

AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch, Inc.  
Board meeting minutes  
Thursday, September 5, 2013

Members present: Marge Barton, Jeanette Cantwell, Mary Coiteux, Marguerite Cotter, Mary Lou Davis, Cecilia Dinio-Durkin, Jackie Goffe-McNish, Betty Harrel, Barbara Hugo, Margaret Nijhuis, Kris Puzza, Linda Roberts, , Kay Saderholm, and Barbara VanItallie.

The meeting was called to order by Jackie Goffe-McNish, president, at 7:05 pm. It was held at the home of Margaret Nijhuis. All members were welcomed to the new program year, and each member introduced herself.

Agenda Change: Jackie Goffe-McNish requested a change in the order of the agenda, to move up the Nominating Committee report. The change was accepted.

Minutes: The minutes of the May 7 Annual Meeting, the June 6 board meeting, and the June 13 planning meeting were presented as mailed. All were accepted without change, with one abstention for the June 6<sup>th</sup> board meeting minutes.

Nominating Committee: Barbara VanItallie presented the nominating committee report. Peggy Hansen submitted her resignation as secretary due to health reasons. Betty Harrel was nominated as secretary for one year to complete her term. The nomination was approved unanimously.

Chair's Remarks – Jackie Goffe-McNish: We have many exciting things to look forward to this year and will continue to use the theme "Broader Our Borders. Last year there were many fruitful meetings, we accomplished a great deal, and people were kind to each other. Members were thanked for what they have contributed and what they will do for the coming year.

Treasurer's Report – Barbara VanItallie: The treasurer's report was sent to each member, along with an explanatory sheet, Each was requested to keep track of funds for her specific area. There is a balance of \$44,436.44 in all funds. Most income for the year has been received, so that amount will go down during the year. Members were asked to use the appropriate form to request money for special projects. Barbara will be away for 3 weeks beginning September 20 but Jackie can write checks if they are needed immediately. Barbara announced that there is \$1854 in the Diversity Fund which has not been used for several years. She moved that those funds be used for projects which have a diversity component. The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business :

Fundraising meeting - Barbara VanItallie: Barbara attended a meeting about fundraising with Mary Lou Davis and the attorney hired by AAUW-NYS. We can make donations to outside organizations as long as the purpose meets our mission. She suggested that we discuss it at a later meeting to develop branch guidelines.

Interest groups – Cathy Kinn: The Tee Off group has decided to disband. A new poetry group has been proposed by Carol Loizides. Cathy made a motion to explore and form a new poetry group. The motion was approved unanimously.

Leading to Reading – Betty Harrel: The project has donated over 12,000 books throughout the community. It continues to expand, both with new community partners and new AAUW members. New aspects include a community outreach with Poughkeepsie Day School students and presenting a workshop at the District 4

conference. A motion was made for \$2000 for books and materials for the reading kits. Barbara VanItallie recommended that 10% of the funds come from the Diversity Funds. The motion passed unanimously.

Healthcare Project – Lula Allen: Barbara VanItallie presented information on the proposed health care project. It is designed for new mothers who are underserved and/or underinsured. A church has agreed to co-sponsor the series of workshops. \$850 was requested, with \$250 for parent curricula materials and \$25/week for children's snacks. The issue was raised about liability both in babysitting and when dealing in health care issues. A motion was made to table the issue in order to get further information and was approved unanimously. Maria DeWald will follow up with the chairs.

Girls' Conference – Cecilia Dinio-Durkin: This is the 8<sup>th</sup> year of the conference and Cecilia's 2<sup>nd</sup> as coordinator. Several new activities will take place, including a closing ceremony by Didi Barrett and a music activity by Pat Guthrie. A motion was made to request \$2000 for the conference. Barbara VanItallie proposed that 10% of the funds come from the Diversity Funds. The motion was approved unanimously.

UN Women's Initiative – Cecilia Dinio-Durkin: A great deal of interest was created about international women's and girls' issues following the UN Status of Women Conference. The new program will use the ideals of My Sister's Keeper as a basis. A group has formed to discuss how the branch can be involved and more will be reported next month to request board approval.

Website/Calendar/Facebook/Technology Committee – Margaret Nijhuis: Margaret used the new LCD, purchased with money from the Writers' Tea, to demonstrate website highlights. Kathy Friedman will be managing the calendar and mailing The Branch, and Mary Jo Cotrell will be managing the database. Anyone needing member lists for specific tasks can contact Mary Jo. Christie VanHorne has volunteered to manage a branch Facebook page. Following a discussion about concerns and guidelines, it was decided to table a decision until the next meeting. A technology committee is being formed and members will take on specific tasks. A report was also given on the District 4 conference, which is being sponsored by our branch, and will be held at Dutchess Community College on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be outstanding workshops and speakers.

Let's Do Math – Anthula Natsoulas: Since the project will take place in 2014 and updated information was not available, the issue was tabled.

STEM – Kris Puzza: The program will take place with the Marist Liberty Partnership from October-December. At-risk students at the Poughkeepsie Middle School are targeted. Kris is meeting with the new director soon and will have further information, including the possible need for a new teacher. She made a motion to request \$850 to fund "gap" expenses that aren't covered by the Liberty Partnership funding. The motion was approved unanimously.

Annual reports: Reports will be read into the minutes and will be distributed with the draft minutes. The report received was from the Interest Group coordinator.

#### Announcements:

Open House – Kay Saderholm: The Open House is all set for the Hellenic Center on Thursday, September 12. Any initiative chairs who need table space need to contact Kay. Plans are underway for a new member reception right before the November or December meetings. A light supper will be held, and it is hoped that new members will stay for the meeting.

Program – Mary Coiteux: Many new members came to the June planning meeting. After choosing their top 3 program ideas, there were enough selected to have a general meeting in October along with the Woman of the Year luncheon, a program in June, and possible fun activities in the summer.

Open Forum:

Writers' Tea – Mary Lou Davis: The question was raised about whether we can pay travel expenses for an author who lives in a nearby state. The original intent of the tea was to highlight Hudson Valley writers, but it may come up for a future event.

Woman of the Year Luncheon: A discussion was held on whether to continue with the program after this year. Concerns have been raised about the cost. One possibility is to honor several women at one time. Since it is not a fundraiser, has been in existence since 1975, is a feel-good event, and tends to honor women who aren't selected by many other organizations, it was decided to discuss it further for next year.

AAUW-NYS – Mary Lou Davis: Mary Lou displayed the book Remarkable Women in New York State History which was recently published by AAUW-NYS. She announced that it is for sale.

The next meeting will be held at the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. Margaret Nijhuis was thanked for hosting the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Harrel  
Secretary