Welcoming remarks were made by Diane Jablonski prior to the serving of the dinner and general business meeting. Diane thanked the Annual Dinner committee: Ann Pinna, Sharon Fleury, and Joan Kimmel, the Photo Booth team: Pat Luczai and Bonnie Auchincloss, and “roaming” photographer Mary Coiteux for their work. Diane noted there was no need for the traditional moment of silence prior to our dinner because no members had died during the year. Dinner was then served.

The meeting was called to order by Diane Jablonski at 7:37 p.m.

Branch Annual Report
President Diane Jablonski gave the branch annual report which reflected on the scope, intensity, and hard work of AAUW Poughkeepsie members’ many activities during the year. Some highlights were the summer conference in Cazenovia, the District IV conference in Glen Falls, the successful September Open House organized by VPs Membership Susie Blecker and Sheila Zweifler, partnering with WPN and Vassar College to present the workshop on “Sexual Harassment in the Workplace: Compliance and Response”, revising our strategic plan to align with National AAUW strategy, honoring Dr. Pamela Edington at the WOY luncheon, and the Live Your Dream Conference, under the leadership of Diana Babington and Lori Scolaro, which was attended by 84 middle school girls.

Diane also highlighted the New Membership Reception in October, the varied and thought-provoking programs arranged by VPs Program, Monique Jones and Sandy Lash, our remarkable community initiatives and vibrant interest groups. Diane also recognized that under the leadership of International Relations Chair, Marti Madory, many connections are taking hold through the Global Friends Sharing meetings. Diane noted that we should be proud that the branch, working with WPN, was successful in getting the DC legislature to proclaim April 2 as Equal Pay Day in Dutchess County.

The Writers’ Tea was again very successful under the leadership of Lula Allen and Linda Roberts who have worked so hard to raise over $80,000 for the branch during the last 10 years. The AAUW-NYS Convention was a big success under the chairmanship of Mary Lou Davis. At the conference, Sabashnee Govender was honored as recipient of the Emerging Leader award. Scholarships were given to Imani Somers and Samarra Graiser at the DCC Convocation, presented by Diane Jablonski and Jackie Goffe-McNish.

Diane thanked Mary Anne Hogarty (Membership Treasurer) and Barbara Van Itallie (Nominating Chair) who were leaving the board. Diane thanked Lula Allen and Linda Robert who are stepping down from 10 years of serving as co-chairs of the Writers’ Tea. She also thanked Margaret Nijhuis for 19 years serving as Editor of the Branch, and for Cyd Averill for stepping up to take on this position.
Minutes
Ruth Sheets explained that the minutes from the previous general business meeting which was held Jan. 10, 2019 were referred to the board, approved and are on the website. *Ruth moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes from the Jan. 10, 2019 general business meeting and refer the minutes of tonight’s meeting to the board for approval.* The motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report
As of June 12, 2019, total assets are $84,598.35. For the current fiscal year, revenue is $61,605.37 and expenditures are $22,704.84. Note that expenditures do not include pending dues payments to New York State and National.

In May, the 2019-2020 Operating Budget was published in The Branch and it is based on anticipated income of $37,025.00.

*Pat Luczai moved that we accept the operating budget as distributed.* The motion passed.

Report of the Nomination Committee and Election
Barbara Van Itallie, Nominating chair, thanked the committee members: Mary Coiteux, Sue Doyle, Betty Harrel and Sheila Zweifler for their work on the committee.

The committee presented the following nominees for consideration for board positions for 2019-21:

- Program Co-VPs: Monique Jones & Sandy Lash
- Membership Co-VPs: Mary Scalise-Annis & Sheila Zweifler
- Development VP: Lula Allen
- Membership Treasurer: Sue Doyle (not present)

Barbara stated that she had received no other nominations and asked if there were any objections, and upon hearing none, announced that the slate was elected as presented. Mary Lou Davis led the installation ceremony for the new officers who were in attendance.

Membership Honors
Sheila Zweifler, VP Membership, presented the following branch membership longevity awards.

10 Years: Catherine Bala, Margaret Banks, Christine Brady, Patricia A. Davis, Donna Fitzgibbon, Judy Harkavy, Sharon Haugh, Muriel Horowitz, Naava Koblenz, Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, Sandy Lash, Barbara Lemberger, Marcy Marlow, Jean Miller, Rita Minnerly, Debbie Most, Donna Reichner, Terry Schneider, Gail Simon, Jane Barber Smith, Carole J. Wolf, and Miriam Zimet-Aaron.

20 Years: Dorothy Evangelista, Jennifer Hafner, Betty Olson, and Arlene Seligman.

30 Years: Sarah J. Fredrickson, and Linda Freisitzer.
55 Years: Mary King.

Three members were selected in the raffle to have their dues reimbursed for the year. The members are Mary Lou Davis, Donna Gruberg, and Gail Sisti.

Sheila thanked everyone for attending and reminded us that the Open House will be held September 12, and to please send her the contact information for people who should be invited.

**Honors and Awards**
Betty Harrell, Honors and Awards Chair, announced the following awards, describing each recipient’s contributions to the branch: Emerging Leader Award: Sabashnee Govender, and the 2019 AAUW Funds Named Honorees: Lula Allen, Bonnie Auchincloss, Maria DeWald, Claudette Hennessy, Donna Reichner, and Linda Roberts.

**Tea/Auction Recognition**
Margaret Nijhuis announced an additional donation of $2000 to the Writers’ Tea by Catherine Albanese, our longest term member, bringing the Tea proceeds to $11,000. Lula Allen and Linda Roberts recognized members who worked on Tea committees during the last 10 years. They also thanked the 90 - 100 donors to the Tea, for whom they are so grateful. The Tea committee presented a certificate of appreciation to Lula and Linda for their long term dedication and leadership.

**Program**
**NCCWSL Scholarship Awardees**
Marcine Humphrey introduced the 2019 NCCWSL scholarship recipients, namely, Kayla Bowen of SUNY New Paltz and Alyssa Covelli from Dutchess Community College. They shared their thoughts on the NCCWSL Conference and how it inspired them.

**Guest Speaker**
President Diane Jablonski introduced our keynote speaker, Sabrina Marzouka, Commissioner of Community and Family Services for Dutchess County, who spoke on “Improving the Lives of Women and Children”. Ms. Marzouka engaged the audience with an inspiring speech in which she stated that she believed every woman has a treasure that can change the world, but we can’t all succeed when half of us are being held back. Referring to a famous quote by Angela Davis (“I’m no longer accepting the things I cannot change...I’m changing the things I cannot accept”), Ms. Marzouka encouraged us to get to work on changing the things that we can no longer accept.

Diane made concluding remarks and adjourned the meeting at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Sheets