Members present: Lula Allen, Bonnie Auchincloss, Cyd Averill, Kathy Friedman, Betty Harrel, Barbara Hespenheide, Diane Jablonski, Monique Jones, Sandy Lash, Pat Luczai, Marticia Madory, Linnea Masson, Mary Scalise-Annis, Ruth Sheets, Sheila Zweifler.

Guests: Mary Lou Davis, Linda Ronayne

The meeting was called to order by President Diane Jablonski at 7:03 p.m. The Board meeting minutes of June 6, 2019 were approved. The general business meeting minutes of June 13, 2019 were approved.

Ruth Sheets requested that all board members submit the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Forms. The forms are required to be signed by all board members each year.

**President’s Report** – Diane Jablonski

Diane began with some announcements. Janna Whearty, who had been Soleil interest group leader and co-chair of the upcoming fundraiser, has resigned. Diane urged our attendance of the October 20, 2019 District IV Conference sponsored by the Kingston Branch. Diane explained her recent decision not to include links to a nonprofit organization on our website in the Other Resources page.

**Working Rules Updates** – Diane explained the major changes to the Working Rules that were included in the latest update. These were: “International Relations and Diversity” are now merged, and “Publicity” was renamed to be “Public Relations”.

Marti Madory remarked that the change she had suggested regarding the International Relations/Diversity Chair’s responsibilities was not included. Diane said she would see that the update would be made.

Sheila Zweifler remarked that the membership booklet will need to be updated to capture updates to the Chair names. Sheila voiced her concerns about adding the Financial Aid page. After some discussion Diane said she would be able to include the process surrounding the financial aid issue into the President’s info, indicating the President, in conjunction with the Membership VPs would be responsible in handling future requests for financial aid, with the understanding that each case will be judged on its own merits based on discussion with the individual and their individual circumstances.

The approval of the Working Rules was deferred until there is a clear understanding of the Financial Aid process that is most acceptable to the involved Board members. Diane will forward her suggestions to Betty Harrel and Margaret Nijhuis.

**Amazon cloud usage and discussion** – Diane Jablonski/Barbara Hespenheide

Diane began by giving background information of the existing situation. Currently most information is stored on the website or on individual officers’ computers. We want to take advantage of the Cloud storage and begin move our information there. We know we will have to migrate our website in the near future and need to establish an alternative location for our records. Barbara Hespenheide, Margaret Nijhuis and Diane met over the summer to discuss the approach we want to take. Photographs in the Cloud are being organized and maintained by Communications Committee Chair, Bonnie Auchincloss.
The proposed procedure for using the Cloud was explained. On the cloud, folders are organized by office/position. Single copies of whatever is germane to your position are to be maintained on the Cloud. The intent is that whoever assumes your position in the future will be able to use this information. Examples of documents to be included are sample agendas, meeting minutes, processes, and invitations. Provide information in both PDF and Word, if appropriate. Information on the Cloud should be reviewed annually to remove outdated files. To begin, one or two positions will serve as a pilot to determine glitches in the process. Barbara Hespenheide will be uploading the content that is provided to her by those positions doing the pilot, and eventually other positions, as we grow this effort.

The officers decide what folder makes sense to be included on the Cloud. Participating officers will send Barbara the documents along with the name of the folder where they are to be placed, and ensure file names are descriptive of what is in the file, and if pertinent, include the date of the document. The participating Board member will be given Share access to their folder so they can review it.

Future steps to be taken include the following:

- Determine best way to maintain the security of the data on the cloud and how we want to update it.
- Assess results of pilot and make any necessary adjustments to the process.
- Evaluate what else should be moved onto the cloud for historical purposes. (Margaret Nijhuis and Barbara Hespenheide)

Pat Luczai and Diane Jablonski volunteered to participate in the pilot. Diane remarked that we should not expect the Cloud project to be completed this year; it may take several years.

Diane announced that the Annual Meeting has been booked at the Poughkeepsie Grand for Thursday, June 4th because the 2nd Thursday was not available.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Pat Luczai

As of September 3, 2019, Total Assets are $63,937.85. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019, Total Revenues are $2,324.93 and Total Expenditures are $6,411.33.

Pat has opened a problem report with PayPal. The summary amount displayed is overstated. As a result, she is transferring funds into our checking account based only on documented funds received.

**Program** - Monique Jones and Sandy Lash held a Program Planning meeting at the end of June where they got some suggestions for future membership meetings. They currently have several months’ programs firmed up. They signed a contract with the Universalist Unitarian Fellowship and have a cabinet for storage.

Christie VanHorne, M. Ed., MPH will present “Gender Bias in Healthcare: A Long History” at the October meeting, 10/10, at 7 pm, Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie. The New Member Reception will precede this meeting. Check the website for more information about future programs.

**Membership** - Mary Scalise-Annis, Sheila Zweifler

Open House will be held at the Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church on September 12. Forty invitations were sent out. Board members and Interest Group leaders can help setup on Sept 12 from noon to 2 PM. Diane will send the agenda to those involved.

New Member Reception will be held at the Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie on October 10.

There will be a table with membership forms, information about membership, and AAUW information at each program meeting. New members will be given a special nametag which will identify them as a new member. New members will
be asked to wear the nametag at membership meetings during the first year of membership so that others will know that they are new members.

**Status of Renewals** – Sheila Zweifler passed around a list of people who had not rejoined. Sheila and Mary will call all the new members of the list, but board members were asked to look at the list and sign up to call members that they personally knew, and ask their reason for not renewing, and to let Sheila know their reason.

**Development** – Lula Allen

**Update on tea/fund raiser** – The Authors’ Fundraiser Tea will be held Oct. 18, 2020. Carol Menken is in charge but is looking to find a person to be in charge of the auction. There is a meeting on Monday, Sept 9, to share timelines which will include Linda Roberts and Lula as attendees.

**Development Committee Meeting** – Volunteers will explain the AAUW National Funds at a membership meeting. Diane stated that Public Policy will also do some of the informational presentations at the membership meetings, as well. Diane will do a chart of the organizations AAUW supports.

**Ribfest** – The Poughkeepsie branch had 10 volunteers at Ribfest. The check is usually sent in October. The Development Committee determined they would like the Ribfest funds to go to the Special Economic Security Fund which provides training in salary negotiation, etc.

*Lula Allen moved that the Ribfest funds go to the Special Economic Security Fund.* The motion passed.

**Communications** - Bonnie Auchincloss reported that Donna Augustine wrote an advertisement for Hudson Valley Magazine, Hudson Valley One, Burbio, and the Chronogram for the Open House. Bonnie discussed the process for the various branch communications that had recently been clarified by her committee. This included the process for keeping the email list current, getting the Branch on the website and copies mailed when necessary, getting the website updated with info from Branch articles, how the general meeting reminders will be sent out, and how other emails for the membership are to be provided and sent.

Bonnie noted that there is a limit of one email per day that can be sent out to the entire 350 membership given the 500 address limit set by Gmail which is being used by both Margaret Nijhuis and Joanne Scolaro.

Board members should be aware that any email for the membership must be sent to Margaret exactly in the format that they are to be emailed, with any picture(s) imbedded in the emails. The date or dates that the email messages are to be sent must be provided by the group requesting the email.

**Community Services** - Kathy Friedman reported that Careers and Leadership initiative has not gotten off the ground yet. Chairs Maria DeWald and Leah Feldman are not available for the Open House, but are sending displays and brochures which Kathy will set up for them. Kathy will speak about the initiative during her opportunity to address the Open House attendees in an attempt to generate interest. If there is no interest, the initiative will be discontinued.

**Interest Groups** - Linnea Masson reported there are no changes to the interest groups. The interest groups have been asked to bring refreshments for the Open House.

**International Relations and Diversity** - Marti Madory attended a Buen Viaje Luncheon for 3 Poughkeepsie teachers who visited Oaxaca, Mexico.

The International Relation Committee is planning the program for the January membership meeting where the focus will be the needs of the Mid-Hudson international community that could be met by an AAUW International Hospitality Resource.
There is a dinner on September 27 at Grace Episcopal Church in Millbrook for the Engaging People in Change (EPIC) group which is advised by Abby Nathanson, Director of Program Development at the church. Ms. Nathanson is seeking volunteers to assist in the program and would like volunteers to attend this donated catered dinner. Fifteen to twenty young people are involved in the EPIC program. Volunteers are needed to help with various activities such as helping individuals with their applications for college and financial aid.

There are now 140 million girls not in school worldwide. Days for Girls has supplied 166 kits to help girls attend school.

Early voting is possible in New York State but voters do not go to their normal polling places for early voting. The League of Women Voters has a list of the places where people can do early voting.

Hostesses are needed for Global Friends Sharing Circle meetings. Please suggest international guests to be invited, and also let Marti know if you’d like to participate in a Sharing Circle.

**Nominating** - Betty Harrel reported that she needs to form the Nominating Committee. If you are interested or if you have suggestions for nominations please let her know.

**Newsletter** - Cyd Averill reminded us that the October Branch deadline is Sept. 10. When sending her articles, please put the word “Branch” in the subject line. She requested that articles be attached to the email in a Word doc or docx file as opposed to including them in the email message.

**Historian** - Barbara Hespenheide will have an article in the Branch about some recently found historical materials. She asked that if anyone has old AAUW files to notify her so she can determine if they should be preserved in the historical records.

**Woman of the Year** - Mary Lou Davis reported on the progress of this event. Diane Jablonski will be the speaker for Joan Posner. The committee would like more names of people to invite who know Joan Posner so if you have suggestions please let Mary Lou or Gail Sisti know. The luncheon will be held on Oct. 27, and the information to sign up will be in the Branch for September and October.

**Old Business**

Live Your Dream Conference – Diana Babington and Lori Scolaro are requesting helpers and DIVA supporters. If you can take brochures to places of business or community bulletin boards, please volunteer. Posters will be available soon.

**New Business** – none.

**Announcements/Adjourn**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Sheets, Secretary