

AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch, Inc.
Board meeting minutes
Thursday, October 3, 2013

Members present: Marge Barton, Susie Blecker, Jeanette Cantwell, , Mary Lou Davis, Maria DeWald , Jackie Goffe-McNish, Betty Harrel, Doris Kelly, Margaret Nijhuis, Kay Saderholm, and Barbara VanItallie (by Skype).

Present by invitation: Lula Allen, Kay Bishop, Peggy Kelland, Anthula Natsoulas

The meeting was called to order by Jackie Goffe-McNish, president, at 7:00 pm. It was held at the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Wappingers Falls. All members and guests introduced themselves.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 5 board meeting were presented as emailed. They were approved as corrected.

Chair's Remarks – Jackie Goffe-McNish: It was announced that the AAUW-NYS convention program book had a 2 page summary of basic parliamentary procedures. It was decided to place it on the branch website under Policies and Procedures. Jackie also announced that any business meeting at which finances are discussed must have minutes. They must be maintained for 7 years and can be kept on a flash drive. They would then be placed in the archives.

Old Business:

Partnership for Health Care Awareness - Kay Bishop and Lula Allen: A presentation was made on the materials to be used in the program. A discussion was held on insurance, including the participating church's liability policy and AAUW's insurance. A motion was made to allot \$1090 for the project, pending resolution of the insurance issue, which would fund the program for 6 months. The motion was approved with one dissension.

Woman of the Year – Marge Barton: A request for a \$200 honorarium for our 2013 WOY was made, since we will not be giving her a membership or a silver platter. Money will come from AAUW funds (luncheon receipts if we have sufficient attendance) and would be considered part of the event expenses.

New Member Reception – Kay Saderholm: We have 53 new members. They will be invited to a special event at 6:00 prior to our November 14 general meeting. Money for catering will come from the Membership budget. Board members were requested to attend and bring a dessert to share. If the membership committee needs additional funds during the program year, that amount can be approved from the budget surplus.

Let's Do Math – Anthula Natsoulas: Two workshops will be held in the Fall 2014 for 5th and 6th grade teachers in partnership with Marist College. AAUW will cover the cost of the facilitator and materials for participants. A motion was made to approve \$1600 from the tea funds, part of which may be taken from any April 2014 tea funds. The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business :

Girl Scout project – Peggy Kelland: The Girl Scouts are sponsoring a series of workshops for girls in grades 6-12. Some of our members have already volunteered to take part and the programs are in accord with AAUW's mission. A motion was made to use AAUW's name as part of the publicity for the program. After it was declared that it would not be considered another AAUW initiative, the motion was approved unanimously.

Domestic Violence – Maria DeWald: The court watch program has been very successful and the participants have had positive feedback from the judges and seen courtroom changes. A motion was made to provide \$350 for the software to utilize the court watch data. The motion was approved unanimously.

Membership Assistant Treasurer – Jeanette Cantwell: We currently have 403 members including 53 new members and 46 who haven't renewed. Most who didn't rejoin stated that they hadn't participated in any of the interest groups or initiatives. In order to retain members, we need to (1) motivate interest group leaders to invite them to their groups, (2) wear nametags at general meetings and welcome new members, (3) request sponsoring members to follow up with new members and invite them to AAUW activities.

Open Forum:

Girls' Conference: Additional volunteers are needed for the day of the conference. A sign-up sheet was distributed.

Hospitality: It was announced that we need a second person for Hospitality. One suggestion for a co-chair was made.

Program – Susie Blecker: Help is needed for set up and clean up for the October – March meetings. A sign-up sheet was distributed, and an article will be submitted to The Branch asking for additional volunteers.

Announcements:

District IV Conference – Margaret Nijhuis: All members were encouraged to support this program. Registration is low at this time. Since the lunch speaker has cancelled, there will be additional time for networking.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Harrel
Secretary