

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
General Membership Business Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Maria DeWald, Poughkeepsie Branch President. After welcoming members, new members and guests, she reported that the minutes from the January 2016 and June 2016 meetings are available on the website.

Maria DeWald gave the treasurer's report, with more detailed information available on our website. Most of the dues money goes to state and national, but our branch finances are doing well due to donations and our fundraisers.

A series of reminders were given to those present. We are a multi-faceted organization supporting women's and girls' issues of education and women's rights. We currently have 350 members, 21 interest groups, and a number of community initiatives. Since 2017 is the centennial of women's suffrage in New York State, those present were asked to watch for upcoming emails and information on the website. On Saturday, January 21, a women's march will be held in Poughkeepsie on the Walkway. Those participating were asked to meet on the Poughkeepsie side of the bridge at 8:50. The meeting on February 9 will be on various aspects of recycling and an extensive list of recycling opportunities will be distributed. The Writers' Tea and Auction, which supports all of the initiatives and scholarships, will be held on Sunday, April 2. One of the speakers will be well-known author Jim DeFelice. Information on the live auction will be in the upcoming issue of The Branch. The state convention, on Women and Power, will be held on April 21-23 in Syracuse, NY.

Margaret Nijhuis announced that participants in the women's march should let the organizers know if they plan to attend. She had invitations to the writers' tea available for distribution. If members wish to use a credit card to pay for the tea, dues or the annual dinner, they can do so using PayPal. There will be a \$2 service fee, which is the cost to AAUW.

Maria DeWald spoke about other upcoming activities. The branch will be offering a Defensive Driving Course for \$22 on May 6th at Uno's. It will be 6 hours, and if members buy lunch or refreshments the room will be free. The bylaws and working rules were recently updated, and they are also available on the website. The annual meeting will be held on June 8th at the Poughkeepsie Grand, with a keynote speaker on suffrage.

Members were asked if there was any other new business. Peggy Kelland announced the Extending Girls' Horizons project being held the following day. Sandy Goldberg said that the February meeting would be at Vassar Barn, and the March 9 meeting will be on a program in women's prisons called Rehabilitation through the Arts. The May meeting will feature a performer on women's suffrage. The program committee for 2017-18 will meet in May or June to plan next year's programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28.

Betty Harrel
for Kathy Friedman, Secretary