

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 2, 2014
St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie, NY

Members Present: Susie Blecker, Mary Coiteux, Mary Lou Davis, Pat DeLeo, Betty Harrel, Elaine Hofstetter, Eileen Hayden, Diane Jablonski, Cathy Kinn, Barbara Lemberger, Margaret Nijhuis, Kris Puzza, Kay Saderholm, Barbara Van Itallie (president). Guest: Pat Luczai

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Barbara Van Itallie. After introductions, the minutes of the September 4, 2014, board meeting were approved as distributed.

Reports:

President – Barbara Van Itallie: Barbara thanked Kay Saderholm for a very successful Open House, Cathy Kinn for her work with the interest groups, and Jeanette Cantwell for her role in the Open House and record-keeping. She announced that the new rack cards will be given out at community events and they were distributed for board member use. A report was given on the success of the Let's Do Math workshop, which was held this past weekend with 22 teachers and student teachers participating. It was announced that Pat DeLeo's public policy article was being used by other branches. Barbara has been calling each new member to welcome them personally to AAUW.

Treasurer – Diane Jablonski: We are currently well under budget. We have to be very careful using our tax exempt certificate and must have a separate receipt if we are buying any taxable items for personal use at the same time. When sending a receipt from Prime Printing, members were asked to sign the receipt and send it on to Diane. No additional paperwork is needed.

Membership VP – Kay Saderholm: The new member reception will be held at 6:00 pm on Thursday, October 9, just before the program meeting. Board members were asked to greet the new members and talk with them about joining our activities. There are currently 54 members who have not renewed. 32 said they were not renewing, 3 said they were sending checks, and 19 did not respond to the many contact attempts. We also have 15 new members.

Program VPs – Mary Coiteux and Susie Blecker: The October meeting will feature Mariel Fiori, managing editor of La Voz Magazine, and will focus on "Education is Power." November will feature the Rural and Migrant Ministry and will focus on education for youth. December will be an activities night for fun and friendship. At each meeting, there will be a brief time for announcements and a short presentation on a community initiative. At the October meeting, there will be a short business meeting to vote on the bylaws changes. They were printed in the September Branch.

STEM – Kris Puzza: A joint program was done in July with the Marist Literacy Partnership involving rising 9th graders at Poughkeepsie High School. The project was for 2 days and also involved mentoring by Marist students. Kris had hoped to have a program this fall and has also been working with Van Wyck Junior High School to implement a GEMS program sponsored by IBM. It was held two years ago and is done once/month during the school day. Several other suggestions were made, such as the STEP program at New Paltz or involving our members in established programs. She is also attending a STEM conference in New York City and hopes to return with more good implementation ideas.

Interest Groups – Cathy Kinn: She has asked each group to designate someone to give upcoming news about branch activities and events. The new Poetry and Playreading group will start in October and has 16 members.

Newsletter/website – Margaret Nijhuis: Members were asked to read The Branch each month, since it is filled with news and information. Website sections should be checked and updated regularly. Joanne Scolaro will send email blasts during October as needed. All events should be on the AAUW website calendar, so Kathy Friedman should be notified of upcoming events.

Old Business:

Annual meeting: Sheila Zweifler has researched several venues for the annual meeting. It was decided to hold it at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel.

Woman of the Year – Pat Luczai: It will be held at the Ship Lantern Inn and reservations are due on October 17. Only 15 are currently registered. Make A Difference Day is the same day, so many Habitat for Humanity members may not be able to attend. One more email reminder will be sent October 10th.

New Business:

Grace Smith House Proposal – Linda Beyer has asked to organize donations for the women at the House. Members would be asked to bring an unwrapped gift to the December meeting. Linda will be asked to put a wish list in The Branch, and making cards or putting together gift baskets could be some of the activities at the December meeting.

Adriance Memorial Library Program – Ellie Charwat has requested a joint meeting with AML featuring Remarkable Women in New York State History published by AAUW-NYS. It will be part of the Women's History Month celebration and is tentatively set for Wednesday, March 11. Barbara Van Itallie will contact the library to see if it can be moved to March 12. It will serve as our March program meeting.

Strategic Plan – Barbara Van Itallie: One of our goals was to increase attendance at monthly meetings. Possibilities are to have one afternoon meeting or a meeting at 4:30. In general, our meetings have been very well attended.

Human Rights Day – Mary Lou Davis: A UN Association is being formed in our area and they will be celebrating Human Rights Day on December 10. Mary Lou is involved in the planning.

Women's History Trail – Mary Lou Davis: There will be celebrations in 2017 and in 2020 to commemorate passage of the 19th amendment. Trails marking NYS women's history are being developed in varied areas such as Long Island, Manhattan, and upstate New York.

Sunshine fund: Cathy Kinn suggested that when a member moves away it is listed in The Branch, so others can thank them and say goodbye. Barbara Van Itallie will talk with Maria DeWald and also try to find an additional person for the Sunshine Fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Betty Harrel

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For Kathy Friedman, Secretary