

Minutes
Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by President Geeta Desai. Present were Sharon Clarke, Mary Lou Davis, Pat Dogil, Cecilia Dinio-Durkin, Betty Harrel, Barbara Hugo, Marcine Humphrey, Doris Kelly, Cathy Kinn, Ginny Marcus, Margaret Nijhuis, Linda Roberts, Amy Schwed, Joanne Scolaro, and Barbara Van Itallie. President Desai welcomed the new members to our board.

Minutes of June Board Meeting, May Annual Meeting

The minutes of both meetings were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report-Barbara Van Itallie

Our assets are as follows: \$35,060.86, with \$9518.10 as restricted funds. Donations received in memory of Susan Kemp, \$25, and Irene Keyes, \$635, thus far. Our treasurer, Barbara, and President Desai will meet and make suggestions as to allocation of the money, as a possible AAUW scholarship. Discussion was held about allocation from the Writers' Tea proceeds. Ideas proposed were seed money for new initiative, or for ongoing programs.

President's Report-Geeta Desai

Erika Kastel is taking over as Diversity Chair, and Cecilia Dinio-Durkin will become the International Relations Chair. We will no longer have a Cultural Chair position, as it is not necessarily needed at this time. If needed later, a chairperson will be appointed. Also, the position of Women's Issues has been eliminated. Everything we do is related to women's issues; therefore a specific position is redundant. Membership-elect Co V.P. Kathy Brown has resigned due to personal issues. Amy Schwed will continue as the lone Membership V.P. The Women's Networking Group has become the Women's Personal and Professional Development Group. They will consider a community outreach program.

Membership Report-Amy Schwed

Currently we have 315 renewals. The reasons for some of the non renewals were financial issues, or women are too busy. We have 10 new members as of now. 46 Members at Large have been sent invitations to the Open House/Reunion. Member retention will be the thrust for this year. At each monthly meeting attendees will receive a ticket. As the tickets are saved, they can then be used at the Annual Meeting in May in a special drawing.

Other retention ideas are, have a partner paired up to each new member, call new members to invite to monthly meetings, perhaps offer to carpool.

Communications Report-Joanne Scolaro

There is now a shift in responsibilities with this newly created position.

On the Webpage:

Homepage (including calendar), and Membership, Leading to Reading and Girls' Conference-**Margaret Nijhuis**

About Us (including minutes) & Programs (including Interest Groups and Community Outreach)-**Joanne Scolaro -845-592-8314 Joanne.Scolaro@gmail.com**

Note: Joanne's contact information has changed from what appears in the directory.

Public Policy, Scholarship and Resources-**Pat Luczai**

Each Board member should check the website and if changes are needed in your area of responsibility, please contact the person listed above.

Newsletter:

Margaret Nijhuis

Email Responsibilities:

Joanne Scolaro. If you contact Joanne and do not get a response, please notify Margaret. We will be covering for each other.

Communication with the AAUW-NYS Newsletter:

Joanne Scolaro

Newsletter Editor-Margaret Nijhuis

A request has been received to place a paid ad in The Branch. We as a Board decided not to do this. There will be an article recognizing all of our members running for political office.

Woman of the Year-Mary Lou Davis

Our Woman of the Year Luncheon date has been changed to Nov. 5, 2011, from 12-3 p.m at the Villa Borghese, Wappingers Falls. Our honoree is Ann Armater, founding Executive Director of Vassar Brothers Hospital and the Vice President for Development for Health Quest. The focus of the luncheon will be on women's health.

Program Planning-Barbara Hugo and Shelby Outwater

A new process was used for program planning this year. One meeting was held in June, and a follow-up meeting in August. This past August the Program co V.P.s met with Geeta Desai and Amy Schwed to hone down the ideas and keep to the AAUW mission, with retention of members in mind. Hospitality chair will coordinate with Program V.P.s.

There is a possibility of using themes for each month's programs.
In October Kathleen Beckmann will present a musical program with the Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra.

Public Policy-Doris Kelly

We are coordinating with Dare Thompson from the League of Women Voters to hold a Meet the Candidate's Night on Nov. 1, 2011, at the Quaker Meetinghouse in Poughkeepsie. Scheduled guests are the 2 candidates for County Executive, and candidates for Family Court Judges.

Hospitality-Pat Dogil

The Movie Night Interest Group will provide refreshments for the October membership meeting. The International Relations Group has volunteered to provide refreshments for future monthly meetings.

Community-Betty Harrel

Betty reported that the Westchester County AAUW approached her about helping their group becoming a 501 3c, as we are. They want our branch to co sponsor their program. Discussion was held about the pros and cons of this, and we decided not to co sponsor them. Betty will report back to their branch.

New Business

NYS AAUW will be publishing branch profiles for their newsletter, "Focus". Geeta Desai and Margaret Nijhuis will write our profile for the state newsletter.

We have gotten a request for a donation to the Roxbury, NY Central School District Hurricane Victims. The school district had widespread damage from Hurricane Irene. Trish Prunty made a motion that we donate \$250 to the cause, with Linda Roberts seconding the motion. Motion approved.

Some time was spent on reviewing and updating the Organizational Chart, with explanation provided for the new Board members.

Meeting adjourned 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Marcus
Secretary