

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Geeta Desai, President. Those present were Mary Lou Davis, Geeta Desai, Pat Dogil, Dina Gleeson, Betty Harrel, Marcine Humphrey, Doris Kelly, Bergie Lebovitch, Wendy Maragh Taylor, Liz Moesel, and Sue Osterhoudt.

The minutes of the October board meeting were amended as follows: Leading to Reading will have autographed children's books written by celebrity authors available as part of the raffle. Eleanor Skov's name will be checked with her good friend Betty Smith to see if she was known as Ellie. The minutes were approved as amended.

Since Barbara Van Itallie was away, there was no treasurer's report. She will send it to board members shortly. The Executive Committee will meet on November 11. One of their roles will be to decide how money from fundraisers will be distributed equitably.

Board members were asked to submit their written reports to the secretary one week prior to a board meeting. She will then attach them to the agenda and draft of the minutes when she sends them out.

Since many board members did submit their reports prior to the board meeting, the first half hour of the meeting was designated for pressing concerns. Sue Osterhoudt raised the issue of presenters selling materials related to their presentation. A decision was needed concerning a non-profit group involved in The Other Side of Slavery program on November 10. It was decided that a policy was needed. Marcine Humphrey will draft a proposal which will be discussed at the next board meeting. In the meantime, Sue was asked to let the presenters know that they can create a list of those wanting to buy their books but not sell them at the meeting.

A second issue concerning conflicting events was raised by Sue Osterhoudt. The diversity program was presented on the same night as the Pins and Needles interest group. Each person planning a meeting was asked to check the calendar prior to making arrangements, and contact interest group coordinators with conflicting dates as soon as possible. The issue will be addressed in our new policies and procedures.

Mary Lou Davis will chair the 2011 Woman of the Year Committee, but a new chair should be appointed as soon as possible so she can serve on the committee this year. Nominations will be accepted from members. Interest groups have been asked for recommendations.

The meeting then went into a strategic discussion. Working rules will contain policies and specific procedures. The board needs to set goals both for itself and the organization. They may be in the form of quantity, quality and content.

A discussion was held on our constituencies (members, community, state organization, and national organization) and the services we provide to each. At this meeting, the focus was on members. A chart is attached at the end.

Services provided to members include education, recreation, socialization, networking, leadership development, support for each other, and personal and professional growth opportunities. Under education, areas addressed are public policy, visitation to historic/artistic venues, programs, interest groups, and exposure to new learning.

More specifically under public policy, services include gaining knowledge about the political process, issues, legislation, providing access to legislators, and providing a vehicle to exercise their vote.

The scope of the work in public policy include encouraging members to visit the Association website and asking them to sign up for the Two Minute Activist, writing 6-8 articles for the Branch, training members to become lobbyists, getting out the vote in local, state and national elections, and providing forums and debates on candidates. Doris Kelly, the Public Policy chair, will write the articles and encourage participation in the Two Minute activist. The member profiles will be used to create short term groups working on other specific tasks. Financial resources will need to be available and there will be a line in the budget. An evaluation process will need to be developed.

It was stated that there will be many crossovers as we look at the work of the branch in each area. It was felt that we need to do smaller things and do them well. Our core values must be reflected in each thing we do. They are diversity, communication, collaboration, board leadership, mission-based programming, membership, funding, publicity, volunteers, community partnerships, and transparency in financial dealings.

It was decided that, even though it was time consuming, it was better for the board to go through this process for each area rather than responding to working rules that were written by one person. A discussion was held on whether one winter board meeting could be held on a Friday during the day, if enough advance notice is given to board members. Several members said that they cannot attend a board meeting on a Saturday morning.

Publicity Contacts: Mary Coiteux

Re: Girls Conference

1. The Cornell list server is run thru the Kingston office of the Cooperative Extension. The contact is Roxanne Churchill. rc60@cornell.edu Dutchess County does not have the same kind of list serve. Girls Collaborative will serve this function. Looking into the United Way list of contacts has been suggested for next year.
2. Joan Crawford: Joan's email is: crawfordcsw@aol.com Both were contacted and sent info on the conference
3. Area Libraries were sent flyers and a copy of the lime conference folder
- 4 Lorinda Arella, Project director of VETFAMSA. Drloria @aol.com and Paula Zwilinger, Semper Fi Parents mommini68@aol.com. Flyer, registration info e-mailed
5. WCRT Newsletter (Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers)
6. Area Recreation Depts. were sent the Press Release and the registration form via e-mail.

Re: Staatsburg gifts from Pins and Needles

1. Hudson Valley News Dana Gavin weekend@thehudsonvalleynews.com
2. Poughkeepsie journal Chris Davis Cena focus@poughkeepsiejournal.com
John nelson jnelson@poughkeepsiejournal.com

Re: Poughkeepsie Calendar

1. Open House
2. Oct Program: Out of Darkness
3. Nov Program: The other side of slavery

Re: Woman of the Year

1. WCRT News Letter , Very nice article was included
2. Attagirl Barbara Kram attagirlhudsonvalley@gmail.com, Poughkeepsie Journal. I did not submit it but Barbara had a column about Betty

3. Several Poughkeepsie Journal editors were contacted but did not run the information . Follow up phone calls will be planned for future events.
4. Hudson Valley News Dana Gavin weekend@thehudsonvalleynews.com

Re: Other Side of Slavery

1. Area libraries were sent a mailing
2. Poughkeepsie Journal editors were contacted with a press release
3. Event is on the Poughkeepsie Journal Calendar

Re: My Sisters Keeper

Preparations for publicizing the events: The event at the Mall, Women's Net Work Group and December Branch Meeting are starting.

Amy sent a list of new volunteers who are interested in helping with publicity as well as ideas for using them that are quite helpful.

I am also going to see if there is interest amongst these new folks in Geeta's idea about using public television as a vehicle. We will contact the Kingston Branch and see how they are doing it and investigate the procedure.

Nominating Committee-Marcine Humphrey

The nominating committee met on October 18, 2010. There are 6 members on the committee and two are current board members. Plans were made to brainstorm and bring a list of potential candidates to our next meeting in January. The following positions need to be filled, 1st Vice President/Program, 2nd Vice President Membership and 3rd Vice President Education Fund. Geeta Desai is reviewing the "job descriptions" and they will be included in the next issue of the branch. Liz Moesel has agreed to fill the position of Assistant Treasurer again. This will be her second term. We will also need a chair for Woman of the Year. We accept nominations from the membership at large. Cathy Lane has been asked to ask interest group coordinator if they have any suggestions. Anyone can make a recommendation to Marcine Humphrey, Nominating Committee Chair. Anyone who is interested please contact Marcine.

Diversity Committee Report-Sherre Wesley and Wendy Maragh-Taylor

The movie "Water" was shown last Thursday, October 28, from 6-8:30 pm at Adriance Library in Poughkeepsie. We had approximately 15 people attend, enjoying snacks and a thoughtful discussion on a moving film. Our next film, "Rabbit-Proof Fence," will be shown January, with February as a snow date. More details will be in The Branch.

Our first "Fun at Five" event will be a Japanese Tea Ceremony led by Naoko Ojio, a returning member of AAUW, on December 6 at 5 pm at the home of Margaret Nijhuis. Gwen Higgins is working on our next "Fun at Five" event -- a Kwanzaa ceremony at the end of December.

Community Report-Betty Harrel

We are continuing to move out into the community and become much more visible as an organization. Our branch has formed a number of partnerships with other organizations and businesses in order to forward our mission.

Recent events include the focus on the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) research report at the Woman of the Year celebration, the grand opening of the Girls' Collaborative website, and the move of the Leading to Reading project to the Manor at Woodside with the goal of incorporating residents into a multi-generational program.

Initiatives which have been introduced and are in the formative stages are the collaboration with the health department, a call for expansion of afterschool programs to support girls in STEM, and a multi-cultural summit to bring together underserved populations with support services.

Membership Report-Bergie Lebovitch

383 Members

65 members since Open House

82 contributing members in the National Hall of Fame

Leadership Training seminar for New member reception Nov. 8th, St. John's classrooms 7 PM (invitation only)

Getting to Know you...new member reception Nov. 16th, Christ Episcopal Church, Poughkeepsie (invitation only)

Directories will be at the Nov. 3rd Board Meeting (if you are a coordinator or director of any of our groups, please come prepared to take with you any directories for your regular attendees- a list beforehand would be most advantageous)

Copies of the Open House Brochure will be available to those who did NOT get one at the OH

Program Report –Sue Osterhoudt and Dina Gleeson

The Oct. 13 program went well. Only about 28 people attended so we think it would be a good idea to discuss ways to increase attendance. This was the program that got the highest “score” at the Program Planning Meeting and was planned by 2 new members – Terry Schneider joined last year and Jean Miller has been a member for only a few years.

The Nov. 10 program, The Other Side of Slavery, is on track and should be a great evening. Check the Nov. Branch for details.

Be sure to check the Branch for all the events supporting the Dec. My Sister's Keeper program.

We respectfully request that we discuss booking policies for events. As we grow it is imperative that we are sure that all coordinators and chairs are aware of the policy of checking the calendar, directory and Branch for meetings to avoid conflicts whenever possible.

Editor's Report to Board-Margaret Nujhuis

Website

- 1) Minutes of the September board meeting are on the website under **About Us**.
- 2) A “printer friendly” version of the September Open House Booklet is also under **About Us**.
- 3) The application form has been updated.
- 4) Please check the information from your area and see what needs to be updated.

Newsletter

- 1) We have 362 members with emails, 22 without, and 14 members with emails request the newsletter to be mailed – many of these contribute to the newsletter.

- 2) All articles need to be in by the 10th of the month. Please be sure I am copied on all reports so I can see news worthy items.
- 3) I will not be at the board this month. Ginny will you please let me know if anything comes up that should appear in the newsletter for December.
- 4) Membership directory has been completed and sent to the printer.
- 5) Open House directory has been sent for reprinting.

Woman of the Year Report- Mary Lou Davis

One hundred nineteen people attended the Woman of the Year luncheon at Villa Borghese on October 23 in honor of Betty Harrel. Many people who couldn't attend wrote or called Betty to congratulate her. Several people who could not attend sent donations totaling \$145. Villa Borghese gave a donation of \$250 when Margaret promised to print his business card on several of our program fliers and in the newsletter. Many people commented that they enjoyed Geeta's speech about "Why So Few." Even though the luncheon was not a fundraiser, there should be a considerable amount of money left after all of the bills are paid for scholarships.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Harrel

Elizabeth Harrel
for Ginny Marcus, Secretary