Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 3, 2019
Christ Episcopal Church, Poughkeepsie

Members Present: Bonnie Auchincloss, Cyd Averill, Susan Doyle, Kathy Friedman, Gayle Garin, Betty Harrel, Barbara Hespenheide, Janet Houston, Diane Jablonski, Monique Jones, Sandy Lash, Pat Luczai, Marticia Madory, Mary Scalise-Annis, Sheila Zweifler

Guests: Mary Lou Davis, Linda Ronayne (Asst. Sec.)

The meeting was called to order by President Diane Jablonski at 7:05 p.m. The Board meeting minutes of September 5th, 2019 were corrected. The October meeting at the Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie on “Gender Bias in Healthcare” is 10/10 not 10/7. Additionally noted there are 140 million girls not in school worldwide. The minutes were then approved as corrected.

President’s Report - Diane Jablonski

Diane began by acknowledging Public Policy chairs Gayle Garin and Janet Houston and introductions were made.

Working Rules Updates - Diane asked the Board if there were any changes to the Working Rules. Sandy Lash questioned on page 6 the Monthly Program Meeting. She questioned the interpretation of the Annual Meeting – Fund Raiser and who is responsible for the New Members’ Meeting next October which was clarified. Betty Harrel proposed to accept the Working Rules which was passed unanimously and adopted.

AAUW Star Program - A discussion followed on the benefits or lack of signing up with this program. Diane explained if the branch did what was expected the contributions from the branch would be $9,000; we currently give $3,000. Members felt there was no benefit to sign up for this new program from National. We currently have lots of relationships with local groups. Unless Diane hears some strong sentiment to look further to consider the program we will not be joining this endeavor.

District Conference - This is a Kingston initiative on October 20th and all members are encouraged to attend. The Kingston Branch has planned a great program.

E-Mail Spam - Diane noted her e-mail account continues to be compromised. Be aware of this. Note the return address on any e-mail supposedly from her. It is not her address only similar. She will call you if she needs to ask you any questions.

Treasurer’s Report - Pat Luczai

As of October 03, 2019, total assets are $65,251.

For the current fiscal year, total expenditures are $8,641.43 and total revenue is $5,825.44. As of November 1, Square is changing the way it charges their processing fee. Currently, we are
charged 2.75%. The new fee will be 2.6 % + 10 cents. It is predicted that this will result in a minor decrease in fees charged based on usage history.

**Program-** Monique Jones, Sandy Lash

Nothing to report. There is a new member reception on October 10th.

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

Sheila discussed how nice the venue was for Open House. She has booked this for next year already. About 100 attended. 19 new women came, 12 joined that evening and 3 more at a later date. She called 1 year members who had not renewed to ask the reason. Some answers were, “too involved, moving, personal issues, competing with other organizations”, not the organization. She is considering for Nov. 2020 trying a small group meeting for new members instead of the large meeting. The new glitzy name tags for new members will be given out at the new member meeting. For Monthly Meetings she will have more tags, pens, markers, applications available as well as organization brochures explaining what they can do in the organization.

Mary discussed results of the RSVP for the New Members’ Reception, Oct. 10th at the Children’s Home- 5 Yeses, 2 Nos. Still waiting to hear from 8. Will follow up on how many more are coming- 11 board members are coming.

Diane thanked Sheila and Mary for their work and all interest groups and initiatives for a lot of effort in setting up displays for Open House. She also thanked both the Board and interest groups for refreshments.

Sheila noted DCC students will work at the Girls’ Conference and there will be applications for free student membership. Discussion followed as to what effort has been made in reaching out to diverse groups for potential members.

**Membership Treasury-** Sue Doyle

Currently there are 296 members, 14 non renewals. For 2019 there are 17 new members if we count who joined in March.

**Development-** Lula Allen (in absentia), Carol Menken

It was moved, seconded and passed that funds from the Rib Fest will go to the Economic Security for Women Fund; this is a correction to the fund name from a motion made in September.

This is a summary of the fundraising committee meeting from Carol Menken and Lula Allen:

> A Novel Affair planning meeting was held on 9/24/19. The agenda focused on a timeline and identifying committees needed. In lieu of an auction chair, the committee decided to have ten people gather five silent auction lots and be responsible for procuring them, picking them up, packaging them, delivering them to the venue, and valuing
them. There will be no more than fifty silent auction lots. There will be no Cash and Carry. To offset a smaller silent auction and no Cash and Carry there will be a member and non-member sponsorship as well as a three item Live Auction. An online auction is being explored. We will be initiating a NO CASH payment policy for auction items to expedite check out. The Planning Committee is in need of eight more "Captains" to gather five lots of items. We do not want Granny’s tchotchkes for the silent auction, however we might accept them if we can get an online auction going. Please direct any questions to Carol Menken awmcyberphobe@aol.com.

Diane suggested that before the October Meeting the Public Policy Committee should explain early voting. It is also time to get that information sent to Cyd for publication in the October issue of The Branch.

**Interest Groups**- There is a new Soleil Coordinator. Terry Jackrel will replace Janna Whearty.

**International Relations**- Marticia Madory provided the following written report.

**CAP Mentor Training**

Four AAUW members are participating in the CAP Mentor training being offered this fall at Vassar College’s Lifelong Learning Institute. Objective of the program is to train mentors who can help Poughkeepsie High School students apply for college. The training can also be useful in our efforts to assist members of the EPIC Youth Group at Grace Episcopal Church in Millbrook with their college preparations. There will be seven sessions, meeting on Friday mornings.

**EPIC Youth Group**

Two committee members will join the EPIC group at their monthly dinner meeting on Friday, Oct. 4. Aim of the meeting will be to get acquainted and determine how to develop a working relationship that will create opportunities for AAUW members to support the ambitions of the teenagers, who are of Mexican and Guatemalan heritage.

**Spanish Heritage Month**

October is an important month for Hudson Valley residents of Mexican heritage. The Adriance Library has an extensive program (see our Mid-Hudson Calendar of International Activities on the Branch’s web site), and some of us will attend a presentation there on Saturday morning about Oaxacan cuisine. The program will be presented by the owners of La Cabanita restaurant.

**Global Friends**

We have distributed Global Friends information to English as a Second Language students at Dutchess Community College. The ESL director, Linda Ciano, attended our
pot-luck picnic in June and is enthusiastic about the opportunities for her students. All we need now is someone who will agree to host another Sharing Circle.

**Poughkeepsie-Oaxaca Friendship Committee**

[Marticia Madory] will join the Friendship Committee in a meeting on Monday afternoon at Mayor Rolison’s office with the three Dutchess County teachers who traveled to Mexico to begin the sister-city effort for Poughkeepsie and Oaxaca. Marticia will share with AAUW members any information she gathers at that meeting about how we can incorporate one or more of these teachers into the program of one of our Branch’s interest groups.

**January 9 Membership Program**

[Marticia Madory] met on Wednesday with Tomasine Oliphant, the student resource navigator at Dutchess Community College, who will be speaking at our program on Jan. 9. She is an attractive personality, holds a masters in social work, and understands what our membership would like to know about the needs of the students she serves in the DCC Cares program. [Ms. Oliphant] will make a good counterpoint to Abby Nathanson, who works with the EPIC group of high school students – many of whom will ultimately end up at DCC. [Marticia] has asked both of them for photos and bios, and will continue to follow up on those requests.

**Public Policy- Gayle Garin**

Gayle mentioned she has information on early voting. There are staggered hours and days for working women to vote. The deadline for changing political parties is February 20th. She does not have forms. She requested this deadline also be included in the newsletter.

**Nominating- Betty Harrel** reported she has recruited a nominating committee. The members will vote on the committee at the November program meeting as bylaws state the nominating committee must be voted on by the membership. There will be a Committee meeting on November 14th. They will be looking for a President, Secretary/ByLaws, Communications VP and Treasurer.

**Newsletter-** Cyd Averill thanked all for cooperating in sending information to her and using the subject area of the e-mail to identify the information plus using attachments for different topics. This makes it so much easier for her to organize the newsletter.

**Historian-** Barbara Hespenheide reported that among the items donated by Cindy Smith, former president, are issues of *The Branch* that filled the gaps of those already in the archives, as well as interesting program descriptions and fundraising details. In 1958 our branch, along with Vassar College, hosted the Council of the International Federation of University Women. These will be used to write “looking back” articles for current Branch issues.

NY State AAUW is planning a video of memorabilia in 2020 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the organization. Items to be sent from Poughkeepsie include the minutes of our organizational
meeting in 1925, a newspaper article on the 20th anniversary of our branch and issues from 1957 of the Knickerbocker Notes (Bulletin of NY State Division).

Barbara also mentioned she has a large clear storage bin from Cindy that is of no use to her; the membership committee will take the bin.

**Woman of the Year**- Mary Lou Davis reported the committee had lunch with Judge Posner. Currently there are 48 attending the luncheon in the Judge’s honor on October 27th but would like more members. She has invited a lot of judges. She has sent invitations to names on Judge Posner’s list plus others she felt should be included. She will inform the judge that there will be an Honorarium for Membership for this year which Mary Lou will take care of informing her.

**Communications**- Bonnie Auchincloss reported she is recruiting participants for the Girls’ Conference, November 2nd. She has created posters to be placed where 6, 7 and 8th grade parents will see them to advertise the Conference. She discussed locations for brochures and posters which have a web site and contact information on them.

**New Business**- Pat Luczai purchased a large box of envelopes and will provide some to committees/officers who can use them.

**Old Business**- none

**Adjournment**- Barbara Hespenheide moved to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Ronayne, Asst. Secretary