

AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 6, 2014

Members Present: Jackie Goffe-McNish, Barbara VanItallie, Mary Lou Davis, Jeanette Cantwell, Cecilia Durkin, Maria DeWald, Lula Allen, Kay Bishop, and Susie Blecker

The meeting was called to order by Jackie Goffe-McNish, president, at 7:15 pm. The meeting was held at her home.

Minutes: The minutes of February 6, 2014 were approved as amended.

Chair's Remarks: It was noted that no voting could take place at this board meeting because of a lack of a quorum.

A discussion took place regarding changes in our branch's bylaws. Some of the new bylaws were voted on at the executive board meeting in February. An article about the remaining bylaws and a May voting date will be published in the May newsletter. Barbara VanItallie will see that this information is relayed to Margaret Nijhuis for publication in *The Branch*. The bylaw changes for our branch must be sent to the national organization of AAUW by May 15th. After the vote is taken in May, the changed bylaws will be submitted to AAUW national. Typing them and sending them to nationalx will be the responsibility of the secretary.

Old Business

Treasurer's Report-Barbara VanItallie: Our bank balance is \$36,451.92. At this time of year, expenses are higher than income. This will be corrected tomorrow when money for the bus trip to the UN is deposited into our account. A draft was submitted of the budget for next year. Barbara reiterated that all initiatives planning to request money must do so by May 15 when next year's money allocations will be made.

Membership Retention-Several options were brought forth dealing with membership retention. These included creating a new board position dedicated to contacting and following up with new members to make sure they are being included in AAUW activities. Another suggestion was that we have membership vice chairs whose jobs were specific to keeping in touch with new members and retaining older AAUW members. Further discussion of this was tabled until the next board meeting.

It was suggested by Maria DeWald that a training session for interest group coordinators take place possibly at the proposed AAUW May retreat. Proposed talking points would be the role of interest group chairs in retaining new and old members and mentoring. Further discussion was tabled until the next board meeting.

Omega Institute Retreat-Our AAUW branch has received a grant from the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck NY to be part of a retreat at their facility this May. The grant includes six meals, overnight accommodations, a dedicated meeting room and discounts on the other services they offer to participants. The agenda for this retreat will be determined by the out-going and in-coming presidents. All board members will be encouraged to attend. If there is enough space available, we will open the retreat to the general membership.

New Business

Writers' Tea-Lula Allen reported that this will be the 5th Anniversary of the Writer's Tea. All board members are encouraged to attend. Contributions for the auction will continue to be accepted until the last weekend in March. Janna Whearty will be doing publicity for the tea.

Health Care Initiative-Kay Bishop gave an interim report. The Mother's Group is doing well. They are meeting two weekends a month at the Family Partnership Building in Poughkeepsie from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. At this time they have a small group but think that numbers will grow. Presently only the English curriculum has been used. To date, the Spanish curriculum has not been used. Kay discussed the presentations they have arranged for the General Membership meeting on the 13th where public health in Dutchess County will be discussed by Sabrina Jaar-Marzouka, Health Department Assistant Commissioner for Administration, and Christie VanHorn from the Institute for Family Health. All members were encouraged to attend. Looking ahead to next year, the health care initiative hopes to present a program to the AAUW general membership about the underserved healthcare needs of women in Poughkeepsie.

Court Watch – Since meetings will be held at the Galleria community room, an insurance certificate is needed. Barbara VanItallie said that can be provided under our current insurance.

Bylaws-Jeanette Cantwell presented proposed changes to the bylaws to be voted on in May. See the attached hand-out for details.

Open Forum

The bus is full for the UN trip on March 10th.

Saturday, March 9th is International Women's Day. Please meet at 9:00 am at the Walkway over the Hudson for the march. AAUW will have a banner.

Cecelia Durkin reported that the tote bags from Ghana will not be ready to sell at our April Writers' Tea. She will look for another Fair Trade supplier and will try to do the project next year.

Announcements

Mary Lou Davis reported that all the positions for appointed board members have been filled. Some of these positions do require a vote. Mary Lou also reported that Dr. Crenshaw had contacted her soliciting a 'memorandum of Agreement' supporting Rosie's Law. It was decided that rather than a legal memorandum we will supply Dr. Crenshaw with a letter stating AAUW's support for the new law.

Susie Blecker thanked the board on behalf of herself and Mary Coiteux for resolving the lack for a hospitality chair at our general membership meetings.

Barbara VanItallie announced that the incoming treasurer and secretary will attend our next board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Blecker
1st Vice President

Note: Proposed Bylaws changes, last month's amended minutes, and a list of the appointed board members are attached.