

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, May 5, 2017  
St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie NY

Members Present: Kathy Friedman, Margaret Nijhuis, Betty Harrel, Linda Roberts, Cathy Kinn, Jackie Goffe-McNish, Eileen Hayden, Mary Anne Hogarty, Susie Blecker, Sheila Zweifler, Barbara Van Itallie, Barbara Lemberger, Maria DeWald, Sabashnee Govender, Sandy Goldberg.

The meeting was called to order by Maria DeWald at 7:00 pm. The minutes from April 6 were amended to show that Sheila Zweifler was nominated for co-vice president for membership for a two year term rather than a one year term. Our bylaws require officers to be nominated for two year terms. The amended minutes were approved with one abstention.

### **President's Report**

\*Maria reported that 10 members from our branch attended the State convention in April. The convention was well organized and instructive. In a meeting with Mark Hopkins, interim CEO of AAUW, many members expressed concern about the raise in National Dues.

\*The DCC scholarship luncheon and awards ceremony will take place on May 17.

\*We are now sending out AAUW Alerts announcing community and branch events. We are working on graphics to enhance the alerts.

\*The program for the Annual Meeting is being developed at this time.

\*The STEM initiative is attracting members who have been helping out with workshops and with judging the science fair. The following members volunteered at the workshop planned by Kris Puzza for the Marist Liberty Partnership: Pat Luczai, Iris Turkenkopf, Gwen Higgins, Suzanne Turetsky.

\*Annual reports are due to Maria by email by May 15.

### **Treasurer's Report**

In Diane Jablonski's absence, Maria initiated a discussion about the Educational Opportunities Fund. We have traditionally donated \$3000.00 each year for six named scholarships. Now that national reports that the EOF is fully funded, we might think about making our donation to the general fund instead.

### **Nominating Committee**

We need to have a new chair for the 2017-18 Nominating Committee

### **Program**

\*Sandy Goldberg reported that we have a wonderful program planned for the May 11 meeting. Judith Kalaora is offering a presentation about suffragette Lucy Stone.

\*The Defensive Driving course has 17 people signed up and will take place on May 6.

### **Membership**

\*Susie Blecker reported that membership renewal letters have been mailed. She asked that interest group and initiative leaders be contacted to encourage their members to renew early and also to send in any recommendations for new members.

\*Susie and Sheila will meet with Gus during the first week in June to start planning for the September open house at the Hellenic Center.

\*The members profile forms have been updated and Claudette Hennessy has updated the database so that information may be downloaded more efficiently.

### **Membership Treasurer**

Mary Anne Hogarty announced that she has already received 55 renewal checks and 6 members have renewed online using paypal. The paypal users still have to print and mail in the membership forms at this time, but in the future we may be able to have the forms done online.

### **Development**

\*Linda Roberts reported that we will be giving out two \$600 scholarships to DCC students this year.

\*The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Writers' Tea and auction this year was a success despite the fact that there were 25% fewer people. The auction items sold well and there were a lot of donations. Many members who could not make it sent money. We made \$7600.00.

\*Linda thanked the many members who helped out, and Cathy Kinn who wrote a letter to the Poughkeepsie Journal. Author Jim Defelice was very impressed with our organization and promised to help us find authors for next year's tea, which will be held on April 15, 2018.

\*Maria suggested that we could change event name to reflect the fact that much of the money goes toward scholarships, perhaps "The Writers' Tea and Scholarship Auction."

### **Communications**

\* Maria reported for Bonnie Auchincloss that Bonnie, Cyd Averill, and Barbara Hugo are working on the update to the rack card. Any suggestions should be sent to Bonnie.

\* Sabashnee Govender reported that she has used the Facebook Boost to promote the Writers' Tea and got 600 hits. She would like to have a \$100 budget to boost other branch events, such as the open house and the Woman of the Year Luncheon. This can come out of the events budget and she will talk to Diane Jablonski about using the organization credit card.

### **Innitiatives**

\*Barbara Hugo thanked the initiative leaders for getting their budgets in on time. There will be a meeting on May 19 to determine how to distribute funds.

\*Jackie Goffe-McNish reported that there have not yet been enough recipes for the Diversity cook book. The deadline will be extended and Facebook Boost may be used.

### **Interest Groups**

Barbara Lemberger reported that we have new interest group leaders: Janna Whearty for Soleil, Mary Ann Williams and Pat Luczai for Pins & Needles, and Sue Doyle for Word Games.

### **Newsletter**

Margaret Nijhuis shared a note from member Ruth Gau and announced that the next deadline will be August 10 for the September newsletter.

### **Honors and Awards**

Betty Harrel reported that we have chosen Marist Sophomore Qadan Mohammed to receive the Irene Keyes Memorial Scholarship. She is passionate about empowering women and girls, and she is very excited about going to the NCCWSL conference.

### **Historian**

Eileen Hayden is trying to get in contact with the director of the FDR library in order to find opportunities to partner with them. She is looking into getting the exhibit on Women of Distinction in Dutchess County to display at our Annual Meeting.

### **Special Committees**

\*The Woman of the Year Luncheon will be on October 15, 2017 at the Beekman Arms. The Woman of the Year will be Mariel Fiori, of La Voz magazine.

\*Janna Whearty is working on the Seneca Falls trip.

\*The Susan B Anthony bag will be raffled off at the Annual Meeting. Tickets will be on sale at our May meeting and at the dinner before the raffle.

### **New Business**

On Saturday morning, June 3, we will have brunch at Maria's house followed by our board meeting.

### **Announcements**

\* Making the Connections: Conference on Youth Trafficking: Tuesday, May 9, 8:30-5, Best Western Conference Center in Kingston

\* National Convention/June 14-17-Washington DC/early bird registration has ended

\* AAUW-NYS Building Vitality Summer Leadership Conference/Cazenovia/July 21-23/\$115 for entire weekend

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45

Respectfully Submitted

Katherine Friedman  
Secretary