

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 2, 2017
St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie NY

Members present: Maria DeWald, Cathy Kinn, Sabashnee Govender, Bonnie Auchincloss, Janna Whearty, Betty Harrel, Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, Sheila Zweifler, Susie Blecker, Eileen Hayden, Jacqueline Goffe McNish, Mary Anne Hogarty, Diane Jablonski, Linda Roberts, Kathy Friedman, Sandy Goldberg.

The meeting was called to order by Maria DeWald at 7:03. The minutes from February 2 were approved as written.

President's Report

Convention

Maria reminded the Board of the upcoming state convention in April. She has nominated the Girls' Conference for a program award. Janna Whearty has donated a purse for the LAF raffle. Betty Harrel is taking care of the memorials. Maria is looking into ordering a banner for the branch.

Women's History Month

DCC is having a panel discussion on STEM careers on March 7 from 12:30-1:00. Claudette Hennessey will be part of the panel.

Vassar College's "Women in STEM" club is having a fundraiser and would like to donate some of the money they raise to our branch for STEM activities. It was suggested that the Girls' conference might be appropriate.

National

Maria shared the letter from National describing proposed changes in the National Bylaws that will be up for approval at the upcoming convention. Certain procedural items are being moved from the Bylaws to the Working Rules.

Diane Jablonski voiced her concern about the possible \$10 raise in the national dues. Those who feel that this raise may affect our retention of members should email their concerns to Patricia Ho.

Susie Blecker is concerned that National has been recruiting some of our members, asking them to pay to join the National when they already have a membership through the Branch.

Pod Purchase

Maria is considering buying a pod, or some kind of technology, that would allow board members to take part in meetings remotely.

Treasurer

Diane Jablonski reported that the board must approve the budget next month so it can get out to the membership for approval.

Programs

Sandy Goldberg reported that the March program will be *Rehabilitation through the Arts*, a program that helps prison inmates build life skills and behavior changes through participation in the

Arts. From the program budget, we will give an honorarium of \$75 to the program, and a donation of \$75 to the alum of the program who will be participating in the presentation.

The February recycling program at Vassar had to be cancelled because of the weather. It will be rescheduled for next year.

The Suffrage program is coming on May 11, and the defensive driving course will be given on May 6.

Membership

Susie Blecker reported that we have 38 new members this year. She and Sheila Zweifler called them all to get their feedback and answer any questions. The feedback was positive and all but a few are planning to renew.

Sheila reported that she and Susie were not happy with the quality of the directory printing and looked for a printer who would collate the renewal letters. They have found Printing & Graphic Concepts, LLC will print, collate, stuff, label and stamp the letters for a reasonable fee of \$307.38. They will also get a price from them for the directories next fall.

Sheila moved that we spend \$308.00 for printing the membership renewal letter. The motion passed.

There will be a strict deadline of September 15 for membership renewals. Sheila and Susie will only call new members for renewal reminders. Other members who do not send in their renewals will have their membership privileges suspended after the deadline.

Membership Treasurer

Mary Ann Hogarty reported that we have 352 members at this time.

Development

Linda Roberts reported that she is collecting many donations for the Writers' Tea Auction. Restaurant gift certificates and wine baskets are particularly popular donations.

Linda will be meeting with Diane Pollard at DCC about our scholarships when the Tea is over.

Communications

Bonnie Auchincloss reported on the database changes that make the database easier to use and offer more flexibility in choices when pulling information from the membership profiles.

Community Liaison

International Women's Day

Sabashnee Govender will be at the AAUW table at International Women's Day celebration at DCC. She will have information about our branch including rack cards, applications, and copies of recent Newsletters.

The UN CSW bus trip on March 14 was cancelled because not enough people signed up. A number of members plan to go by train.

Marist Liberty Partnership

Marist is applying for a grant through the New York State education department for a STEM project with our branch and the Poughkeepsie schools as partners. This project has been ongoing for a number of years with Kris Puzza acting as chair and running science workshops. More information is needed about the kind of input will be expected from the branch if we continue partnering with Marist for this project.

Newsletter/Website

Margaret Nijhuis thanked the membership for honoring the newsletter deadline last month. She introduced a new item for the website called "Useful Links." This area will be a list of links to websites of interest to the membership, the first one being the *Women in Public Service Guidebook*.

Special Committees

Nominating committee

Betsy Kopstein-Stuts moved that Leona Miller be appointed as the 5th member of the nominating committee. The motion passed.

Suffrage

Janna Whearty reported that the trip to Seneca Falls is planned for the fall.

New Business

Science Fair

Maria reported that the Science Fair at DCC is April 1. We usually send two members to be judges and donate AAUW prizes to two girls.

NCCWSL

Marcine Humphrey is working on the NCCWSL scholarship. Information and applications are being widely distributed.

Cookbook

Jackie Goffe-McNish reported that the Diversity initiative is making a "Cookbook with a difference." She is distributing forms to submit with a recipe along with a related comment or anecdote.

Announcements

- * Defensive Driving: May 6/10-4/UNOS
- * AAUW NY Convention: April 21-23/Syracuse
- * Women's Rights Conference with Seneca Falls tour/November 4
- * Athena Award: due June 2, 2017

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

Respectfully Submitted

Katherine Friedman
Secretary