

LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRLS' CONFERENCE

REPORT TO THE BOARD – AAUW Poughkeepsie

The Live Your Dream Girls' Conference committee has made a commitment to putting on the conference this year, after missing one in 2015. This is a group effort for about 20-25 members. We are partnering not only with Dutchess Community College, our host for the conference, but have a good deal of support from the Association of Women at DCC. Dr. Pamela Eddington, the new president of Dutchess, has an interest in improving DCC's community involvement. After a meeting at Barbara Van Italie's home in December, Diana Babington volunteered to co-chair with Lori Scolaro, the assistant director of academic services at DCC. Lori brings her experience with implementing conferences, as she is one of the leaders of the summer program SMART START at Dutchess. She is also the president of the Association of Women at DCC. Diana Babington is a newly retired school counselor and is looking forward to making this year's conference the best yet.

Knowing that in the past one of the chief obstacles was student recruitment, both Lori and Diana made that an important piece of our subcommittee work. Suzi Stoller, Bonnie Auchincloss, Carol Gray and Monique Jones are members of this committee and are working to make contact with the 13 school districts here in Dutchess County. They are working on securing volunteers to attend parent nights, in the fall, at each of the middle schools.

We also have a committee that is working on securing presenters for this year's conference. Led by Gwen Higgins, this sub-committee has gotten a firm confirmation from 7 presenters and are looking to secure at least three more presenters, all of which support the mission and goals of LYD. In addition, they are looking for volunteers to lead Girl Talks, a key component of the conference. Gwen leads a group of 9 members who are helping with recruiting presenters. In addition, we are developing a Big Sister Mentor program to provide student helpers from the three local colleges, DCC, Marist and Vassar. We hope to include Activism Activities for the girls, which will help them see the need to help others less fortunate.

A Parent Thread has been discussed to provide some information to parents about the conference. Since many are new to the conference, this is being approached strategically.

There is strong support for a STEAM portion of the conference. The focus this year is "Get to Know Yourself" and "Get to Know Your Place in the World." It is hoped that girls will come away from the conference knowing themselves better and what they can do to help those in the world around us. In partnering with DCC, it has become clear DCC's MATH AND SCIENCE MATTERS, especially for young women, offered in March is a full on STEM conference for middle school girls. They reach over 200 girls for this spring conference and are sharing their email list with us for the Girls' Conference. It will be a great way to outreach to middle school girls who have attended MATH AND SCIENCE MATTERS. It would not be good to cut into this conference by offering too many STEM workshops at our conference. Also, middle schools are definitely on the STEM path, offering numerous programs for all middle school students.

Dutchess Community College is an invaluable partner for the Live Your Dream conference. This year, Dutchess has provided support through a variety of activities:

- An insert in the Math and Science Matters folder
- Handouts at International Women’s Day walk
- ¼ page ad in Summer DCC Community Services catalog
- Ad in Fall DCC Community Services catalog
- Set up “course” for LYD conference; registration with DCC Community Services
- Insert flyer in course registration confirmation (DCC Community Services)
- Handout flyers in Summer Academy courses at DCC

As in the past, AAUW members will be asked to come together to decorate journals to give each girl. This is meant to provide a gift for a girl to let her know there are women who understand their journey. Marcine Humphrey is leading this activity. Her knowledge of past conferences has provided the committee with much needed guidance.

There is a growing list of volunteers for the day of the conference but more would be helpful and welcome. There are women working on many aspects of the conference, from marketing to program design to evaluations. Except for April, when weather forced our meeting cancellation, the committee has met the first Monday of the month. The last meeting before summer will be June 6th at St. John’s Lutheran Church. Planning will resume full speed ahead in September.

Volunteers for Day of the Conference

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| Sue Doyle |
| Vivian Rose |
| Marcine Humphrey |
| Goldy Safirstein |
| Monique Jones |
| Bonnie Auchincloss |
| Carol Gray |
| Betty Harrel |
| Mary Lou Davis |
| Gwen Higgins |
| Sabashnee Govender |
| Jeanne Moseley |
| Barbara Gill |
| Claudette Hennessey |
| Margaret Nijhuis |
| Maria DeWald |

Submitted by Diana Babington & Lori Scolaro