

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 2, 2017
Conference Call

Members Present: Maria DeWald, Sandy Goldberg, Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, Linda Roberts, Bonnie Auchincloss, Kathy Friedman, Mary Anne Hogarty, Barbara Hugo, Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, Eileen Hayden, Betty Harrel, Sabashnee Govender, Barbara Van Itallie, Janna Whearty, Margaret Nijhuis, Cathy Kinn. Guest: Mary Lou Davis.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08. The minutes for January 5 were approved as corrected and the minutes for the January 12 general membership meeting were approved as written.

Programs

Sandy Goldberg reported that next Thursday's the program on Recycling, "Bettering Our Community" will be at the Barn, Vassar College. Betty Harrel asked board members to bring flashlights in case the overflow parking lot is used.

The March program is Rehabilitation through the Arts.

The defensive driving course is on schedule for May 6.

Membership Treasurer

Mary Anne Hogarty reported that we have one new member, making a total of 351.

Communications

Bonnie Auchincloss reported on the communications meeting which was held on January 10. Claudette Hennessy, our database manager, has met with Dave King. The database has been cleaned up and now is easier to use. More data can be accessed quickly.

We may put out an email "flash message" to the membership in the middle of the month to remind members of our activities.

Community Liaison

Partnership for Health Care Awareness name change

Barbara Hugo reported that the initiative "Partnership for Health Care Awareness" wants to change its name to "The Mothers Project." This name better reflects their mission to provide parenting education, social and emotional support, and connection to community services to underserved mothers in the Poughkeepsie area.

Barbara Hugo moved that we accept the name change from "Partnership for Health Care Awareness, to The Mothers Project. The motion passed.

International Initiatives

Sabashnee Govender reported that we are invited to participate in the International Women's Day Celebration which will be held at Dutchess Community College on March 8 from 4-7:00 pm. We will be setting up a table at the event. Barbara Hugo will attend the planning meeting and will write up a summary for the Board.

The UN trip will be on March 14. Initiative funds will be used to offset some of the cost of the bus for members.

Interest Groups

Ruth Sheets has been the coordinator of the Soleil interest group for eight years and would like to find a volunteer to take over the job. Two people could do it as co-coordinators.

Newsletter/Website

Margaret Nijhuis requests that we strictly adhere to the deadline for newsletter items. Items that are not submitted by the 10th of the preceding month, will not be included in the newsletter. Also, since Margaret will be away for the month of May, the deadline for June, including summer activities, will be on April 25 this year.

Information about the Authors for the Writers' Tea is on the website and there is also a catalog of selected auction items.

Maria asked if we can put the Women in Public Service Guidebook on the website. Margaret will put the link in the drop down menu for resources.

Development

Writers' Tea

Linda Roberts reported that the deadline for donations for the April 2nd Writers' Tea is March 18. If you have an item for the auction, email Linda so she can put it on her list and arrange for pickup. Volunteers are needed for specific jobs which will be listed on the website.

President's Report

Hospitality Status

Maria DeWald reported that the Hospitality cabinet at the Unitarian Fellowship is full of supplies and ready to go. Betsy Kopstein-Stuts will make coffee for the meetings and Macine Humphrey will make the phone calls for refreshments.

Non-Partisanship

Maria reminded the board that we cannot be political because of our 501(c) (3) status. We can respond to political issues (e.g. the DeVos appointment) as individuals rather than as a Branch.

Woman's Leadership Alliance

Maria attended the Women's Leadership Alliance "crossing the bridge" meeting. Our branch can submit a nomination for their Athena Award. We can market our activities on their calendar, and they would like to market their activities on our website. Bonnie will contact them to put items on their calendar – the Writers' Tea, and perhaps the monthly meetings. It was suggested that we could put their announcements in our flash messages.

Honors and Awards

Betty Harrel reported that she has talked to all of our award recipients except for the Cornerstone Award, which will remain a surprise.

Special Committees

State/National Liason

Mary Lou Davis is hoping that more people will attend the State convention in Syracuse on April 21-23. The cost is \$288 for two nights and six meals.

We usually take out a quarter-page ad for \$65 but because we are a large branch and have so many on the state board, Mary Lou suggested that we take out a half-page ad for \$125. Janna volunteered to do the ad.

Eileen Hayden moved that we pay \$125 for the half-page ad. The motion passed.

Woman of the Year

Mary Lou is waiting to get more names to consider for Woman of the Year. There is one name left over from last year. The committee will be meeting next week.

Nominating Committee

We have lost one member of the nominating committee. Please send replacement suggestions to Betsy Kopstein-Stuts.

Women's Rights Conference

Plans are underway for the Women's Rights conference celebrating the Suffrage Centennial. The conference will be held in Albany on November 4, 2017. The Women's Rights Conference and Heritage Committee is asking for organization membership dues of \$60.00.

Old Business

Maria is continuing discussions with Paul Sparrow of the FDR library about the Centennial Celebration activities.

New Business

Maria described our need for a banner to use in marches. Banners can be purchased on the National website, and Maria will look into it.

Announcements

Barbara Hugo announced that Dutchess Community College has a new satellite program at the Family Partnership building offering GED and ESL classes. Over 200 students are involved at this time. Please pass this information on to anyone who might benefit from these services.

The next meeting will be on March 2 at St. John's Lutheran Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Friedman
Secretary