

Minutes
Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting
December 6, 2012

Present were Board members Marge Barton, Sharon Clarke, Mary Coiteux, Mary Lou Davis, Maria DeWald, Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, Peggy Hansen, Eileen Hayden, Gwen Higgins, Barbara Hugo, Doris Kelly, Margaret Nijhuis, Shelby Outwater, Kris Puzza, Fran Raucci, Linda Roberts, Kay Saderholm, Joanne Scolaro, and Barbara Van Itallie. Geeta Desai attended the meeting as a guest.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Jacqueline Goffe-McNish.

Approval of Minutes of October Board Meeting

Sharon Clarke made a motion, seconded by Mary Coiteux, to approve the October 4, 2012, Board minutes. The motion passed with three abstentions.

Chair's Remarks

Jackie thanked the Board for a wonderful first quarter, and asked members to brainstorm specific goals that they would like to see achieved by the end of the year. Suggestions included the integration of new members in to the organization and the updating of the branch's website.

Treasurer's Report

Barbara Van Itallie reviewed the Treasurer's Report, which shows total assets of \$38,449.61. Barbara moved that we send \$350 donation to LAF this year. During discussion, Mary Lou Davis amended the motion, changing the amount to be donated to \$500. This motion was seconded by Linda Roberts and passed unanimously. Mary Lou Davis moved that the donation be designated for the Evvie Currie Fund; this was seconded by Doris Kelly and carried unanimously. Barbara announced that we will be sending \$3,000 to EOF.

Programming Report

Barbara Hugo reported that, beginning in January, membership program meetings (except for the March meeting) will take place at the Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church on Route 376. (The March meeting only will be held at the Unitarian Church.) Barbara Hugo thanked Barbara Van Itallie for her help in securing the Methodist Church as a venue for our meetings. Jackie reported that she has reserved rooms for all the monthly meetings at DCC per request from Barbara Hugo. Now that a new location has been found, she asked whether it was necessary to keep those rooms at DCC. It was suggested by members of the Board that these rooms be kept as a "backup."

Barbara noted that one of our objectives this year is to raise the profile of AAUW and that the Michael Fowlin event proved to be a good example of progress toward this goal, with about 250 people in attendance. She thanked the Board for their help with the program. In December, the program "What Is a Locavore?" will be held at the Hellenic Center, and preparations are proceeding well.

Membership Report

Kay Saderholm reported that 30 new members joined our branch at the Open House, and that we have gained 42 new members for the year. The new members' reception was successful, with about 20 new members joining 40 present members for the occasion. Kay thanked the Board members who attended and helped with the event.

Girls' Conference Report

Gwen Higgins reported for Cecilia Dinio-Durkin. The event was a great success, with 63 girls participating. Feedback from the participants was very enthusiastic.

Diversity Committee Report

Gwen Higgins reported that Margaret White is chairing an initiative commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, coordinating efforts with a number of other groups. Planning is continuing for two other possible initiatives: providing assistance to mothers from other cultures as they learn to navigate the educational system; and creating awareness of health care issues and the new health care law.

Woman of the Year Report

Marge Barton stated that the day went very well. Eighty people attended. She suggested that Board members begin thinking about possible nominees for 2013.

Hospitality Chairs

Jackie asked for discussion of the role of the new hospitality chairs. Fran Raucci stated that she and Barbara Lemberger had to call 32 people to find 11 people to bring food to a recent event. Jackie suggested that we need to create a committee and that we have a sign-up sheet for volunteers at the next membership meeting.

Leading to Reading—Marge Barton reported on the work of Leading to Reading, which supports early literacy by supplying books and kits of support material to children, giving tips to parents about reading with their children, serving as community readers, and working with a large number of local agencies including Astor Early Childhood Centers, the Catharine Street Community Center, and the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie. Funds are needed to purchase books and kit materials. In the past, most Leading to Reading books were donated by Lisa Libraries in Kingston, but now, due to a change in the Lisa Library policies, books must be purchased.

Marge Barton moved, seconded by Barbara Hugo, to allocate \$2,000 to Leading to Reading. The motion passed unanimously.

Working Rules—Geeta Desai explained that she and Betty Harrel have been working for months on creating working rules as our branch has many standard operating procedures that had never been written down. These rules are not By-Laws, but form an administrative document that could become an appendix to the By-Laws. Geeta will send the draft to Peggy Hansen, who will distribute them to the Board for review. Geeta would like the Board to look especially closely at

job descriptions to make sure that there is a balance of responsibility on the Board. Jackie extended thanks to Geeta and Betty Harrel for all the time and effort that went into this project.

Named Gifts—Six AAUW members need to be recommended to the board to be honored at the State Convention in Lake Placid as gifts will be made in their names to the Educational Opportunity Fund. The following people will serve on a committee for Named Gifts: Mary Lou Davis, Peggy Hansen, Linda Roberts, Mary Coiteux, Maria DeWald.

Nominating Committee—Mary Lou Davis moved, seconded by Doris Kelly, that the following people serve on the Nominating Committee: Mary Lou Davis, Gloria Gibbs, Peggy Hansen, Eileen Hayden, Pat Luczai, and Barbara Van Itallie. The motion carried unanimously.

Let's Read Math—Jackie requested that we remove this item from the agenda for this month's meeting because the committee is still working on defining its focus.

Caring Committee—Margaret Nijhuis moved, seconded by Barbara Van Itallie, that we create an appointed position of Assistant Secretary to send cards expressing care and concern when needed. The Board will look for a person to fill this role and discuss next month.

Writers' Tea Report

Linda Roberts reported that we have three authors for the Tea, which will be held April 7, 2013, at the Links in Unionvale. She asked anyone with donations for the auction to get in touch with her.

Open Forum/Announcements

Margaret Nijhuis suggested that we talk to ERVK about establishing a liaison for publicity.

Barbara Hugo discussed International Women's Day (March 8) and asked how we can develop fuller programs around an international agenda.

Margaret Nijhuis announced that Cecilia Dinio-Durkin had been chosen as the Athena Awards representative.

Kris Puzza was prepared to give a presentation on STEM, but since there was not enough time to present an extensive report, she was asked to request a place on the agenda for January.

On motion by Kay Saderholm, seconded by Mary Coiteux, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Hansen

