

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 31
St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie, NY

Members present: Diane Jablonski, Kathy Friedman, Jocelynn Banfield, Betty Harrel, Pat DeLeo, Eileen Hayden, Cathy Kinn, Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, Margaret Nijhuis, Sabashnee Govender, Mary Anne Hogarty, Janna Whearty, Monique Jones, Barbara Van Itallie, Maria DeWald, Sandy Lash, Bonnie Auchincloss, Barbara Hugo. Guest: Mary Lou Davis.

The meeting was called to order by President Maria DeWald at 7:05 PM.

The Board Meeting minutes of June 3 and the General meeting minutes of June 8 were corrected and approved.

President's Report

* Maria noted that some items were inadvertently left out of our bylaws when we made some changes mandated by National. The following items will be added back to the bylaws:

Article IV section 2 (4): Forty-year Honorary branch Member. Any branch Member who has paid Poughkeepsie Branch dues for forty (40) years shall become a Branch Honorary Member and shall thereafter be exempt from the payment of branch dues.

Article XIX-Amendments to the Bylaws

Section 1. Provisions of these bylaws not governed by the Association charter and bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at a general membership meeting provided written notice shall have been given to every member at least two weeks before the meeting.

Section 2. Prior to being voted on, proposed changes to the branch bylaws shall be sent to the state bylaws chair for approval.

Section 3. Amendments required by the Association to bring branch bylaws into conformity shall not require a vote of the branch members, except that an incorporated branch shall take the necessary steps required by their articles of incorporation.

These items do not need to be put up for a membership vote, because they were never voted out.

Maria also noted that we are changing the names of the committees, Diversity, Public Policy, and the Writers' Tea to Diversity/Inclusion, Public Policy/AAUW Priorities, and Writers' Tea and Benefit Auction.

Also, the bylaws statement, "The immediate past president may serve on the board as an advisor for one year at the completion of her term of office," should be added back to the working rules.

* Maria shared that thank you note guidelines that are now in the working rules.

* Annual Reports are now on the website. Our bylaws and working rules state that all board members are to submit annual reports. To drop this requires a change in the bylaws and working rules. Initiative chairs are not required to write the annual reports, but they do write reports for the budget.

* AAUW Magazine is now digital. Hard copies will be sent on request.

* Getting someone to take on Hospitality has been an ongoing problem. Barbara Lemberger sent out a request for help to the interest groups and got an immediate response. The groups will handle hospitality for the Open House and the New Members reception. We will continue to seek help from the interest groups for our meetings.

* Maria attended the Cazenovia Leadership Conference and shared some of the literature and brochures that she collected there. We can display them at our events.

* Kim Church, CEO of National will be in New York on September 14. Betty is going to see her there. The following questions and concerns were given to Betty to pass on to Kim Church.

- National does not put enough emphasis on Interest Groups which can be used to build membership.
- In order to sell the \$10 increase in member dues, we must sell all the things National does.
- We should invite Fellows to talk at our meetings.
- National should come in and help branches when they are in danger of closing.

Treasurer's Report

Diane Jablonski moved to amend the adopted budget for 2017-18 to allocate \$600 for International Relations and \$1088.93 for Diversity/Inclusion. The funds to cover those committees to come from the Reserved Initiative Funds. The motion passed

Diane asked that multiple receipts be submitted taped to 8.5 X 11 paper so that she can scan them into Quickbooks.

Programs

Monique Jones reported that our monthly meeting programs are in place except for December, January, and May. Jackie Goffe-McNish offered that Diversity/Inclusion can develop a program for one of those months.

The following programs are planned:

October – Bettering our Community: Using Resources Wisely – at Vassar Barn

November – Sabeeha Rehaman will speak on Being Muslim in America.

February – The Many Faces of Trafficking, Grace Roebuck

March – Wendy Taylor will speak on Work/Life/Community balance at Vassar College

Membership

Maria reported that the Sheila Zweifler and Susie Blecker have sent out 66 invitations to the open house to perspective members. They are asking for volunteers to help guide new members around at the October open house.

Membership Treasurer

Mary Anne Hogarty reported that only 30 members have failed to respond to the renewal letter, a number lower than usual. These members will get a last reminder, as many of them may intend to renew. Those who don't respond will be taken off the membership rolls in September.

Maria suggested that we give an honorary membership to Pamela Eddington, DCC president, as a thank you for all the work she has done with our branch.

Jackie Goffe-McNish moved that we grant an honorary membership to AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch for 2017-18 in recognition for all her support for the AAUW and for women's issues. The motion passed.

Development

Marcine Humphrey will be the new volunteer coordinator for the Ribfest, an event that donates to LAF.

Communications

* Bonnie Auchincloss reported that the new email "Alerts", with their eye-catching banner, are very successful in keeping our membership apprised of branch and community events. The information for an Alert goes to Cathy Kinn who adds the banner and forwards it to Joanne Scolaro who sends it out to the membership.

* Barbara Hugo and Cyd Averill have designed a business card for the branch, with contact information for our website, Facebook page, and for National. A packet of these cards will be distributed to members at the Open House.

* Publicity. Congratulations to Betty Harrel for her great article about Leading to Reading which was featured in the Poughkeepsie Journal. Eileen Hayden has written a fine article about Women's Suffrage which we also expect to see published.

* Newsletter/Website. Margaret Nihuis has made some changes to the website, adding some new web pages pertaining to Alerts and Facebook. Program announcements are continually updated as they are scheduled. Reminders will be sent about membership meetings and other events such as Woman of the Year.

Community Services

* Barbara Hugo announced that we have a new initiative, Careers and Leadership. The initiative's purpose is to provide support services for college students seeking jobs and leadership training for working women. Leah Feldman will chair the initiative, but we are seeking a co-chair.

* Maria and Barbara met with Kay Bishop about the direction for the Mother's Project initiative.

* Betty Harrel reported that Leading to Reading has a new project, "Laundromat Libraries." Working in conjunction with the Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, they provide crates of children's books at various places in the community. These books are available for children to read or take home.

Reports of Board Committees

* Diversity/Inclusion. Jackie Goffe-McNish announced that there will be an organizational meeting on September 29.

* International Relations. Sabshnee Govender reported that the Poughkeepsie NY team of Days for Girls meets monthly at Vassar Hospital. This international organization makes feminine hygiene kits for girls. The American Sewing Guild helped out at the last meeting.

* Public Policy/AAUW Priorities. Pat Deleo reported that a meet the candidates night is being scheduled for October, possibly on the 25th. The League of Women Voters will moderate.

Pat suggested that we send a letter of congratulations to Simone Askew, the first black woman to become First Captain of the Corps of Cadets in West Point.

Pat reminded us that there is an important vote coming up in November about whether to have a constitutional convention for New York State.

* Nominating Committee. Barbara Van Itallie reported that we have three elected officer positions to fill for next year. She presented the following prospective committee members for approval:

Barbara Van Itallie	Betty Harrel
Sheila Zweifler	Mary Coiteux
Sue Doyle	

Diane Jablonski moved that we approve the nominating committee as presented. The motion passed.

Additional Board Reports

* State/National Liaison. Mary Lou Davis reported that the 2018-19 dues will increase by \$10 and we will have to plan how to sell that to the membership.

* National is working on a new program about women's suffrage.

* Historian Eileen Hayden reported that the series of articles in the Branch, "Perusing our Past" is going very well.

* Woman of the Year. Mary Lou announce that the Woman of the Year will be Mariel Fiori, managing editor of *La Voz*.

* AAUW NYS District IV Conference. Maria announced that we will be hosting the conference on October 21 at the Poughkeepsie Underwear Factory, North Cherry Street, Poughkeepsie.

* Judy Linville will be coordinating the Annual Meeting this year.

* Girls Conference. Bonnie Auchincloss is asking for volunteers to go to school open houses to recruit participants.

Announcements

* Open House/September 7/Hellenic Center/7:00 pm

* New Member Reception/Vassar Barns/October 12/program to follow

* District IV Conference: October 21, Poughkeepsie Underwear Factory

* Women of the Year: Sunday, October 29/Beekman Arms

* Girls Conference: November 4/DCC