

Agenda
AAUW Board of Directors
June 5, 2014. 7:00 pm
Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
Wappinger Falls, New York

Members Present: Jeanette Cantwell, Mary Lou Davis, Maria DeWald, Pat DeLeo, Kathy Friedman, Jackie Goffe-McNish, Eileen Hayden, Marcine Humphrey, Diane Jablonski, Margaret Nijhuis, Kay Saderholm, and Barbara VanItallie. Guests: Lula Allen, Karen Gomba

The meeting was called to order by Jackie Goffe-McNish, president, at 7:00 p.m.. It was held at the Baptist Church in Wappingers Falls. The agenda accepted as printed.

President Jackie welcomed and introduces new Board members Kathy Friedman and Diane Jablonski and also introduces Historian Eileen Hayden.

The annual meeting minutes were approved as sent. The May 21 meeting minutes were approved as amended.

President's Remarks:

President Jackie congratulated incoming president Barbara Van Itallie and expressed full confidence in her ability to do a wonderful job.

End of Year Reports:

The following written reports were summarized by those present and are attached to these minutes:

Authors Tea: Lula Allen reported there were 110 attendees at this year's Tea. The net for the event was \$6986. The suggestion that the date should be moved to April 26th was approved at Omega. The Annual meeting will therefore be moved to June. A question was posed as to whether that might interfere with membership renewal but most thought this would not be a problem. A Tea survey was done with a 14% return rate. Most seemed to like the venue but not the food. The Committee is working with the manager on this. Attendees would also like a Q and A so they will try to have only two authors with a question and answer session after each. There were too many late auction items received, as well as too many overall. They will look to receive more service related items next year and recruit more volunteers for the Committee. They are thinking of sending out invitations also to try to improve attendance. This would be the 6th annual tea!

Membership: Kay Saderholm reported an increase in membership but would like to see more involved in activities. She recommended members invite family and friends to join. This year the new member reception was a light dinner held directly before the Open House which seemed successful.

Assistant Treasurer: Jeanette Cantwell summarized her activities involving the receiving and processing of dues and the many reports to National regarding these. The title of this position was changed to Membership Treasurer.

Assistant Secretary: Maria DeWald amended her Assistant Secretary report to read 27 notes sent and suggested we might like to formalize this process a little more. For example, should she also be sending notes to recipients of scholarships or is this always left up to the individual chair person?

Community Initiatives: Maria DeWald

There has been an effort to increase communication and assure the Initiatives which are the basis of our mission-based work, are a direct counterpart to the interest groups. The following Initiatives sent reports:

- Let's do Math and Leading to Reading were read into the minutes
- Karen Gomba reported on Court Watch as part of Stop Domestic Violence
- There will be no Professional Development group next year
- Jackie has taken over Diversity and reports a growing committee already
- International Relations: Christie Van Horne will be the new Chair with Cecilia Dinio-Durkin handling the bus trip. Neither was able to come.
- It is unclear if Careers, Compensation and You will continue

Legal Advocacy: Marcine Humprey wrote a brief paragraph and said it has been a learning year this year. She gets the quarterly reports from National. Rib Fest is the major fundraiser which is lots of fun and we should encourage friends to come. She would like to try a small book swap next year.

Newsletter and Website:

- Margaret Nijhuis thanked her partner ,Kathy Friedman, with whom she would not be able to do this work.
- Only thing that was not successful was getting more people involved. There is an online database with member's complete profiles to make finding volunteers easier. Mary Jo Cottrell can help with this and we need to use this more.
- She would like the board to send a list of all committee folks which Jo Ann Scolara helps with. Let them know if you have ideas for improving this site.
- She reminded all that the Facebook page can still be viewed even if you are not on Facebook.
- The LCD projector has been greatly used at every meeting and was an excellent purchase. **However, we need a screen.** Mary Ann Boylan has taken on the responsibility of getting it where needed. If she is away, Margaret will have it.
- Margaret apologizes for sometimes doing things by herself rather than bringing in more folks...just a time issue...will try to do better. Each chair should get their own person to do everything having to do with a particular program/ event. Also, the membership booklet, which is 5 years old, Margaret also does. She will be changing it and needs items as soon as possible. She could use help with this and actually feels it should come under Membership. Margaret also does the directory but she probably needs to do that since it involves the data base.
- **Partnership For Healthcare Awareness:** Kay Bishop, Lula Alen

The following written reports were read into the minutes as the chairs were not present or had previously presented and are attached to these minutes:

Nominating: Mary Lou was present but noted that the report was previously given at the annual meeting and was therefore read into the minutes at this time.

Programming: Mary Coiteux and Suzie Blecker

Publicity: Marguerite Cotter – there is a new person in this position

Public Policy: Many thanks were expressed to Doris Kelly for the wonderful work she has done.

Secretary/Bylaws: Betty Harrell

There was no written report received from the following:

Awards and Honors: There was no report. However, it was suggested we consider that this be an off board position next year for quorum purposes.

Extending Girls' Horizons: Peggy Kellend (this is a new Initiative however and Peggy has her program organized for next year.

Hospitality: This Committee has been vacant for several months but Barbara Lemberger will be reconvening it for 2014-15 since she now has a partner

Interest Areas: Cathy Kinn

Live Your Dream Girl's Conference: Cecilia Dinio Durkin

Stand Up To Domestic Violence: However, Karen Gomba did report on Court Watch.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics): Kris Puzza

Historian: Eileen Hayden

This report was handed in at the meeting as follows:

- There were no expenses incurred 2013-14
- Saved and stored issues of the Branch, program materials, invitations and a summary of the year's events (prepared by Margaret Nijhuis)
- Continued to sort materials from Irene Keyes and determine relevance. She is trying try to avoid duplication
- Assessed space at the Poughkeepsie Public Library at Adriance Memorial Library
- Consulted AAUW NYS Historian's website for guidelines

In addition, there was discussion about an AAUW quilt from the anniversary of Poughkeepsie and where it might be. Mary Lou Davis is following up on that.

Court Watch Presentation: Karen Gomba

At the end of last year a presentation was done for the judges on their findings but they haven't seen much change. They have developed a new form plus have had guest speakers. **They recommend that AAUW participate in and be one of the local community organizations in The Fund for Modern Courts, part of family court, which expands beyond domestic violence.** When they publish their reports they also do some things differently. To expand our capability, we would become a subset of this group from September through December in order to enhance our data collection and analysis, which they will do. We would learn from them for three months and then continue on as a local organization. Some actions taken as a result might be, e.g., to follow up on one of their recommendations. They will be looking for volunteers before September to take training. It was emphasized that these dates need to go into the Branch as soon as possible. This is actually not a change so no vote was needed but there was consensus to try this.

Treasurer's Report: Barbara Van Itallie

- Barbara reported on June 1 through June 5, the day of this meeting, with Part I of the report having been previously. That states that there is now \$60,000 in the account but we haven't paid state and national dues yet.
- Part 2 of the report will on expenses vs. budget will be sent shortly when the fiscal year ends on June 30. Please send all outstanding bills through the end of June as soon as possible.
- An end of the year report is forthcoming

Barbara has also been investigating possible meeting spaces for next year including:

- Unitarian Fellowship Church: @ \$25 per meeting or \$250 per year (poor lighting/parking)
- St John's on Wilbur Blvd @ \$35 per meeting. It was noted it is well lit and has a large parking lot.
- Guardian Storage on Route 9. They have wi fi but price and availability was still unknown.
- **Motion:** to spend up to \$350 for meeting facilities for 2014-15 (Jackie/ Kay). Passed unanimously

Allotments: A full report is attached to the minutes. A committee consisting of Barbara, Maria DeWald, Diane Jablonski and Linda Roberts met to discuss the requests for funding from the community initiatives for 2014-15. The money for these allotments comes from the funds raised by the Authors Tea (since \$50 more has been received). All chairs of Initiatives submitted requests or communicated that no funds were needed. Barbara reported on the sub-committee's work and the reasons for the allotments including that a small amount of money has been left for possibly needs during the remainder of the year. **The report was moved and accepted.**

Some other thoughts shared: Marcine can help gather art supplies for Healthcare Initiative needs; and, Jeanette mentioned that perhaps Women of the Year should be subsidized in the future to improve attendance. It was unanimously felt that this was not possible at this time but could be discussed in the future.

Managing the calendar:

There was a discussion on "overlapping" on the calendar. It was felt that not everyone goes to everything and sometimes things will overlap. This should be a discussion for next year. It was noted that someone has to intentionally manage the calendar. All chairs and interest group leaders should look on the calendar although it seems that this is mostly for interest groups as initiatives, in general, fill community rather than member needs. However, if initiatives have a regularly scheduled meeting they should put it on the calendar for information and if any one is planning a major event it is wise to also check the calendar.

Open Forum:

- Jeanette noted that anyone can access the National data base at AAUW.org which includes the entire National roster. You would set up a password and use your number from the directory.
- She also noted that there were a total of 415 paid members this year which will change now. Reminders have been sent with 115 non- renewals so lots of follow ups are now happening. Please help by reminding those you know. As of **June 30** they will lose their interest group privileges.
- The Nominating slate must be approved at the general membership meeting on Thursday, June 12.
- If there is a college level person on the Board we should be encouraging more collaboration. College membership pays for two National memberships.
- We had a student attend the June 5-7 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Maryland. At the forthcoming summer leadership conference in Cazenovia, there will be a meeting of some of these girls, a Student Advisory Board, from across NYS (their branches can choose to pay for some of them to come). **Motion: to approve \$100 to send to our student representative to the Cazenovia Leadership Conference (Jackie/Margaret).** Marcine will facilitate the invitation/application.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00. All thanked Jackie for her outstanding leadership!

Respectfully submitted by Maria DeWald for Betty Harrell