

Minutes
Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting
May 2, 2013

Present were Board members Marge Barton, Jeanette Cantwell, Mary Coiteux, Mary Lou Davis, Cecilia Dinio-Durkin, Peggy Hansen, Eileen Hayden, Gwen Higgins, Barbara Hugo, Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, Doris Kelly, Cathy Kinn, Barbara Lemberger, Margaret Nijhuis, Shelby Outwater, Kay Saderholm, Joanne Scolaro, and Barbara Van Itallie. Lula Allen attended the meeting as a guest.

Call to Order

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

Welcome

Jackie stated that she had been to the state AAUW Convention and had a really good time. The message she took away was "It's time to *do* and stop talking." She invited everyone to complete the sentence, "If I could do one thing next year, I would...."

Approval of Minutes of March Board Meeting

Barbara Hugo made a motion, seconded by Cecilia Dinio-Durkin, to approve the April 4, 2013, Board minutes. The motion passed with two abstentions.

Treasurer's Report

Barbara Van Itallie reviewed the Treasurer's Report, which shows total assets of \$39,530.10. Barbara pointed out that this includes \$2512.35 in "Donations to be Allocated." This amount represents money from past teas. Barbara suggested forming a committee to consider how money is allocated and make recommendations to the Board. After discussion, it was agreed that Barbara will form a committee for this purpose. Barbara announced that we have received a contribution to the Irene Keyes Fund from Irene's husband, Rich Keyes.

Working Rules

Margaret Nijhuis thanked Peggy Hansen and Jackie Goffe-McNish for final proofreading of the document. She reminded everyone that the Working Rules form a living document that can be changed at any Board meeting. It was agreed to add a date to each page of the document. Margaret Nijhuis made a motion, seconded by Mary Coiteux, to adopt the proposed Working Rules. The motion passed unanimously. Jackie expressed thanks to Betty Harrel, Geeta Desai, and Margaret Nijhuis for all their work on this document.

Update for Annual Meeting 2013

Barbara Hugo announced that we are expecting 100 people. Jackie is taking care of thank you and welcome gifts. There was a discussion of the fact that a number of people have called

Christo's directly with special meal requests; it was agreed that next year's form will include specific instructions to contact AAUW rather than Christo's with these kinds of requests. Jackie thanked Shelby, Barbara, and Margaret for their wonderful work on the paper program of events, which looks great.

Science Fair

Jackie Goffe-McNish and Shelby Outwater attended the Science Fair for grades 5-12 at Dutchess Community College. Awards were given to Abigail Gagnon-Vishnefsky, a fifth-grade student, for her project "Just Winging It: Need a Lift?" and to Justina Sargios, a seventh-grader, for her project "How Bright Is That Light?" Both girls attend St. Mary's School in Fishkill.

Writers' Tea Report

Lula Allen thanked everyone for their support of the Writers' Tea, and noted that she had received a lot of positive feedback on this year's event. The auction raised almost \$4,000 and the raffle \$928. The grand total raised by the tea is \$8,781.15, an increase of over a thousand dollars from last year. There was a discussion of problems with people picking up and paying for items at the auction. It was agreed that in the future, payment must be made before any item can be taken. If payment isn't received within a certain time period, the item will go to the next person on the list. There was a discussion of how the auction winners were announced, and Margaret suggested that perhaps a spreadsheet could be printed and placed on everyone's table.

State Conference Report

Mary Lou Davis announced that next year's meeting will be in Ellenville, and she encouraged members to attend. The New York State Summer Conference will be held in Cazenovia on violence against women on July 19-21.

Gwen Higgins reported that she has been communicating with women coordinating state diversity activities. Diversity should not be a program but a value that is reflected in all programs. She will be serving on the state Diversity Committee and will be involved in organizing a District 4 meeting in Poughkeepsie on October 19. There will be a meeting for volunteers on May 23rd.

Mary Lou Davis mentioned that Kimberly Davis, a Legal Advocacy Fund litigant, spoke at the convention. She will be joining our branch.

Jackie reported on the speakers, workshops, and discussions at the convention. She noted that it was wonderful to see the strength of AAUW Poughkeepsie at the convention and thanked Mary Lou Davis, president of NYS AAUW, for her leadership. Mary Lou thanked Betty Harrel and Margaret Nijhuis for all their work.

Planning for Annual Program Planning Meeting 2013

Barbara Hugo announced that the meeting to brainstorm program ideas for next year will be held on June 13 at the Methodist Church on Route 376. There was a discussion about whether people who suggested ideas should be asked to organize them, and it was decided that the Program Vice-Presidents would make note of all the suggestions, and then meet separately to draw up a plan for next year. People who seem interested in a particular topic will be contacted and invited to get involved in that particular program.

Formatting End of Year Reports

Jackie announced that in preparing Final Reports, Interim Reports may be used and updated with accomplishments and plans for next year. These reports are due by September 1st, and should be sent to Peggy Hansen. They will be included in the September Board minutes.

Board Meeting Plans

Barbara Hugo announced that at the Board meeting in June, new Board members, continuing Board members, and members leaving the Board will attend to facilitate the transition for those taking on new responsibilities. This is the time for departing Board members to pass along information and materials that will be needed by the people moving into their positions on the Board.

Jackie announced that there will be a Board Orientation in early September. This will probably be a half-day training session with multiple workshops and procedural information for both new and continuing Board members.

Announcements/Open Forum

- Jackie announced that she had been in touch with Trish Prunty, and let her know that she wanted to participate in selecting the recipients of the Dutchess Community College Scholarships. She was able to do so this year, and next year she again be involved, working with the Chair of the Education Committee.
- Kay Saderholm announced that the Open House will be held on September 12, 2013, at the Hellenic Center.
- Marge Barton announced that the Woman of the Year Committee had met; the Woman of the Year honoree will be announced in the June issue of *The Branch*. There was a discussion of the issue of offering free national membership to the recipient. Marge Barton moved, seconded by Barbara Hugo, that we offer free national membership to the person chosen as Woman of the Year. If the person is a new member, we will pay for her national membership in October; if she is not a member, we will pay in June for her national membership for the following year. The motion passed unanimously.
- Barbara Lemberger announced that we have 30 round tablecloths that she would like to sell and buy no-iron long ones. Cathy Kinn moved that we sell the tablecloths and buy new ones at no additional expense. The motion was seconded by Kay Saderholm, and passed unanimously.

Upon motion made by Mary Coiteux, seconded by Doris Kelly, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Hansen

