

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
General Membership Business Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 8, 2016
Annual Meeting, Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel

The business meeting was called to order by Maria DeWald at 6:40 PM. Maria thanked all board members, off-board members, interest group and initiative leaders for their participation and support of our branch activities.

Annual Branch Report

Our theme for this year is “Celebrating our Legacy, Enhancing our Future.” Maria noted that we are the largest New York State branch of AAUW, with 355 members 21 interest groups, and 8 community initiatives, including Diversity, Extending Girl’s Horizons, International Initiatives, Leading to Reading Live Your Dream Girls’ Conference, the Mothers Project, Stem and Court Watch.

As part of our celebration of the 100th year anniversary of women’s suffrage, we have had a variety of speakers and branch activities as well as monthly articles in the newsletter. Other yearly events have included the Woman of the Year luncheon, honoring Christa Jones, and the Writers’ Tea, a yearly event that raises funds for all our initiatives and scholarships. We are an active part of both the New York State and the National AAUW.

Minutes

Kathy Friedman reported that the minutes from the last General Membership Meeting on January 12, 2017, were approved at the February Board meeting are now posted on the website.

Bylaws Amendments

The following bylaws amendments have been published in the Branch as required by the bylaws.

Kathy Friedman moved for the adoption of the following name changes:

Secretary will be called Secretary/Bylaws.

Educational Opportunities Fund Vice-President will be called Development Vice President.

The motion passed.

Kathy Friedman moved that Article XIX be added to the Bylaws to read: “Provisions of the Affiliate’s bylaws not mandated by AAUW may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members voting after a quorum is obtained. Proposed bylaws amendments shall be sent to the entire membership at least 30 days prior to the applicable meeting.

The motion passed

Treasurer's Report and Budget

Diane Jablonski reported that the Writers' Tea netted \$7500 in support our activities. We are in good shape financially with a current balance of \$53,400. The proposed budget for next year has been published in the Branch.

*Diane Jablonski moved that we approve the 2017-18 budget as published in the Branch.
The motion passed.*

Report of the Nominating Committee and Election

Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, nominating committee chair, nominated the following members for the slate of officers:

Program Vice Presidents – Monique Jones and Sandy Lash

Membership Vice Presidents – Susie Blecker and Sheila Zweifler

Development Vice President – Jocelynn Banfield

Secretary Kathy Friedman cast one ballot for the slate.

The membership voted unanimously to elect the slate of officers.

Installation of Officers

The five new officers were sworn in by Mary Lou Davis, AAUW-NYS Past President.

Honors

Sheila Zweifler and Susie Blecker awarded Membership Honors for those who have reached milestones in their continued length of membership.

Betty Harrel, Honors & Awards Chair, and Linda Roberts EOF Vice President announced the following recipients of the Educational Opportunities Funds Honors:

Diana Babington, Mary Ann Boylan, Mary Anne Hogarty, Barbara Lemberger, Lori Scolaro, Barbara Van Itallie.

The 2017 recipient of the Emerging Leader Award is Sheila Zweifler

The recipient of the Cornerstone Award is Gloria Gibbs.

Maria Dewald introduced Sandra Opdycke, author and historian, who's topic was, "When Women Won the Vote."

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Friedman
Secretary