

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, November 3, 2016  
St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie, NY

Members present: Maria DeWald, Barbara Hugo, Linda Roberts, Diane Jablonski, Betty Harrel, Mary Ann Hogarty, Sheila Zweifler, Susie Blecker, Eileen Hayden, Barbara Lemberger, Bonnie Auchincloss, Barbara Van Itallie, Sandy Goldberg, Kathy Friedman.

The meeting was called to order by President Maria DeWald at 7:05 PM. The October minutes were approved.

**President's Report**

Maria DeWald reported that new members Joanne Long and Carol Barmann did a great job organizing the Woman of the Year Luncheon honoring Krista Jones. 97 people attended the event, many of them from Sparrow's nest. 26 attendees made reservations with PayPal. \$4867.08 was collected and there were \$4,692 in expenses. New member Gail Sisti will be on the committee next year and may co-chair it with Mary Lou Davis.

Maria received a letter from Alice Bunnell, of the Church World Service. She was impressed with the film *Lost Boys* that we showed at the Boardman Road Library. She would like to get the film for her organization to show to the community as one of a series of events the CWS is planning to educate the community as it prepares to sponsor refugees.

**Treasurer's Report**

Diane Jablonski reported that our financials are in good shape.

The PayPal Work Group met to discuss its use. The group concluded that PayPal is a useful tool and that we may even use it for membership. However, because of the extra expense to us, we should charge an extra \$2.00 for each use.

The donations to EOF fell \$831 short of the \$3000.00 needed for the 6 named gifts we donate.

*Diane Jablonski moved that we transfer \$831 from the leftover Writers' Tea funds to cover the named EOF gifts. The motion passed.*

**Programs**

Sandy Goldberg reported that the Islam Program is next week. Members attending are being asked to bring toiletries for River Haven.

The December program will be about de-stressing

In January, Stu Shinski has been scheduled to speak. He is not with the Poughkeepsie Journal anymore, but plans to speak anyway. John Penney will be his backup if Stu Shinski is not able to attend.

In February we will meet at the Vassar Barn. There will be two speakers talking about recycling. The Vassar ecology department is co-sponsoring this program. It was proposed that we have a snow date of the following Thursday, if that works for Vassar.

The defensive driving course, given by member Michelle Paolicelli of Liberty Mutual, can be given at Uno Chicago Grill for \$22 a person. Members and guests will be welcome.

*Sandy Goldberg moved that we offer the defensive driving course in March, April, or May. The motion passed.*

### *Hospitality*

We need a new chair for Hospitality. Susie Blecker will call members who have shown interest in volunteering to help with hospitality. In the meantime Maria is looking into getting some storage space at the fellowship for paper goods, sugar, coffee, etc. to make it easier for hospitality. Bonnie suggested that we have a committee which assigns two people every month to handle the meeting, so that the same person doesn't have to commit to the responsibility every month. It was also suggested that we skip the coffee or bring a "box of Joe" from Dunkin' Doughnuts or a big thermos from home. In that way, the hospitality person will not have to come so early to set up.

### **Membership**

Sheila Zweifler reported that 19 of the 23 new members attended the new members' reception. Since then we have more new members, now totaling 29. The new directory will be mailed out next week. Database manager Claudette Hennessy has taken over the job of putting the directory together from Margaret Nijhuis.

Personal phone calls from Sheila and Susie, as well as interest group leaders, have helped retain all but two of last year's new members.

Sheila and Susie will be sending out letters to all non-renewals telling them that they can no longer participate in any interest groups, nor will they receive emails from the branch. Next year they plan to announce that those who do not renew by October 15 will not be in the directory, receive communications from the branch, or participate in interest groups.

Susie is keeping a list of those who refer new members, because they can most effectively communicate with them.

### **Community Liaison**

#### *Court Watch*

Barbara Hugo reported that, through the Court Watch Initiative, our Branch is being recognized by Modern Courts with the Samuel J. Duboff Memorial Award. This award recognizes the contributions of lay volunteers who have made an impact on justice in New York State. There will be an award ceremony and holiday party in NYC on December 7.

#### *International Initiative*

Sabashnee Govender has 400 large, post-paid bags from Schoola that can be filled with gently used clothing. 40% of the proceeds from the sale of this clothing will go to the Malala Foundation. Sabashnee would like to distribute these bags at branch meetings. It was decided that we should get more details into how the funds are used.

#### *Girls Conference*

This year, 120 girls have signed up for the November 5 Girls Conference. Great workshops are planned and there will be a luncheon with 22 women leaders. The date for next year's conference is already set for November 4, 2017.

### **Interest Groups**

Barbara Lemberger reported that the new photography group will be having their initial meeting on November 16.

## **Special Committees**

### *Suffrage*

The Susan B. Anthony purse is pictured on our Facebook page. We are asking the interest group leaders to talk up this LAF raffle at their group meetings.

Janna Whearty is researching a trip to Seneca Falls for the Fall of 2017.

### *Voter Registration*

Judy Elkin led members in a voter registration drive focusing on parents picking up their children after school. They were successful in getting 25 new registrations.

## **New Business**

### *AAUW-NYS grant*

Betty Harrel is again applying for the \$500 New York State grant for Leading to Reading.

### *Thank you notes*

The President will send thank you notes to board members and chairs. The initiative chairs will write their own thank you notes. The assistant secretary will write condolences, get well notes, etc. The secretary will be responsible for unrestricted donations.

### *Criteria for Partnering: Literacy Connections, Mill Street Loft, DCC.*

There is some confusion about who we should list as partners. It was suggested that we use a different word than “partner” – perhaps “associate.”

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Friedman  
Secretary