Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 7, 2019
Christ Episcopal Church, Poughkeepsie

Members present: Linnea Masson, Kathy Friedman, Betty Harrel, Sandy Lash, Mary Scalise-Annis, Diane Jablonski, Pat Luczai, Barbara Hespenheide, Bonnie Auchincloss, Sue Doyle, Ruth Sheets, Janet Houston, Cyd Averill, and Marticia Madory.

Guests: Mary Lou Davis

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

The Board meeting minutes of Oct. 3, 2019 were approved as submitted.

**President's Report** – Diane Jablonski led a discussion on the webinar from Kim Churches that she had asked us to watch. This webinar can be found at [https://www.aauw.org/event/2019/10/our-path-forward/](https://www.aauw.org/event/2019/10/our-path-forward/). In this webinar, Ms. Churches discussed the space in which we compete with other organizations concerned with gender equity, the need to make ourselves more attractive to corporations and foundations through increased diversity, the trend for membership organizations in general in the United States, and the results of some focus groups on AAUW membership along with goals for Salary Negotiation.

Board members noted they learned why it is important to donate to the Greatest Needs Fund, to see the urgency in donating to National, and that corporate donors look at an organization’s diversity in deciding where to give their money. It was suggested that our branch could raise the visibility of the WorkSmart program. Regarding partnering with other organizations, Diane passed out a list from the membership booklet which indicates we do a lot of partnering. Sue Doyle offered to provide contact information for local Rotary Clubs if that is desired. Diane suggested that our community initiatives could be tweaked to appeal to younger women. It was suggested that AAUW come up with a tag line to be used to get people interested. One suggestion was “AAUW changes the climate for women and girls”. It was noted that we still need to do Instagram, and that members should be encouraged to share our Facebook posts to get a wider coverage of our information. Marti Madory also indicated with should refer people to our international calendar. Diane wrapped up the discussion by asking us to continue thinking about how we should be moving forward into the future to evolve the organization.

Diane discussed the Allied World’s Workplace Solutions (a service by Enquiron.com). It is available to board members. It includes unlimited access to Employment Law attorneys who can answer your specific compliance questions, sexual harassment prevention training courses, and related forms, posters, and articles. See Diane for more information.

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 November 5, 2019, current assets are $63,468.90. For the current fiscal year, total revenues are $9,356.59 and total expenditures are 13,960.78. Pat has sent financial reports to Live Your Dream and WOY chairs for their respective reports.

Pat Luczai indicated that we are losing money on processing fees when members use PayPal because we are not charging enough to cover the service.
Pat Luczai moved that we raise the fee for using PayPal, for dues and events $50 or more, to $3.00. The motion passed.

Program - Sandy Lash reported that the program date for the April 2020 general meeting will be April 16. Sandy and Monique Jones are still working on the programs for March and May 2020. Sandy reported that the contents of our AAUW cabinet were discarded or sold by error during a kitchen painting project at the UUF. Our lost belongings, which consisted of various serving and beverage items, have been replaced by AAUW.

Membership – Sue Doyle, Membership Treasurer, announced that we have 24 new members, bringing the total membership to 310. She is still receiving payments. Mary Scalise-Annis, VP Membership, reported that the directory is in process, expected to be completed late November, so that members should receive their copy by the first week in December. They were unable to photo enough new members in time for the directory, so this year the directory will have Board members pictured. They did not do the coffee klatches as previously planned because the new members had gotten involved with AAUW activities before dates for the coffee klatches were settled upon, so it was decided not to do them this year.

The contract is signed for the September Open House which is scheduled for Sept. 10, 2020 at Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church.

In January, the Membership committee will touch base with all new members to see how their membership is going and to assist new members, if needed. They have asked the Program VPs to acknowledge the new members who are at the general membership meetings.

Development – Lula Allen submitted a written report which stated that Ribfest income was $279 and will go to the Economic Security of Women Funds.

Also, in the report, Lula discussed that the Poughkeepsie branch tries to recognize 6 named honorees each year. Each honoree is supported by a $500 donation to AAUW National. This means for six honorees our branch needs to give a total of $3000 each year. To date the Branch has donated $1,123.00 which means that we need to come up an additional $1,877.00. If the branch members do not donate this additional amount, a motion at the December Board meeting will need to be made to allocate the amount needed to total $3,000.00.

Communications – Bonnie Auchincloss reported taking pictures of new board members and new members.

Community Services - Kathy Friedman reported 85 girls had registered for the Live Your Dream Conference, with 75 attending. Everyone was very positive and enthusiastic about this year’s conference. A member of Delta Sigma Theta offered to help plan the conference next year. It was discussed that possibly buses could be utilized to bring some of the Poughkeepsie girls whose parents do not drive to the conference.

Interest Groups - Linnea Masson mentioned that Soleil’s new interest leader may need some assistance to help her get started. Diane Jablonski offered to help.

International Relations and Diversity - Marti Madory reported on development of an AAUW-sponsored hospitality resource in the context of several possible activities. They are considering a special free and open to the public meeting to allow the teachers involved in the exchange between the city of Poughkeepsie School district and the schools in the Mexican state of Oaxaca to share their experiences. They are looking for a co-sponsor for this event, possibly Delta Sigma Theta or a teachers’ organization. It is hoped that such an event would generate support for the Friendship Committee’s next phase – a reverse exchange in 2020 in which Oaxacan teachers would visit Dutchess County.

Other ongoing projects for the committee include mentor training for teenagers, particularly who are international students, who are the first in their families to apply for college, arranging for a screening of the Oscar-winning film
“Period. End of Sentence” for the general public, Global Friends Sharing Circles, and the International Calendar. Marti asked for support by board members for these activities; let her know if you are interested in participating.

Public Policy – Janet Houston reported that they are working on having an information meeting on candidates for the 2020 election.

Nominating - Betty Harrel reported that her committee will be proceeding to fill the nominations and asked that we keep an open mind if you are contacted by them for a position. We will be voting on the Nominating Committee at the November program meeting.

Newsletter - Cyd Averill reminded us that the December Branch deadline is Nov. 10. It was suggested that new members’ pictures be included in the Branch.

Historian - Barbara Hespenheide continues to do archiving at the Adriance library and to work with Margaret Nijhuis to move items to the Amazon cloud.

Old Business:

Woman of the Year – Margie Ouart submitted a written report that had been distributed to board members. Mary Lou Davis reported that Joan Posner was thrilled with the WOY luncheon. The committee plans to meet with Joan one more time to review the event. Pertaining the finances, the luncheon came out approximately even. Diane extended her thanks to the committee for their work and for a successful WOY luncheon.

Live Your Dream Conference - Diana Babington and Lori Scolaro will be submitting their report when the finances are finalized. Diane extended her thanks for their and the committee’s fine work on such a successful conference.

New Business – Announcements/Adjourn

Betty Harrel informed us that Barnes and Noble in Poughkeepsie will be offering to “buy a book” when you are checking out during the holiday buying season. This year the books will be donated to Leading to Reading. Some of the school-aged books will be shared with Book Buddies, part of Literacy Connections, who read to the students in Poughkeepsie schools.

It was announced that Barbara Van Italie would like to remind our community initiatives that they can apply for $500 grants from NYS AAUW. Kathy Friedman will reach out to our community initiatives about this.

Pat Luczai and Bonnie Auchincloss took our group photo which will be sent to NYS AAUW, and then the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Sheets, Secretary