

## Minutes

Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc.  
Board Meeting  
Wednesday, December 1, 2010

### Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Geeta Desai. Present were Mary Coiteux, Mary Lou Davis, Betty Harrel, Eileen Hayden, Marcine Humphrey, Cathy Lane, Pat Luczai, Ginny Marcus, Liz Moesel, Margaret Nijhuis, Trish Prunty, Barbara Van Itallie, and Sherre Wesley.

### Minutes of November Board Meeting

The minutes were amended as follows: on page 4, the nominations should include: Assistant Treasurer, not Assistant Secretary. Minutes were accepted.

A motion was made by Eileen Hayden, seconded by Betty Harrel, to have the current committee reports sent out by the secretary a week before the board meeting. It was passed unanimously.

### Treasurer's Report

The monetary amounts on hand are as follows: \$7271.00 checking, \$20,728.00 savings, \$3734.00 CD, with \$31,703 in total.

### Executive Committee Meeting-President Desai

President Desai spoke about the reason for the meeting, which was to establish criteria for allocating money, and choosing named scholarships.

Criteria for allocating money for initiatives are as follows:

- Fulfilling AAUW's mission
- Community service
- Community partnerships
- Funding sources
- AAUW membership participation
- Sustainable goals
- Rate of success

Criteria for named scholarships are as follows:

- Creativity
- Leadership
- Board service
- Diligence
- Past Board President
- In Memoriam

The executive committee will compile suggestions for the named scholarships and bring a recommendation to the Board. The names must be submitted to NYS by March 15.

It was decided to allocate \$3000 to EOF since we now have a larger membership base. The unallocated funds will be distributed in this manner: 50% for the scholarships (EOF, Dutchess Community Endowment), and 50% for approved initiatives. We will continue to award two \$500.00 scholarships to Dutchess Comm.Coll.

### Request for Formal Endorsement of Initiatives

A motion was made by Mary Lou Davis and seconded by Liz Moesel to formally endorse the following initiatives: Stand Up to Domestic Violence, My Sister's Keeper, and Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: A Multicultural Initiative. The motion was approved.

### Woman of the Year Luncheon

Mary Lou Davis reported there were 116 attendees, paying \$35 each with a total of \$4060.00. The luncheon expenses were \$3031.16, with the remaining fundraising amount of \$1028.74. In addition, there was \$1535.00 in donations. A decision was made to refund Phyllis Teasdale's reservation, due to her inability to attend because of her broken hip.

### Interest Group Coordinator-Cathy Lane

Interest Group chairs continue to submit articles to the Branch Newsletter. To date, Bridge for Beginners, Women's Professional Networking and All Those Books have submitted. I am awaiting an article from Pins and Needles for the December newsletter.

The Board's suggestions for interest groups that have many members were distributed to Interest Group chairs. To date, feedback from the chairs has indicated that they are not splitting at this time. I think there will be additional discussion on this in some groups. The Board will be updated on any changes or decisions made by groups.

Pat Luczai and I are working on developing "Tips and Tricks" for those members who are interested in starting an interest group. We plan to schedule a meeting sometime in January and invite people who are interested in starting an interest group and/or in helping to develop a handbook for interest group development and management. A motion was made by Pat Luczai and seconded by Mary Coiteux that newly formed interest groups receive Board approval. Motion passed.

### Girls' Conference-Marcine Humphrey

Our fifth Live Your Dream Girls' Conference has the most attendees. Once again, Dutchess Community College provided us with an excellent space, and staff members were willing to go above and beyond expectations. The college students for the Early Childhood Club were terrific, jumping in whenever they were needed and engaging the girls in good conversation.

This year we had 94 girls registered, and it was the most diverse gathering: 17 different middle schools, both public and private, were represented. The majority (94%) of the girls rated the experience "Excellent" (54%) or "Good". I believe we accomplished our mission!

The facilitators were very pleased, with many remarking that they enjoyed the girls who all seemed engaged and involved. "Fashion Forward", presented by Lydia Biskup and her fashion students, was a hit as always! The college women enjoyed the day as much as the girls did. Overall, every workshop received ratings of "excellent" and "good". Gwen Higgins sent them off waving their multicolored, bejeweled "hands" and a positive message. Watching the girls enthusiastically greeting their parents was thrilling. Over 20 parents and girls took the college tour.

Over 25 women from AAUW volunteered to decorate journals, wrap boxes, handle registration, monitor girls' movements, hang craft projects, lug materials, put up signs, take photos and act as facilitators. We owe a special debt of gratitude from the guidance counselors from Poughkeepsie Middle School, especially Ann Marie Healy, for promoting the workshop and riding the school bus; and Joan Henry, from Mill Street Loft, who encouraged and transported girls from Beacon and facilitated a "Girl Talk". Once again "Girl Talk Circle" was a favorite with many, saying there was just not enough time.

Our expenses were for the costs of printing, supplies, journals, bus transportation, canvas bags, T shirts and an insurance certificate. We paid \$1922.35 Lunch and coffee service totaled \$1026.75, along with the purchase of apples and cookies, expenses totaled 3,017.85.

Income totaled \$4,069.16 which includes \$1000 from the AAUW treasury. (Reminder: not all girls paid the \$7 registration fee-some were exempt based on need.) We have \$1051.31 to finance reunions if needed.

For the first time local cable news came to the conference and the Poughkeepsie Journal did a pre and post conference article. Our information was posted on several middle school web pages. We should all feel proud as we live the mission of AAUW

Discussion was held about a negative letter to the editor of the Poughkeepsie Journal,, dealing with the Fashion Forward Workshop. It was decided to have a positive letter written by an AAUW member reporting on the workshop itself.

#### Branch Awards

The NYS deadline for Branch Awards is March 15. Submissions for individual program awards will be filled out by Sue Osterhoudt and Dina Gleeson.

#### Strategic Plan and Working Rules

A committee was formed, consisting of Geeta Desai, Dina Gleeson, Betty Harrel, Trish Prunty, and Eileen Hayden, to work on these plans. Each person responsible for the areas in the working template should submit their ideas to President Desai before the next Board Meeting.

The deadline for our Strategic Plan and Working Rules is also due March 15.

#### New Business

President Desai talked about an e-mail from Kim Butwell and Jackie Goffe-McNish, coordinators of the Professional Women's Network. They are planning a Valentine's Day event, and need to guarantee 55 attendees; how do they go about doing this? A discussion was held about how each interest group handles their events themselves, and thus the Women's Network Group should do the same.

Margaret Nijhuis mentioned that there is a growing need for a Vice President for Communications, as is shown in our bylaws. The position will be reinstated for the Nominating Committee.

#### Program Report-Dina Gleeson and Sue Osterhoudt

The November program-The Other Side of Slavery went well and over 80 people attended.

The December 8 program at St. John's at 7 is My Sister's Keeper. Joan Monk and Melissa Guardano will speak about the state initiative. Wendy Maragh-Taylor will speak about her school project in Africa, Sue O. will speak about the Madagascar Library project and Macallan Durkin, Cecilia's daughter, will speak about her non-profit Good-Goodies. We hope to see you there.

Please continue to read the Branch for details on all the monthly programs.

#### V.P. Education Foundation-Pat Luczai

I submitted an article for the December Branch encouraging members to support our scholarships.

Members were encouraged to make a donation to either the Educational Opportunities Fund on a national level, or to the DCC Endowment Fund at the local level. My thanks to Margaret Nijhuis for her work on adding to the content of the article.

At the Executive Committee meeting held November 11<sup>th</sup>, it was decided that since our branch has grown, we should raise the amount that we contribute to EF. It was decided that we will ensure that our branch is credited with a minimum of \$3,000 for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ginny Marcus, Secretary