

Minutes
Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting
January 3, 2013

Present were Board members Sharon Clarke, Jeanette Cantwell, Mary Lou Davis, Cecilia Dinio-Durkin, Peggy Hansen, Barbara Hugo, Cathy Kinn, Margaret Nijhuis, Shelby Outwater, Kris Puzza, Linda Roberts, Joanne Scolaro, and Barbara Van Itallie. Geeta Desai attended the meeting as a guest.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Barbara Hugo, serving as chair in Jacqueline Goffe McNish's absence.

Approval of Minutes of October Board Meeting

Linda Roberts made a motion, seconded by Cathy Kinn, to approve the October 4, 2012, Board minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Barbara Van Itallie reviewed the Treasurer's Report, which shows total assets of \$32,601.27. Barbara commented that although this represents a decrease from last month, that is typical for this time of year. She noted that we will be giving \$600 to Dutchess Community College for the AAUW Scholarship. She also suggested that we plan to increase the amount for monthly meetings in next year's budget.

Membership Report

Jeanette Cantwell announced that Dutchess Community College is now officially in partnership with AAUW, and that Jackie Goffe-McNish is serving as the College University Representative. We now have 399 members, with 37 new members having joined since September. As a result, we have three free national memberships earned under the "Shape the Future" campaign. Jeanette Cantwell moved, seconded by Mary Lou Davis, to use at least two of these memberships as an incentive to encourage members to renew early. The third membership is to be held for the Woman of the Year, if she is not already a member. The motion passed unanimously. Jeanette reported that we also received six free memberships under the "AAUW 130th Anniversary Membership Campaign Recognition." Each free national membership is to be given to a new member joining between March 15 and June 30, 2013. The receipt of the free memberships was due to the successful retention and/or gain of new members at seven percent or higher in both 2011 and 2012. In the year ending June 2011 we received five free memberships; in the year ending June 2012 we received one. Four of the free memberships will be given as gifts to new members by four existing members selected randomly from the previous recruiter list. Two of the six free "Anniversary" memberships will be given as gifts from the Branch. There was a discussion about how to select new members to receive those two free national memberships, and it was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

Jeanette expressed concern about member retention and stressed the importance of helping new members feel comfortable and welcome. There was a discussion about name tags and the possibility of going back to having them available at a table near the door for each meeting.

Programming Report

One of our goals has been raising the profile of the organization, and Barbara Hugo was pleased to share press coverage of the Locavore event in Northern Dutchess News. Barbara mentioned that there will be a sign-up sheet at membership events allowing people to express interest in getting involved in follow-up activities. The February meeting will be held on February 14 and will focus on Women's Mental Health. Dr. Joy Dryer and Leah Feldman have agreed to speak, and additional panelists are still being sought.

Girls' Conference Report

Cecilia Dinio-Durkin reported that they are planning a follow-up reunion in March or April for conference participants.

Named Gifts

Peggy Hansen reported that a committee consisting of Mary Coiteaux, Mary Lou Davis, Maria DeWald, Peggy Hansen, and Linda Roberts met in December to select six individuals to be honored at the State Convention in Lake Placid by having gifts to the Educational Opportunity Fund made in their names. Based on recommendations from Board members, the committee selected Mary Lou Davis, Geeta Desai, Cecilia Dinio-Durkin, Doris Kelly, Margaret Nijhuis, and Barbara Van Itallie. Linda Roberts made a motion, seconded by Sharon Clarke, to approve the committee's recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Lou Davis moved, seconded by Margaret Nijhuis, that Linda Roberts be named as our "emerging leader." The motion passed unanimously.

Caring Committee

Peggy Hansen announced that Maria DeWald has offered to take on the responsibilities of the caring committee, communicating support and concern on behalf of the board.

STEM Report

Kris Puzza reported on the work of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). The program was held for eight weeks at Marist College from October to December. Participants included at-risk eighth-grade students from Poughkeepsie Middle School, Marist student volunteer mentors, and Marist graduate Jennifer Tokos as teacher. Kris reviewed the many engaging activities that supported the 8th grade curriculum, including a program on Hudson River Life at Norrie Point Environmental Center and a "Take-Apart Day" focused on the inner workings of computers, radios, and phones. She also shared a presentation given to the participants on the reasons that girls should consider STEM careers.

Let's Read Math Name Change

Mary Lou Davis read an e-mail from Anthula Natsoulas explaining that this group wishes to change its name to distinguish it from a larger organization with the name "Let's Read Math."

Mary Lou Davis moved, and Sharon Clarke seconded, that the name of this group be changed from “Let’s Read Math” to “Let’s Do Math.” The motion passed unanimously.

My Sister’s Keeper Report

Cecilia Dinio-Durkin reported that they have had meetings focused on ways to make the goals My Sister’s Keeper more tangible. She asked Geeta Desai to elaborate. Geeta stated that Poughkeepsie AAUW has had this program for the last couple of years and hopes to engage a wider membership. My Sister’s Keeper looks outward beyond U.S. borders at conditions for women. In a global economy, we are irrevocably interconnected, and what happens in the rest of the world affects us here. Therefore, Geeta maintains this is no longer a charitable endeavor but in our enlightened self-interest.

As a beginning point to engage more members, Geeta proposed having a group of members go down to New York City for a day during the period March 4 to 15 to attend meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women.

After discussion, Sharon Clarke moved, seconded by Peggy Hansen, that we approve funds, not to exceed \$800, for a bus to bring members to New York City during the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women. The motion passed unanimously.

Cecilia reported that a walk over the Walkway over the Hudson is planned for International Women’s Day on March 8. The theme of the year is pay equity. It is hoped that many AAUW Poughkeepsie members will participate.

Announcements/Open Forum

Margaret Nijhuis suggested that everyone look at the job descriptions in the working rules. Sharon Clarke suggested that we review these job descriptions in advance and write comments prior to the next meeting. [Comments should be sent by e-mail to Jackie Goffe-McNish.]

Upon motion by Linda Roberts, seconded by Joanne Scolaro, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Hansen

