

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2015
17 Croft Road, Poughkeepsie

Members Present: Christie VanHorne, Kris Puzza, Pat DeLeo, Jeanette Cantwell, Susie Blecker, Margaret Nijhuis, Eileen Hayden, Linda Roberts, Cathy Kinn, Betty Harrel, Mary Lou Davis, Kathy Friedman. Guest: Lula Allen

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Van Itallie. The November minutes were approved as submitted.

President – Barbara Van Itallie, after the welcome and introductions made the following announcements:

- Dr. Pamela Edington, the president of Dutchess Community College, will be our speaker for the Annual Meeting in June.
- Our February program has been changed. We will be co-sponsoring and attending the World Affairs Council meeting at Vassar College. Chris Eidel is representing us on the council and she will be bringing ideas for a program with them in the fall.
- Peggy Kelland responded to a condolence note written by Sue Doyle, assistant secretary. She very much appreciated the note and remembrance of her mother, and she expressed how important AAUW was in her mother's life.

Treasurer – Barbara Van Itallie presented the treasurer's report for Diane Jablonski, who could not attend. We have a total of \$38,693.43 at this time.

Membership Treasurer – Jeanette Cantwell reported that our official membership number this year is 381, down from 420 last year. That number may possibly come up with some late memberships, and two checks that are being held because they were for an incorrect amount.

Programs – Susie Blecker reported on these upcoming programs:

- January 8 at the Unitarian Church, Vassar student volunteers will give a presentation about the Vassar Haiti project.
- In March, at the Unitarian Church, Adriance Library staff will present a program about Outstanding Women in the Hudson Valley.
- In May, Ann Hedgepath, from National, will speak on the subject of sexual abuse on campus. The local college representatives have chosen not to attend the event. The Presbyterian Church in Freedom Plains is co-sponsoring and will be the venue.
- Our February 12 program on the Common Core has been cancelled because presenters from the school districts have backed out. Instead, we will co-sponsor a program about Women in ISIS with the World Affairs Council on February 4 at Rockefeller Hall, Vassar College. We will not have to pay the \$600 honorarium but will pay for the speaker's dinner. *Margaret Nijhuis moved that we offer to pay \$100 toward the honorarium. The motion passed.*

Community Initiatives – Betty Harrel reported on the *Leading to Reading* initiative's new program "Books for Babies" is starting this month. The goal is to give every child born at Vassar Hospital a book.

We have received a McCann Foundation grant, and Macy's and RIF have donated 178 books. There will be a photo op at Vassar hospital next week which we hope will be published in the Newspaper. Linda Roy, Shirley Granda, and Janna Whearty have been working on this.

Newsletter/Website

Margaret Nijhuis has updated the website and asked the Community groups to contact her if they want any changes or updates to their information. She also suggested that the interest groups may want to include more information or pictures about their activities.

Special Committees

Nominating Committee – *Mary Lou Davis moved that the board approve that Linda Roberts be asked to stay on as Education Opportunity Fund VP for another two years, exceeding the four year limit on term extensions by one year. The motion passed.*

Mary Lou Davis submitted the following slate of officers for 2015-2017 for board approval:

Program Co-VP's	Sandy Goldberg, Betsy Kopstein-Stuts
Membership VP	Susie Blecker
Educational Opportunity Fund VP	Linda Roberts

And the following nomination for 2015-2016

Membership Treasurer	Jeanette Cantwell
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The nominations were approved as written.

Old Business

Writers Tea – Lula Allen reported that the Tea will be held at the Links on April 26. We will have two local authors: Quincy T Mills and Patricia Beard. Linda Roberts asked that we all read the article in the Newsletter about the silent auction to learn what we can do to help or donate. There will be a raffle basket themed as "International Indulgences," including items from around the world. If our many world travelers have small items from their trips, those donations would be appreciated. In late February Margaret will send out postcards with information about the Tea and they also will be available at the February meeting. Christie will put the information on Facebook.

GEMS (Girls for Emerging Math and Science) – Kris Puzzo reported that there will be no GEMS program at Van Wyke Jr. High this spring. There is a possibility of a mini program or a program in the fall.

Update to discussions at last board meeting – In November we conducted group discussions about how our branch can better reach out to the colleges and to the community. Barbara Van Itallie pointed out the ways we are making progress in those areas now. We have worked with Colleges in the following ways: The math program at Marist, the girls' conference, science fair, and Scholarship at Dutchess Community College, cosponsoring the February program with Vassar College, and the Irene Keys Memorial Scholarship. However, we have not had student involvement in our meetings. It was suggested that a program for the general meeting next year could involve joint discussions with college students. We have also made some progress in working with community organizations, co-sponsoring programs with religious organizations and the World Affairs Council, and Leading to Reading has representatives on the Astor Council. It has been difficult to get publicity for our activities in local media. Margaret suggested we document the community activities of our members in *The Branch*.

New Business

Daytime meetings – Barbara brought up the fact that many of our older members do not want to go out in the evening and that we should explore the possibility of having some daytime general meetings. Margaret suggested that 4:30-6:30 would be a good time to schedule a meeting that more members could attend. We may try one early meeting in the fall, while the days are still long - perhaps “The Big Read” in October.

Dues Collection – Barbara pointed out that fewer people are using checks to pay bills. We should explore having the option to pay dues in other ways: Credit card, pay pal, or direct transfer. We should form a committee to look into the costs and practicality of allowing other forms of payments.

Adding donations to dues collection – We could have a donation to LAF to check off on the membership enrollment form. Some branches do this, but it makes dues collection more complex. We need a committee to look into this also.

Emerging Leader – Mary Lou Davis reported that the submission for the Emerging Leader Award is due February 16. Barbara Hugo is working on this.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Friedman