Members present: Lula Allen, Bonnie Auchincloss, Cyd Averill, Sue Doyle, Kathy Friedman, Betty Harrel, Barbara Hespenheide, Janet Houston, Diane Jablonski, Monique Jones, Sandy Lash, Pat Luczai, Marti Madory, Mary Scalise-Annis, Ruth Sheets, and Sheila Zweifler

Guests: Mary Lou Davis

The meeting was called to order by President Diane Jablonski at 7:04 p.m.

The Board meeting minutes of April 2, 2020 were approved as submitted.

President’s Report – Diane Jablonski

Annual Reports are due May 15; please send to Diane.

The Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom on June 4. Diane is working on the order of the agenda and plans to begin with the changes to the By-laws which will then be voted on. The Zoom meeting will focus on the business portion of what normally occurs at the Annual Dinner meeting. We will have the election of officers and Mary Lou Davis will install the new officers. In place of the program booklets that are usually given to Annual Dinner attendees, Diane will provide the information in documents which will be attached to the Zoom invitation for the meeting.

Diane expressed her thanks for embracing Zoom which is helping to keep our organization vital and keeping members in touch with each other. She was very pleased that a new member has stepped up to organize an online film group. If you have a library card from the Mid-Hudson Library System, you will be able to stream the Kanopy e-video for free at home. The group will hold a Zoom meeting to discuss the films they select.

Regarding AAUW National webinars, Diane watched a webinar on the history of the 70’s which she found very informative. She urges you to attend the webinars that interest you.

The new AAUW national website is up. Diane asked the board to please go look at it. Margaret Nijhuis is working with Barbara Durniak about moving to the new platform. Mary and Dave King cannot continue to host the website, so this is a good time to make the move.

The next board meeting will be a joint meeting with the current and new Board members, to be held on June 11.

For the AAUW–NYS annual meeting Diane needs to identify 8 delegates from our branch. Delegates will vote via an online election tool. In addition to the 8 delegates Diane will name, the following people who have served or are serving in specific positions at the state level will be delegates: Betty Harrel, Mary Lou Davis, Barbara Van Itallie, and Cyd Averill. Maria DeWald is following up to make sure she is also included as a delegate based on her past position on the NYS board. For the 8
Delegates to be named from our branch Diane proposed that she name herself, one of the VPs Membership, one of the VPs Program, the Treasurer, Secretary, Development VP, Margaret Nijhuis, and Marcine Humphrey. Diane asked for comments on this proposal; no one objected, so she will be proceeding with naming these individuals as our 8 delegates. Diane will organize a Zoom meeting for all the branch delegates to discuss the items that will be voted on prior to voting.

Diane has been in touch with Jackie Goffe-McNish regarding the AAUW scholarships which will be awarded to two DCC students. The recipients will be announced to our membership in either the Branch or at the annual meeting.

Diane thanked the current board for their willingness to serve and said that it was a pleasure to work with everyone.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Pat Luczai expressed her appreciation for Diane’s letter that went out with the membership renewal mailing, stating that it was a good view of where we are as a branch.

As of May 4, 2020, Total Assets are $60,556.34. For the current fiscal year, Total Revenue is $22,472.17 and Total Expenditures are $30,175.82.

**Program** - Sandy Lash opened up a discussion regarding how to do program meetings in the autumn. The consensus after hearing board members’ views was, at least for October through December, to plan to utilize Zoom to present our programs, to educate ourselves and our members to improve our Zoom skills as presenters and participants, and to seek out programs by speakers who readily use Zoom. Members like getting together to socialize with each other, but for the time being, we cannot hold our meeting in physical venues given the COVID-19 pandemic. Sandy asked that potential presenters and topics for possible Zoom programs be submitted to her.

**Membership** - Sheila Zweifler reported that the renewal letters have been sent out. The printer was very helpful in mailing them. Claudette Hennessy and Margaret Nijhuis are involved in the process of migrating to the National database. Diane said we will need a separate database for our own data and we may need to redo the whole local database. Sheila is working with Claudette Hennessy in preparation for the annual meeting’s longevity awards. Mary Scalise-Annis discussed the possibility of a Zoom Open House and how this might be done with speakers and Interest Group Leaders. Pat Luczai suggested that one person present the input from the various interest group leaders and compile it in one presentation, thus minimizing the overhead and lessen the potential for problems inherent in switching speakers while the meeting was in process.

It was suggested that Venmo which has no service fee, could perhaps be used to pay dues. Also Zelle was mentioned. Sue Doyle will check into the feasibility/security of Venmo. Pat Luczai voiced her concern about having to handle multiple payment methods.

**Membership Treasurer** – Sue Doyle said she had not received any renewal dues, but it was probably too early to expect that.

**Development** – Lula Allen reported that 71 members contributed $4860 for our initiatives thus far and thanked us for our participation in this fundraiser. Diane remarked that she received very few complaints about proceeding with this fundraising effort at this time.

**Communications** – Bonnie Auchincloss thanked the VPs of membership for discussing the problems of the database.
Community Services - Kathy Friedman said many of the initiatives were “on hold” during the COVID-19 pandemic, but that the members of Days for Girls are working independently. Kay Bishop is planning to split off a group that will put together seasonal gift bags for 50 to 100 mothers. It was suggested that Leading to Reading could perhaps find out what programs exist for reading books to children on Zoom and other platforms, and make sure that schools are aware of these programs so that the information can be passed on to parents, etc.

International Relations and Diversity - Marti Madory has been busy making face masks. A delivery of 266 diapers, 414 baby wipes, soups and facemasks were delivered to DCC students from AAUW members. Marti is working with DCC faculty member, Marcia Butland, to organize a contribution for those with mental illness. Marti is planning a Zoom meeting for the Global Friends Sharing Circle.

Public Policy – Janet Houston reported that she received a notice from our local Board of Elections that the Presidential Primary had been reinstated by Court Order. However, that is being challenged through an appeal, so the outcome is unknown at this time. Registered voters will be receiving the application for absentee ballots through the mail.

Janet also received an email from Sen. Schumer concerning the Equal Rights Amendment. The resolution to remove the deadline for its ratification is still in the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, S.J.Res.6, where it has stalled. Sen. Schumer will continue to push to get its vote to the full Senate. AAUW members should continue to call their representatives to support this resolution as it is so important for all women.

Newsletter - Cyd Averill announced May 10th is the deadline for the June Branch which will cover activities for June, July, and August. Lula Allen will write an article for the newsletter regarding the contributions for the initiatives.

Historian – Barbara Hespenheide has submitted an article for the Branch on the history of women getting the vote.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Announcements: Sandy Lash reminded us to submit to her any suggestions of “masterful Zoom presenters” who may be able to present an interesting program for membership meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Sheets, Secretary
Addendum to May 2020 Board May Minutes
Business Conducted via Email
May 13 -18, 2020

It was determined by Diane Jablonski and Ruth Sheets that regarding the proposed By-laws change to Article XIII. COMMITTEES Section 1, the Board had inadvertently deleted some of the committees that should be included as committees of the corporation when the Board voted on the changes in April 2020.

It was decided to conduct business using email. The Board was asked to vote to on the following:

Proposed By-laws change to Articles XIII.

Section 1. A. Replace "Diversity and Inclusion, International Relations, and Public Policy" with "Development, International Relations/Diversity, Public Policy and Nominating".

This will result in the following: Section 1. A. Committees of the corporation shall be Program, Membership, Development, International Relations/Diversity, Public Policy, and Nominating.

All board members voted by email from May 13 – May 18, 2020. There were 19 “Yes” votes which was a unanimous decision to approve this change to the By-laws by the Board. It will be voted on by the general membership at the June Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Sheets, Secretary