

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

Members present: Susie Blecker, Mary Coiteux, Mary Lou Davis, Maria DeWald, Cecilia Dinio-Durkin, Jackie Goffe-McNish, Betty Harrel, Eileen Hayden, Cathy Kinn, Kay Saderholm, and Barbara VanItallie  
Present by invitation: Christie Van Horne

The meeting was called to order by Jackie Goffe-McNish, president, at 7:45 pm. It was held at the home of Jackie Goffe-McNish, who provided a delicious Jamaican dinner as a gift to the board.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 6 board meeting were presented and approved as emailed.

Chair's Remarks – Jackie Goffe-McNish: A request was made to move the January board meeting to January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm for a 50 minute meeting prior to the membership meeting. The motion was approved.

Barbara VanItallie led a discussion on the Health Care Initiative. She read a letter received from the pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal Church as well as an email from our insurance agent. It was decided that the Community Mothers' Group is a church activity which we are supporting as part of our Health Care Initiative.

Each board member, initiative director, and interest group chair will be asked to submit an interim report starting at the end of January. The report should include goals, achievements, and future plans.

Old Business:

International Relations – Cecilia Dinio-Durkin: Plans were discussed for a specific project which would educate us on the global community and help us to take practical action. A project in which bags made by women in Ghana would be sold and profits would go either toward our programming, to support the bus trip to the UN Women's Initiative, or to the small business which makes them. By purchasing the bags we are already supporting their business. Bags could be sold at the writers' tea but not at our membership meetings, since we have a no-sale clause in our contract. Cecilia will develop an implementation plan and timeline for the project.

Interest groups – Cathy Kinn: It was proposed that we host members from other branches and they would then join us in the bus trip to the UN Conference. Since that would be an individual choice, no board approval was needed.

Treasurer's Report – Barbara VanItallie: We currently have close to \$40,000 in our checking account. Some expenses for the Woman of the Year luncheon were paid in 2012-2013 so the revenue is not as high as listed. A number of tax forms are now required, and Barbara would like to find a consultant to either set guidelines or help in filing the forms. Names of several members, including Cindy Smith, Debbie Most, Roz Werner and Joan Eisenhut were proposed. A proposal will be brought to the next meeting. A motion was made to submit a \$2800 donation to the EOF, which will be added to the \$200 donated by individual branch members. The motion was approved. Barbara Hugo, along with a committee, will recommend named fellows.

Community Initiatives – Maria DeWald: The question was raised whether the Girls' Conference should be considered a Community Initiative. Since most members felt that it was already, the motion was made and approved to list the conference as one of our community initiatives.

Legal Advocacy Fund – postponed

New Business:

Branch Facebook page - Christie VanHorne: A Facebook page could be used for promoting events, highlighting our many activities, disseminating information from AAUW national, and recruiting new members. It would have to follow AAUW guidelines and may have a disclaimer. A motion was made and approved to develop a branch Facebook page. Christie is willing to serve as the administrator and will contact both the publicity chair and the technology committee to work along with them.

Membership – Kay Saderholm: A proposal was made to provide more permanent nametags for members, with color-coding for board members or interest groups. Funding for the nametags would come from the membership budget and someone would have to be found to print them. Kay will provide more specific information at a later meeting.

Open Forum:

Program – Mary Coiteux: The Festival of International Women will be held in February. The format has not yet been decided but it may feature whole group activities or small booths/projects. Members were asked to think about members with special skills to share, such as story tellers, poets, weavers, artists, etc.

Leading to Reading – Betty Harrel: The project just received a Community Response Grant from the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley for \$1500. It will run through 2014.

Girls' Conference – Cecilia Dinio-Durkin: There is still approximately \$1700 in the designated funds. The Poughkeepsie City School District requested a mini-conference in the spring. Cecilia was asked to bring a specific proposal to the board for the program. She was thanked for chairing the very successful event.

Program – Susie Blecker and Mary Coiteux: A request was made for all members to attend the general meeting. It will feature Skip DiGilio and should be an excellent presentation. A reminder was made that street parking is across the street from the fellowship.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Harrel  
Secretary