

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 5, 2017  
Conference Call

Members present: Maria DeWald, Sandy Goldberg, Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, Linda Roberts, Bonnie Auchincloss, Kathy Friedman, Diane Jablonski, Sheila Zweifler, Eileen Hayden, Betty Harrel, Barbara Lemberger, Barbara Van Itallie, Janna Whearty, Margaret Nijhuis, Cathy Kinn.  
Guest: Mary Lou Davis.

The meeting was called to order by President Maria DeWald at 7:04 PM. The minutes from November corrected and approved, and the December minutes were approved as written.

**President's Report**

*Woman of the year*

Maria announced that the co-chairs for the Woman of the Year Luncheon will be Gail Sisti and Mary Lou Davis.

*Hospitality*

The Unitarian Fellowship has offered us the use of a locking kitchen cabinet for our hospitality supplies for the fee of \$100 per year.

*Betsy Kopstein-Stuts moved that we approve the \$100 fee for the use of a locking kitchen cabinet at the Unitarian fellowship. The motion passed.*

Marcine Humphrey has volunteered to make the phone calls asking for refreshments for the rest of the year.

*FDR Library Collaboration*

Maria spoke with Paul Sparrow at the FDR Library about Women's Suffrage Centennial programs in which he welcomes our participation. There is a January lecture series, *Women in Tech*, and the Centennial of Women's Suffrage program at New Paltz. Our branch will participate by marketing the programs to our members. The FDR library also plans to host a conference, *Women of the New Deal Then and Now*, in the fall of 2017 or spring of 2018 in partnership with the Francis Perkins Library. They will be inviting Hillary Clinton to participate. Our branch is interested in helping with the planning and organization of this conference, with a number of Board Members volunteering to attend the first planning meeting.

*Board Vacancy*

The position of College/University Representative is open as Sherre Wesley has resigned from the position.

**Treasurer's Report**

Diane Jablonski reported that there has been little change since December and our finances are in good shape. She will be away for the month of February, so get bills and reimbursements in by the end of the month. Also, she will be moving, and will have a new address.

## **Programs**

Sandy Goldberg reported that the program is all set for January. Directions to the February program at Vassar College are in the newsletter and will be sent out in an email. Marcine will call for refreshments for that program, but no drinks will be included.

There has been some discussion about making the programs more accessible to the hard of hearing. The board wants to make sure that we do everything we can to enhance the sound system and to ensure the microphones are working and are used by all.

## **Membership**

Sheila Zweifler reported that we have 37 new members this year. Susie and Sheila will be calling them all in the next few weeks to encourage their participation and to answer any questions.

Next year those who do not renew their membership by September 15 will not be able to participate in interest groups nor be included in the directory. For members who were first year members, we will ask the referring member to call them. For longer term members who do not renew, there will be no phone calls. They can be reinstated if they renew later, but they may not be included in the directory. There will be a final email blast to remind members of renewal, and a note about the deadlines will be added to the renewal letter. Also, PayPal may be used to renew.

## **Development**

### *DCC Scholarship*

Linda Roberts reported that she met with Diana Pollard at DCC to discuss the selection process for the DCC Scholarship.

### *Writers' Tea*

The Writers' Tea committee has had its first meeting. The committee is short four people this year due to illness and some members who will not be back from their winter residences. Linda Roberts has made a list of specific tasks and times for which volunteers will be needed. This will be published in the Branch. This year's authors are Jim Defelice and Lisa Klein.

## **Communications**

Bonnie Auchincloss is holding a meeting to discuss communications issues on Tuesday, January 10, from 2-4 pm.

## **Newsletter**

Margaret Nijhuis is handling the internal publicity and registration for the Tea. She has printed invitations and is handing out copies to the interest group leaders to distribute to their members.

## **Honors and Awards**

Betty Harrel presented the following list of honorees for the board's approval:

Emerging Leader – Sheila Zweifler

Named Fellowships – Diana Babington, Lori Scolaro, Mary Ann Hogarty, Barbara Lemberger, Barbara Van Itallie, and Mary Ann Boylan

There is also a Cornerstone award recipient.

*Betty Harrel moved that we accept the list for this year's awards. The motion passed.*

**Special Committees**

Mary Lou Davis, National/State Liaison, reported that National and State AAUW are working to get more people to the conventions.

**New Business**

The second general membership business meeting will be on Thursday, January 12. Let Maria know if there are any agenda items.

**Announcements**

The Women's March on Washington is January 21. Also on that date are marches in New York City and Seneca Falls. The NYC march will be at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza.

The Defensive Driving Course will be held at Uno's on either May 6 or May 20.

Maria will not be in town for the February 2 meeting. The meeting will be held via conference call.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Friedman  
Secretary