AAUW Joint Board Meeting  
June 11, 2020  
Zoom Meeting

**Current board members:** Lula Allen, Bonnie Auchincloss, Cyd Averill, Sue Doyle, Kathy Friedman, Betty Harrel, Barbara Hespenheide, Diane Jablonski, Monique Jones, Sandy Lash, Pat Luczai, Marti Madory, Linnea Masson, Mary Scalise-Annis, Ruth Sheets, and Sheila Zweifler.

**Incoming board members and guests:** Vivian Rose, Barbara Durniak, Marcine Humphrey, Celia Serotsky, Peggy Kelland, Kay Saderholm, Margaret Nijhuis, Maria DeWald, Judy Longacre, Kay Bishop, Barbara Van Itallie, Linda Ronayne, Mary Lou Davis.

The meeting was called to order by President Diane Jablonski at 7:35 PM.

Incoming President Monique Jones welcomed and introduced the incoming board members and appointed positions.

The board meeting minutes of the May 7, 2020 were approved as submitted. The minutes for the June 4, 2020 general membership business meeting were approved as corrected.

**President’s Report** – Diane Jablonski welcomed and thanked everyone for their commitment and contributions during her term.

**Treasurer’s Report**
Treasurer Pat Luczai reported on the Financial Position as of June 2, 2020: Total Assets are $75,763.80. For the current fiscal year, Total Revenue is $38,030.56 and Total Expenditures are $30,551.60.

**Programs** – Sandy Lash reported that it had been a pleasure to work with Monique Jones on membership programs, and she was grateful for Marcine Humphrey for stepping up. They are working hard to keep the membership engaged and are working on programs to be given by people who are good presenters and comfortable with Zoom. She thanked those members who have offered suggestions for presenters, and requested that other suggestions be given to her.

**Membership** – Mary Scalise-Annis reported that they have received requests to continue the membership social hours through the summer. They plan to continue the 2nd Thursday 5 PM Zoom get-togethers as long as needed.

Mary also noted that the calls to new members in January had been appreciated by the new members, and they will continue this practice to help keep the new members engaged.

Sheila Zweifler asked who had the new membership badge bag: it is Susan Doyle.
Susan Doyle, **Membership Treasurer**, reported that as of June 10th 194 members had paid their dues per MPP. Active members per MP: 324. This leaves approximately 130 yet to renew. Funds taken in to date for dues: $13,647.00. Donations sent with dues payments: $1,930.00.

There have been 3 lapsed members who have rejoined, 3 members who will not be renewing. Also, 4 members have passed. New members who have recently joined are Frances Traver and Margaret Moran.

**Development**  Lula Allen congratulated Monique on her election to President. The fundraiser appeal for the initiatives brought in $5680, with 84 people contributing. Contributions coming in with the dues has resulted in a total of $7951.30 for initiatives.

**Follow-up on Diversity discussion** – Monique will be setting the direction for this serious issue. She will be holding a Zoom meeting later in June to look at the components of Diversity. Anyone of the board, or those interested in participating in this discussion should send an email to her by Monday, June 15 to indicate their interest.

**Any Critical business from other committees**
Bonnie Auchincloss stated that she would like the branch to continue to have Zoom meeting capability after COVID-19. Diane indicated that our account comes up for renewal in the spring and expected that it could be renewed, but it would be a decision of the board. One use may be for board meetings in the winter months, for example. The cost for the account is $149/year.

**Accomplishment of Initiatives** – Diane reminded the board that the annual reports for initiatives are on the website and encouraged the board to read them for more information. She then invited initiative leaders who were present to summarize their key accomplishments.

Judy Longacre reported the **Days for Girls** (DfG) had planned to make 100 feminine hygiene kits; 71 were distributed, with 50 kits to the DfG international Refugee project, and the remaining 21 to other programs. They have exceeded the goal of making 100 kits for the year, but haven’t been able to distribute them all, but will get the rest out eventually. They had to shut down the workshop because of COVID-19. They are currently making masks from home and delivered 200 masks to Wingate in Beacon. They are considering donating pad shields and liners to Rural Migrant workers, but need to verify that this is okay with Days for Girls International.

Barbara Van Itallie reported that **Math Buddies** has a small number of volunteers who serve Poughkeepsie and Arlington elementary school children. Unfortunately, the visits to the school stopped by the beginning of March due to the pandemic. STEM is an AAUW priority but our branch has little presence in any STEM area other than this modest Math Buddy program. Barbara continues to look for recruits, and assures us that we will catch on to elementary math skills that are now being taught at school.
Betty Harrel explained that Leading to Reading works with all ages. They collaborate with Astor Early Childhood Programs, Poughkeepsie Day School, and the Poughkeepsie Library District. They work with Book Buddies and Rural Migrant Ministries. They received a Holiday Helping Hand grant, obtaining many high quality books from Barnes and Noble over the holiday season in 2019. Books and materials continue to be sequestered at Manor of Woodside while COVID-19 remains a concern.

Peggy Kelland highlighted some programs of Extending Girls’ Horizons which works in conjunction with the local Girl Scouts. The programs target middle school or high school aged girls. The programs included “Finding Common Ground” which taught techniques on how to open up with other people, “Beading Project” which taught beading crafts, “A-Maze” which was a full day workshop for middle school Girl Scouts, and “Special Agent” where CSI type science stations challenged the Girl Scouts in grades 6-10. Several other planned programs were cancelled because of cancellations by presenters or because of NY Pause for COVID-19.

Kay Bishop spoke about the Mothers’ Project which has benefitted from AAUW’s instrumental support since 2013. One of their many undertakings includes providing 50 Women’s Health Packages per month to low income women in Poughkeepsie. For example, the December packages targeted holiday stress management: the January packages gave support for staying healthy during the winter. A new monthly meeting for AAUW members had been planned for once a month to assemble the health packages, but this is on hold because of the coronavirus. They hope this will start up as soon as group meeting restrictions are lifted, and that it will enable more AAUW members to get involved. During the pandemic, the Mothers’ Project has been giving out Stop and Shop $10 gift cards, along with “prescription cards” for healthy foods recommended to stay healthy during this time. Kay Bishop thanked AAUW Poughkeepsie for their continuing support.

Special thank you – Addressing all the attendees, Diane announced “Together we made a difference for women and girls in the Mid-Hudson Valley. The strength of the Poughkeepsie Branch is all who stepped forward to lead. I am grateful for your commitment and contributions; you made my job as president easy. In your honor of your efforts and support over the last 2 years, I am making a donation to Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW.” Everyone responded by thanking Diane.

Announcements – Sandy Lash reminded us to submit our suggestions for qualified presenters for future program meetings to her.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Sheets, Secretary