

Minutes  
Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc.  
Board Meeting  
Wednesday, June1, 2011

Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Geeta Desai. Present were Sharon Clarke, Mary Coiteux, Mary Lou Davis, Pat Dogil, Betty Harrel, Eileen Hayden, Marcine Humphrey, Doris Kelly, Bergie Lebovitch, Pat Luczai, Ginny Marcus, Margaret Nijhuis, Sue Osterhoudt, Kris Puzzo, and Barbara Van Itallie.

Minutes of May Board Meeting

There were several corrections:

Page 1- Membership Update-Mary Lou Davis is helping with state and national reporting.

Page 2-Program V.P. Report -should read "Writers' Tea, not Authors' Tea".

Page2- Looking Ahead- using input and feedback should say "in addition" instead of "other than".

Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report –Barbara Van Itallie

Assets: \$40,120.32

Dedicated Funds: \$6324.54

Remaining: \$33,795.78

The assets are inflated at this time because of receiving dues, which will be disbursed to State and National.

Writers' Tea monies: Poughkeepsie Golf and Country Club gave us a refund of \$650 due to menu mixup. Income was \$13,300.75; expenses were \$5548.96, leaving a difference of 7751.79.

V.P. Membership-Bergie Lebovitch

There are 405 members as of June 1. Thus far there are 226 renewals, 159 haven't renewed yet. Reminder calls will be made. The deadline is June 15.

President's Report-Geeta Desai

President Desai reported about the feedback from the Annual Meeting: she received 50 emails and 15 calls, all in positive response to the content and dinner.

How can we make the monthly meetings as well attended?

Several ideas were suggested, such as,  
“Social time” before each meeting  
Open House-booths for interest groups for mingling; “speed dating” idea for interest groups/initiatives  
Monthly programs-showcase interest groups/initiatives for 5-10 minutes before  
Tables instead of audience seats

### Program Planning Meeting

The following criteria should be considered-is the program educational, cultural, part of Women’s Initiative, or have international issues?  
Be sure to speak about the program with presenters before suggesting it to the group. Is it a viable program?

### Post Program Planning Meeting

This meeting will be held the end of June. President Desai will hold it with a cross section of membership, keeping the work we do in mind. This way the programs will represent what we are all about. Board members are invited.

### Writers’ Tea Post Meeting-Margaret Nijhuis

Most volunteers on the committee will be staying on. Two suggestions were made- that initiative groups who benefit should be actively involved, and that the treasurer should be involved in looking over the prospective venue’s proposal/ contract.. Other venues need to be looked at, as our attendance grows. The Search Committee will be seeking authors in the next few months. The Tea was a financial success.  
President Desai will send out messages about”refreshing” the committee.

### Dutchess Community College Endowment Check Press Conference

This will possibly be held in July or August. Reporters from various media will be called to publicize this event. Mary Coiteux will be involved and a press kit is needed.

### Education Chair-Kris Puzzo

There will be a meeting called “An Open Conversation on Education”, June 9, from 8-10 a.m. featuring participants from United Way and IBM.

## New Business

Betty Harrel reported that a friend of Miriam Zimet-Aaron, Michael Pastore, had a company that went out of business. He was looking for a place to donate new children's books and supplies. Marion put him in touch with Betty, and now Leading to Reading is the benefactor of materials worth \$50,000! Also, Page Lumber gave space to store the materials until they can be distributed.

President Desai asked returning members of the Board to consider the decision to join the Chamber of Commerce and talk about it at the Sept. meeting.

### September 18 Concert:

A proposal has been made to President Desai and the Board to hold a concert on Sept. 18 at the Howland Cultural Center, Beacon. There will be a cost of \$15 for each ticket.

Discussion was held on the feasibility of this concert.

A motion was made by Betty Harrel, seconded by Mary Lou Davis, to cancel the proposed concert and consider it as a proposal for Program Planning for the 2011-2012 year. Motion rejected.

A further motion was made by Marcine Humphrey, seconded by Sharon Clarke, that the Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW does not accept the proposal for the Sept. 18 concert due to financial considerations. Motion passed with 2 abstentions.

## Reports

To: Board members

From: Barbara Van Itallie, Treasurer

Geeta has asked me to prepare a proposal on how to allocate our 2011 Writers' Tea proceeds. This is my proposal, for your consideration at the upcoming board meeting. I am recommending increasing our two scholarships at DCC from \$500 per year to \$600. This means an additional \$100 spent next spring on one scholarship, and gradually increasing our endowment by \$2000 to provide for the 2<sup>nd</sup> \$600 scholarship.

2011 Tea profit was \$7752. Current guidelines say half to scholarships; half to local projects.

The only initiative to request money so far is Domestic Violence.

Proposal:

\$260 to Leading to Reading (already given May, 2011)  
\$439 to complete the \$10,000 DCC Endowment already given (we took some money from the general fund to complete the endowment last year)  
\$600 to one local DCC Scholarship  
\$1000 to increase our DCC endowment  
\$2000 to EOF “named gifts” (remainder to come from existing funds and direct donations)  
\$200 to Leading to Reading  
\$1000 to Girls’ Conference  
\$100 LAF (we contributed \$250 last year; rest from Rib Fest)  
\$100 My Sister’s Keeper (they have \$350 from last year plus bring in their own money)  
\$600 Domestic Violence (they spent \$130 in last fiscal year before any money was budgeted and have requested another \$430 for this year’s work)  
\$100 Think Globally (no funds requested; this is start-up money)  
\$100 Health Care (no funds requested; this is start-up money)  
\$100 Careers, Compensation and You (no funds requested)  
\$100 Education (no funds requested)  
\$0 Let’s Read Math  
Total: \$6699; remainder of \$1053 to be spent as needed on local projects/initiatives

Meeting adjourned 9:05 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Marcus

Secretary