.

Maria reported that she has met with Lila Meade, who is working with Vassar students who may volunteer in some of our programs.

There will be an article about The AAUW Wilda Dible Hunt Memorial Scholarship in the newsletter. The scholarship is donated by Linda Beyer in honor of her mother.

Kirsten Gillibrand spoke at Val-Kill promoting the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission Act. Betsy, Margaret and Maria attended.

Ellie Charwat has spoken to Paul Sparrow, director of the Roosevelt Institute, would may work with us on an AAUW program about Women's Suffrage.

Barbara Hesperheide and Eileen Hayden are working on a project about the early history of AAUW, which coincides with the Suffrage movement.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Diane Jablonski reported that money is coming in from registrations for the Girls Conference. She reminded members that anyone who makes purchases for the branch must send a voucher and receipt to Diane.

### **Programs**

Sandy and Betsy shared their list of booked and tentative programs for 2016-17. Upcoming are:

October 13 - "Utopia" with Sue McLane

November 10 – Diversity Meeting, Islam Speaker

December 8<sup>th</sup> – "Holiday Refresh" Relieve your stress with Rev Susan O. Dabrowski

January 12 – Stu Shinske from the Poughkeepsie Journal

February 9 – Combine: recycle project at Vassar College and tour of Science Bldg

March 9 – Rehab through the arts

April – Writers' Tea

May 11 – Lucy Stone – Women's Suffrage

Sandy reported that Michelle Paolicelli, a Liberty Mutual Agent, has volunteered to do a defensive driving course for the branch. The consensus was for Sandy to look into this and get the details.

### **Membership**

Maria reported for Susie Blecker that 19 prospective members came to the open house and 13 of them joined that evening. So far, we have 24 new members and 15 are coming to the new members' reception. Board members are planning to come to the reception and some have signed up to bring dessert.

Members who have not renewed, but have not told us that they were resigning, are being called. Their names will be taken off the rolls if they do not renew before the end of the month.

### **Community Liaison**

Barbara Hugo reported that the Domestic Violence initiative is going back to using the name Court Watch.

Barbara Van Itallie reported that the new Math Buddies program of Literacy Connections, has started with 7 volunteers, five of them from our branch. They are also talking about an after school program.

### **Interest Groups**

Barbara Lemberger reported that Carol Demicco wants to start a Photography Club, featuring speakers and field trips.

*Barbara Lemberger made a motion for approval of the Photography interest group, meeting the third Thursday of the month. The motion passed.*

Barbara noted that religious holidays often conflict with planned interest group meetings. She has drawn up a list of dates of important holidays of the major religions. The interest groups can use this list at their meetings to decide on which dates to change in order to avoid conflicts.

### **Special Committees**

Maria reported that Dr. Sandra Opdycke may be the speaker at the June meeting.

Betty Harrel reported that the Woman of the Year luncheon has 51 people registered so far.

### **Old Business**

*Betty Harrel move that the board approve the revised Working Rules. The motion passed.*

*Betsy Kopstein-Stuts moved that the board approve the following members for the nominating committee:*

*Betsy Kopstein-Stuts*

*Barbara Van Itallie*

*Judy Linville*

*Mary Coiteux*

*Sue Doyle*

*The motion passed.*

Betty Harrel reported that she has gotten a \$500 New York State AAUW grant for Leading to Reading for two years in a row, and that other branch program may want to apply for the grant this year. Barbara Van Itallie will inform the STEM initiative members that this grant is available.

Maria noted the following dates:

October 15 – New York State AAUW District IV Conference

April 21-3 – New York State AAUW Convention

June 14-17 – National Convention

Maria reported that the Westchester branch wants to partner with us to offer SmartStart programs in the city for college students.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Friedman  
Secretary