Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, Mar. 7, 2019
Home of Margaret Nijhuis

Members present: Pat Luczai, Bonnie Auchincloss, Betty Harrel, Kathy Friedman, Margaret Nijhuis, Barbara Van Itallie, Sheila Zweifler, Mary Anne Hogarty, Sandy Lash, Marti Madory, Maria DeWald, Diane Jablonski, Ruth Sheets

Guests: Mary Lou Davis

The meeting was called to order by President Diane Jablonski at 7:05 p.m.

The Board Meeting minutes of Feb. 7, 2019 were approved as corrected.

President’s Report

- Work Smart – AAUW National Program – National is approaching the top 130 branches in the country and asking their support in attaining a goal of having 102,500 people go through the online Work Smart application by August 23. The application was developed and administrative support is provided through a $500,000 grant from Coca-Cola. They are asking branches to commit to getting a certain number of individuals to access the training – they do not have to complete it to count. Our branch will support the effort by promoting at WPN and other organizations, send information to the Chamber, and promote through interest groups, etc. Maria DeWald will coordinate distribution of bookmarks. Board members are encouraged to participate. The website is salary.aauw.org. The online workshop takes 75 minutes to complete.

- Strategy update is still being worked on; almost ready for review.

- The Equal Pay Day Proclamation was adopted by the Dutchess County Legislature proclaiming April 2, 2019 as Equal Pay Day. The proclamation was read at the WPN celebration of International Women’s Day on March 5. Our branch has no other plans for an Equal Pay Day event.

- The speaker for the Annual Meeting on June 13 at the Poughkeepsie Grand will be Sabrina Jaar Marzouka, Commissioner of the Dept. of Community and Family Services.

- Convention – We get 8 delegates. If you are going please sign up as a delegate for Poughkeepsie Branch.

Treasurer’s Report - Pat Luczai reported as of end of February 2019, current Total Assets are $53,510.01. For the current fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018, Revenue is $17,689.36 and Expenditures are $26,155.01. As we begin planning for our next fiscal year, please refer to the current Budget vs. Actual report for input to be made by Initiative Leaders and Special Events Committee Chairs. Send budget requests to Pat Luczai by March 21st.

Pat Luczai moved that we reimburse Diane Jablonski for expenditure for Work Smart cards. The motion passed.

Pat also reported that our branch (Leading to Reading) is receiving funds through Benevity Community Impact Foundation from corporations that are interested in supporting literacy programs.
Program – Sandy Lash noted that programs are being planned for next year. Programs have been arranged through December. Sandy and Monique Jones would be happy to have more ideas. The March 14th program will be a photojournalist. Barbara Van Itallie said that Celia Serotsky is taking over arranging the refreshments. Maria DeWald emphasized the importance of recognizing non-members and new members at the membership meetings.

Membership - Sheila Zweifler reported there will be a Membership Committee meeting on April 4 regarding retaining and attracting members. The letter regarding membership renewal is being written and will have 3 chances for a free membership. Sheila is still looking for a place to hold the September Open House and will plan for it to be either the first or second Thursday night in September. She is planning a new member reception in October 2019 at the Children’s Home.

Membership Treasurer - Mary Anne Hogarty will be using the AAUW Membership Payment Program (MPP) to streamline payment of dues from the Branch to National. Mary Anne Hogarty will be working with Sue Doyle for a smooth transition to pass on the duties of Membership Treasurer on July 1.

Miscellaneous Report– Betty Harrel attended a library workshop regarding the library’s five year goals. She informed the attendees about Leading to Reading and that they did not need to replicate it. They had been unaware of AAUW’s efforts in bringing books to Vassar Hospital babies.

There is a meeting on Tuesday, April 23 at 5:30 to 7 pm at the Heritage Center regarding the possibility of starting a Day One chapter locally. Rebecca Edwards seeks to have AAUW Poughkeepsie be a liaison in this effort.

Communications - Bonnie Auchincloss reported that Donna Augustine will serve as publicity person for 1 year. Marti Madory offered to work with her. Bonnie is working with a new contact at Burbio to get Donna set up on that platform. The Word Games Interest Group recently was featured in an article in the Life section of the Poughkeepsie Journal.

Community Services - Kathy Friedman reminded us to register for the Writers’ Tea. Kay Bishop is pursuing the idea of the Mothers’ Project becoming its own 501(3c) organization and the issue has been raised with Lula Allen. The possibility of having the student interns utilize CU type memberships was discussed.

Interest Groups - Diane reported that Linnea Masson indicated that all is going well with the Interest Groups, and she had sent out an email reminding the Interest Group Leaders to promote attendance and participation in the Writers’ Tea fundraising event.

International - Marti Madory had previously sent a written report to the Board. Highlights of this report are: Poughkeepsie AAUW was a strong presence at the WPN’s celebration of International Women’s Day. Diane and Lea Bishop presented the D.C. Proclamation which both organization persuaded the county legislature to approve. Marti won the Women’s History Trivia Contest. Several AAUW members will be participating in AAUW Day at the UN’s Commission on the status of women on March 14. Other members, including Peggy Kelland, will be attending the annual conference of the Committee on Teaching about the United Nations (CTAUN) on April 5 in New York City. A second Global Friends sharing circle will be held at Gloria Ghedini’s home on April 10.

At the meeting, Marti discussed being contacted by Ellie Charwat about our International Hospitality effort, pointing out that Poughkeepsie’s new Oaxaca Sister City program will involve teacher exchanges, and there will be a need for host homes. Also, Marti reported that Peggy Kelland is working on getting a panel together that could speak to how to be helpful to international students, and why we need hospitality volunteers.
Public Policy – no report.

Nominating – Barbara Van Itallie presented the slate of nominations for the 2019-2021 term:
  Vice Presidents Membership: Sheila Zweifer and Mary Scalise-Annis
  Vice Presidents Program: Sandy Lash and Monique Jones
  Vice President Development: Lula Allen
  Membership Treasurer: Sue Doyle

Maria DeWald moved that the slate be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

Barbara reported that the VP Development position previously had not been well developed, and therefore the Nominating Committee has revamped the description for this position. Barbara went over the responsibilities now listed for VP Development. Barbara moved that the board approve the updated description for VP Development. The motion passed. Diane Jablonski indicated that the Secretary should update the working rules accordingly.

Newsletter - Margaret Nijhuis announced that the deadline for the April newsletter is March 10th.

State/National Liaison - Mary Lou Davis reported the March 9th Jump Start has 27 registrants but will accept registration at the door. The NYS Conventions will be held April 26 – 28. Mary Lou noted that the deadline for the Convention hotel reservations is coming up and we need to sign up soon.

Historian – no report.

Old Business – none.

New Business – none.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Sheets, Secretary