Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, Jan. 3, 2019
Radiology Conference Room, VBMC, Poughkeepsie, NY

Members present: Kathy Friedman, Margaret Nijhuis, Marticia Madory, Linnea Masson, Jocelynn Banfield, Barbara Hespenheide, Monique Jones, Betty Harrel, Bonnie Auchincloss, Pat Luczai, Sandy Lash, Diane Jablonski, Maria DeWald, Ruth Sheets.
Guests: Mary Lou Davis, Linda Roberts

The meeting was called to order by President Diane Jablonski at 7:00 p.m.

The Board Meeting minutes of Dec. 6, 2018 were approved as corrected.

President’s Report

- **Membership Meeting** – We will have the first of our two required general business meetings per year, as stipulated in our by-laws, on Thursday, January 10 at 7 PM at the start of the general membership meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. It will be a quick business meeting with a brief Treasurer’s report, update on the Writers’ Tea, with an announcement of the Annual meeting on June 13, 2019.

- **Strategy update and public policy priorities** – Diane asked for updates to the strategy plan by Jan. 25. She encouraged us to go to the website to comment on public policy items.

- Literacy Connections thanked AAUW in the Literacy Connections newsletter for the work the Poughkeepsie Branch has done with Math Buddies.

- **Equal Pay Day** – Diane is working on proclamations to submit to the Dutchess County Executive and Legislature regarding Equal Pay Day, April 2, 2019. She also plans ask other organizations who advocate for women to join in this effort. Pat DeLeo is also helping on this endeavor.

- **Contacts for Tea of partners and supporters** - Please submit community partners and contacts to Barbara Van Itallie so these people can be invited to participate in our Writers’ Tea.

- Diane relayed from Janice Brown, President, AAUW-NYS, an announcement of a Governor’s Event on the Women’s Justice Agenda which is focused on reproductive justice. It will be held January 7, at Barnard College in Manhattan.

**Writers’ Tea** - Lula Allen submitted a written report stating that it looks like all is set for the Tea. The authors, Michael Korda and Irene O’Garden will be featured at the Tea. The first biography of the authors will be published in the February Branch, the second will follow in the March edition. Linda Roberts has written a report on the Auction committee in the January Branch and she is asking for volunteers to help on the committee. It was decided at the last Tea meeting that we will arrange a brainstorming meeting to discuss options for the future of the Tea after this year’s event, April 14, 2019. Lula thanked us for our support and is hoping board members will attend and bring our friends and family.

Additionally, Linda Roberts offered some additional remarks at the meeting. She would like us to please think about what we would like to do in the future for our fundraising. She asked us to take an active part in the Writers’ Tea for this year. Interest groups should talk up the Tea. The Tea will have some special live music this year. Several ideas were suggested regarding incorporating new members in the Tea including inviting a new member to come with you to
the Tea, and offering a new member reserved table and perhaps a discounted ticket price. Linda reminded us that all the information about the Tea – dates, time, ways to volunteer, etc. – are in the Branch.

Treasurer’s Report – Pat Luczai reported that as of January 1, 2019 our total assets are $54,997.23. For the current fiscal year, total revenue is $15,743.07 and total expenditures are $22,709.07. Initiatives income is $4,080.20 and initiatives expenses are $8,561.58. We received a $500 grant from AAUW NYS for use by our Leading to Reading and Days for Girls initiatives.

Program - Monique Jones reminded the Board about the upcoming Race Soldier presentation at our general membership meeting on Jan. 10. Recently there was a tutorial session on the operation of our sound system. Janna Whearty is now keeper of the organization’s sound system.

Membership –Sheila Zweifler sent a report stating that they are planning to connect all the new members in the month of January to see if they have any questions or concerns about AAUW.

Membership Treasurer – It has been confirmed with Mary Anne Hogarty that there are now 327 members, with one more membership currently pending.

Development – Jocelynn Banfield – No report.

Honors and Awards – Betty Harrel – No report.

Communications – Bonnie Auchincloss reported she is still working on finding a new publicity person. There was a discussion regarding the use of our cloud storage, which we now use 3.9 GB of our allotted 5 GB provided through our Amazon account.

Bonnie Auchincloss moved that we spend an additional $12 a year to increase our Amazon cloud storage from 5GB to 100 GB. The motion passed.

Community Services -Kathy Friedman – No report.

Interest Groups – Linnea Masson reported everything is going well with the interest groups.

International - Marti Madory submitted the following written report (see below). At the meeting Marti verbally asked for suggestions from the Board regarding suitable items to be included in the goody bags for International Women’s Day. The suggestion of AAUW pens was met with the considerable enthusiasm because they can be used after the event by everyone. Here is Marti Modory’s written report:

“I INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY – March 5

I spoke on the phone with Lea Bishop about the plans of Women’s Professional Network for Women’s International Day (official date is Sept. 8). She welcomed me to the planning committee for their event and shared details of their preparations. I think this is a good networking opportunity to increase awareness of AAUW.

WPN has scheduled a dinner at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel for Tuesday, March 5. The dinner will cost $35; there will be a cash bar. A female communications specialist will deliver a motivational address.

They are collecting items for baskets that will be auctioned off and would welcome contributions toward filling the baskets. Contents and themes will include wine, lotions and creams, kitchen items such as spices and
cookbooks, jewelry, and certificates for dinner or salon appointments. If you have any suggestions in this area, please let me know.

The baskets will be assembled at a committee meeting in February.

Goody bags will be given to each attendee. Does AAUW have any items suitable to be included in such bags? I think the cards about our writers tea would be appropriate, and possibly a printout of our Calendar of Mid-Hudson International Activities.

I told Lea about some of our International Relations Committee activities, and promised to use our calendar to publicize the event.

TRIP TO THE UN

Lea told me she is not aware of any preparations for a trip to the UN in connection with this event. It appears she has never been involved in that project. I don’t know who else I should contact about the UN-connected Status of Women activities.

GLOBAL FRIENDS

Our first Global Friends meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 9. You will be receiving an invitation. Because we’ve limited the circle to 12 participants, there are only a few spaces available based on who RSVPs first. However, a wait list will be assembled, and I hope follow-up meetings will be held if there are volunteers to host them.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOSPITALITY GROUP

This is a long-range planning effort, hopefully with a late-summer launch. Gloria Ghedini has identified the person at Dutchess Community College who works with international students there, and we intend to reach out to Marist College and SUNY New Paltz as well. Lila Meade will help us draw up guidelines based on her husband’s experiences with Vassar College’s international students. Again, this will provide us with another opportunity to network with potential members and supporters.

Public Policy – Pat DeLeo – No report.

LAF- Marcine Humphrey – No report.

Nominating – Diane noted that the committee is still working on filling the VP Development nomination for their slate.

Newsletter – Margaret Nijhuis reminded the Board to send articles to Cyd Averill for the February Branch.

State/National Liaison – Mary Lou Davis reported that March 9 will be the Jumpstart event for college women. Skills to be targeted include interviewing, resumes, headshots, etc. It will be held at Guttman Community College in Midtown Manhattan. Please let Mary Lou know if you are interested in helping with this event.

Historian -- Barbara Hespenheide – No report.

Old Business – None.

New Business – None.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Sheets, Secretary