

Minutes
Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting
March 12, 2013

Present were Board members Marge Barton, Cecilia Dinio-Durkin, Peggy Hansen, Eileen Hayden, Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, Doris Kelly, Barbara Lemberger, Margaret Nijhuis, Shelby Outwater, Fran Raucci, Linda Roberts, Kay Saderholm, Joanne Scolaro, and Barbara Van Itallie. Lula Allen, Kay Bishop, and Betty Harrel attended the meeting as guests.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Jacqueline Goffe-McNish.

Welcome

Jackie invited members to reintroduce themselves by speaking about one of the twelve artifacts of culture (food, dress, language, politics, religion, education, arts, music, entertainment, celebration, tradition, mores).

Approval of Minutes of February Board Meeting

Margaret Nijhuis made a motion, seconded by Linda Roberts, to approve the February 14, 2013, Board minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Remarks

- The theme for the May Annual Meeting will be A Celebration of Culture.
- An on-campus AAUW group has been formed at Dutchess Community College; at present there are 22 student members. Jackie will be calling people asking them to serve as mentors.
- We received a letter from Dr. M. Santana, one of the AAUW College/University representatives, asking for suggestions for the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.
- Thank you to Margaret Nijhuis for the wonderful job she did in writing the history of our branch for the state convention.
- The tea is looking for auction items. Members are reminded to send in their registrations.
- Information on our emerging leader, Linda Roberts, has been sent to Joan Monk.
- Volunteers are needed for the Dutchess Community College Science Fair.
- AAUW has a new logo.
- Shelby Outwater, Margaret Nijhuis, and Barbara Hugo have done a wonderful job with paper program for the annual meeting. Mary Lou Davis has agreed to install the officers.

There was a discussion of a proposal to create a World Affairs Council (WAC)/AAUW Liaison and it was agreed, according to past practices, that an AAUW representative could serve as a liaison, and that we will be happy to invite a WAC representatives to all general meetings and events.

Treasurer's Report

Barbara Van Itallie reviewed the Treasurer's Report, which shows total assets of \$30,407.59. A draft of next year's budget has been prepared and sent to the Board, who are asked to submit comments to Barbara. The budget will be presented to the Board for approval at the April meeting, published in the May newsletter, and presented to the membership at the annual meeting.

Linda Roberts moved, seconded by Eileen Hayden, to allocate money from last year's Writers' Tea fund to pay for the bus trip to the meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women at the U.N. The motion passed unanimously.

Working Rules

Margaret Nijhuis has put together all the suggested changes for the Working Rules. There was a discussion about the possibility of establishing an Executive Committee of the Board, and it was agreed to state that "the Board may establish a Standing Committee to serve as an Executive Committee of the Board." It was also agreed to create a new "Honors and Awards Committee." The "Community Chair" title will be changed to "Community Liaison." Other possible changes were discussed, and it was agreed that Margaret will revise the document again and send it out to the Board.

Membership Retention

There was a discussion about the issue of retaining members and whether or not it should be a concern. Some Board members felt that it should not be a cause for alarm; participation in interest groups is overflowing, and a certain amount of fluctuation of members coming and going is to be expected. Jackie suggested that we continue to monitor our membership numbers to ensure that we don't have a problem in the future, and that perhaps in November or December we could undertake mentoring of new members.

Margaret announced on behalf of Jeanette Cantwell that the two new national memberships will be given to the first two people who contact her about new members, and to please let her know.

Kay Saderholm reminded the Board that the cost for new members joining now is only \$53.50 for membership from now until June 30, 2014.

Nominating Committee Report

Peggy Hansen reported that the Nominating Committee is recommending the following officers to be elected this year:

Program Co-Vice Presidents: Suzi Blecker, Mary Coiteux

Membership Vice President: Kay Saderholm

Educational Opportunity Fund Vice President: Linda Roberts

Assistant Treasurer: Jeanette Cantwell

In addition, all of the appointed positions have been filled; please see attached list.

Margaret Nijhuis moved, seconded by Doris Kelly, to accept the Nominating Committee's report. The motion passed unanimously.

Leading to Reading

Betty Harrel reported that the group has three committees: a planning committee, a volunteers group of about 100 people, and a grants committee. The project has been in existence since 2004 and has distributed over 10,000 books.

This year the group has been concentrating on grant writing and getting donations and has received them from Books for Kids, Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, TEG Federal Credit Union, East Fishkill and Fishkill Rotaries, 4Imprint.com, McGrath and Company, Interfaith Council Peace Concert, Omni New York, and the Arlington Teachers' Association.

The project is an outreach tool for our branch. It increases visibility and membership, is multi-generational, and supports other literacy programs in the community.

Healthcare Committee Proposal

Lula Allen and Kay Bishop presented two proposed projects: a healthcare workshop to be planned for 2013-2014 and a Women's Wellness Center. Kay, a nurse and midwife, is looking for people to help her move forward with a program for new mothers. She has a group of women already and the knowledge to help them; she needs a place and volunteers to help with phone calls, e-mails, snacks, and perhaps babysitting. Margaret Nijhuis suggested that this could work into being a monthly meeting—a suggestion for the new Membership Vice Presidents.

Report from U.N. Trip

Cecilia Dinio-Durkin reported that there was a full bus for the trip to the U.N. for the meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women. Board members who attended reported on their experiences. Response to the trip was enthusiastic, and there is interest in doing it every year. It is hoped that the experience will lead to projects undertaken by the group My Sister's Keeper. Geeta Desai will speak about international women's issues at the membership meeting this month.

Interim Reports

Jackie asked for one-page reports from all the vice presidents and chairs of the different committees, summarizing goals, activities, and outcomes to date. These will be attached to the minutes of the next meeting. Jackie will send out an e-mail about this.

Writers' Tea

Lula Allen and Linda Roberts reported on the plans for the tea. There was a discussion about the possibility of having a gift bag for every person attending the tea at a total cost of \$150. It was recommended instead to present a \$50 gift card to each of the three authors.

Announcements/Open Forum

Linda Roberts stated that she had attended the International Women's Day event and felt that it was a very important event that ties in perfectly with our goals. She feels that we need to be better represented there next year.

Doris Kelly announced that April 9 is Equal Pay Day, the point at which women have earned as much as they would have earned if they were men for the previous year.

On behalf of Mary Lou Davis, Peggy Hansen presented a request from New York State Branch AAUW for Branches to consider signing on to New York State's proposed Women's Equality Act. Peggy Hansen moved, seconded by Cecilia Dinio-Durkin, that we sign on in support of this act. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon motion made by Marge Barton, seconded by Doris Kelly, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Hansen

Nominating Committee Report for 2013-2014

Board Members to be Elected

Program Co VPs	Suzi Blecker, Mary Coiteux
Membership VP	Kay Saderholm
Educ. Opp. Fund VP	Linda Roberts
Assistant Treasurer	Jeanette Cantwell

Appointed Board Members

Community	Maria DeWald
Diversity	Gwen Higgins
Education	Kristina Puzza
Historian	Eileen Hayden
Hospitality	Barbara Lemberger, Fran Raucci
Interest Group Coord.	Cathy Kinn
International Relations	Cecilia Dinio-Durkin
Legal Advocacy Fund	Marcine Humphrey
Newsletter	Margaret Nijhuis
Nominating	Mary Lou Davis
Public Policy	Doris Kelly
Publicity	Marguerite Cotter
Webmaster	Mary King

Woman of the Year 2013: Marge Barton

Woman of the Year 2014: Pat Luczai

Elected Officers Who Will Serve for their Second Year

President Jacqueline Goffe-McNish

Secretary Peggy Hansen

Treasurer Barbara Van Itallie

Off Board Positions

Communications Assistant Joanne Scolaro

LAF Rotary Rib Fest Coord. Sharon Clarke

Nominating Committee: Chair Mary Lou Davis, Gloria Gibbs, Peggy Hansen, Eileen Hayden, Pat Luczai, Barbara Van Itallie

