Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 5, 2019
Christ Episcopal Church, Poughkeepsie

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

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

The Board meeting minutes of Nov 7, 2019 were approved as corrected.
The general business meeting minutes of Nov. 14, 2019 were approved as corrected.

President’s Report – Diane Jablonski

According to Poughkeepsie Branch By-laws the board meeting must be held at least 7 times a year. We have met 4 times this year, Sept. through December. Diane wanted us to consider whether we need to meet in January and February. It was decided that we will cancel the January board meeting which had been scheduled for January 2. For the February meeting Diane will have a conference call on a date that is convenient. She will check about the availability of holding the board meetings in March and April at Christ Episcopal Church, but she thinks that during those months the meeting room we have been using may not be available, and she may need to find another place. The date of the June board meeting will be June 11, because the Annual Dinner is scheduled for June 4.

Diane recapped some of the highlights from Kim Churches’ webinar, “Together in 2019, Together in 2020” which was live earlier on Dec. 5. National will be doing more convenings by webinar in lieu of a national convention. Churches discussed giving to AAUW, highlighted the donation by Nancy Grace Roman, “Mother of the Hubble telescope”, and emphasized that donations that are unrestricted allows for them to be used where the need is greatest. Churches says it is good to celebrate the passage of Women’s Right to Vote; however, we should not feel the job is complete because, access to voting is still being suppressed and we have more to do to have equal representation of women at all levels of government. The new AAUW National website will be up in February. AAUW is preparing a report on women in manufacturing. AAUW needs to find a niche to distinguish us from other women’s groups. The recording of the webinar is available at https://www.aauw.org/event/2019/12/together-in-2020/.

Diane has been contacted by a representative of Collette Tours. Perhaps our branch could organize a tour for our members with this company. Diane will arrange for an information meeting the representative which can also be attended by interested board members, namely, Kathy Friedman, Betty Harrel, and Lula Allen, if possible.

Treasurer’s Report – Pat Luczai

As of December 5, 2019 assets are $59,352.23. For the current fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2019, Total Revenue is $11,230.17 and Total Expenditures are $20,000.58.

Program - Monique Jones and Sandy Lash

The April program meeting will be April 16 at the UUF. This was a change of date to avoid the beginning of Passover. They need a laptop with Blu-ray to download the video of the Franklin Roosevelt Gardens project. Sheila Zweifler has a Blu-ray capable device.

Membership - Mary Scalise-Annis, Sheila Zweifler
The directories have been mailed. Two new members have joined our branch. In January, the membership VPs will contact new members to make sure everything is going okay. Having photos of the new members in the newsletter was a great idea.

**Development – Lula Allen**

*Lula Allen moved that we allocate funds to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund in the amount needed to name 6 honorees at our June meeting.* The motion passed.

**Communications** – Bonnie Auchincloss is looking for a publicity chairman, perhaps a new member.

**Community Services** - Kathy Friedman reported that Sabashnee Govender is applying for grant from AAUW NYS.

**Interest Groups** - Linnea Masson reported that interest groups are doing fine; the new Soleil chairman is transitioning into this position.

**International Relations and Diversity** - Marti Madory

Marti discussed the upcoming January 2020 meeting where Marcia Butland, Assistant Dean, Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability at DCC will speak on Extending Hospitality to 21st Century Students at DCC. Also at the meeting the three educators who visited Oaxaca, Mexico representing the Poughkeepsie-Oaxaca Friendship Committee will speak about their experiences. Ellie Charwat has created a flyer. Also Marti reported on the mentoring program with international high school students. There will be a presentation on Human Rights at the Wallace Center on Dec 17. Wendy Maragh Taylor will present a movie in October for general meeting. The Anne Frank Trust has an exhibit that will move to various schools in the area. Global Friends will meet on Jan 22 at 3 p.m. at the home of Norma Vasquez. Women’s Professional Network (WPN) will hold a dinner on March 10 in celebration of International Women’s Day 2020.

**Public Policy** – Janet Houston and Gayle Garin

The co-chairs plan to meet together with a new member who is interested in public policy so that they can make plans for what they want to do regarding public policy. Janet Houston sent a written report which stated that she plans to do a future article on women's health issues as it relates to upcoming elections and has started to collect some information.

**Nominating** - Betty Harrel

The committee is still working of getting a slate.

**Newsletter** - Cyd Averill reminded us that the January Branch deadline is Dec. 10.

**Historian** - Barbara Hespenheide is still working on processing documents from Cindy Smith. She is in process of putting 501(c)(3) documents on the cloud.

**Old Business: None.**

**New Business – None.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Sheets, Secretary