

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 7, 2015
St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie, NY

Members Present: Kathy Friedman, Christie Van Horne, Mary Coiteux, Cathy Kinn, Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, Eileen Hayden, Mary Anne Hogarty, Mary Lou Davis, Linda Roberts, Kay Saderholm, Barbara Van Itallie, Diane Jablonski, Kris Puzzo. Guests: Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, Lula Allen, Sandy Goldberg.

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Van Itallie at 7:02 PM. The April minutes were accepted as written.

President's Report

Barbara Van Itallie reported that we had two very successful events in April. Thank you to Lula Allen and Linda Roberts for organizing the Writer's Tea, and to Mary Coiteux and Susie Blecker for the program with speaker Ann Hedgepeth.

Barbara is asking the board officers for their annual reports to be sent to her by June 1. She also recommended that we all have some of the "rack cards" on hand, to show to people who ask for information on our organization.

Treasurer

Diane Jablonski thanked Linda Roberts for quickly turning over proceeds from the Writer's Tea. There are still a few outstanding bills but it was a big financial success. She urged members to get their reimbursement forms into her by the end of the fiscal year.

Membership

Kay Saderholm mentioned that one person attending the tea asked for information about our organization and subsequently joined. Lula said that Patricia Beard was also interested. Diane commented that there is no link for contact information on our website. Although Board members' phone numbers are listed, the information is not on the home page. This is something we should address.

Membership Treasurer

Mary Anne Hogarty reported that membership renewals are coming in quickly, with 93 renewals as of yesterday and 32 going in tomorrow. Mary Anne commented that the deadline for renewals should be before June 30th since she is supposed to have them in by that date. Barbara commented that we should give a list of the non-renewals to the interest group leaders in the fall, so that they can remind their members.

Programs

Mary Coiteux reported that our program for May 14 will be about Partnership for Healthcare Awareness, an AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch initiative. We will learn about the AAUW Mother's group and about trends in maternal and reproductive health. Blue Carreker, from Citizen Action of New York, will speak about paid family leave and The Family Act.

Educational Funds

Linda Roberts reported that every year we give two \$600 scholarships to Dutchess Community College students who are continuing on for a four year degree. This year, Briana Boomer and Hyesoo Choi will be presented with the scholarships at the convocation. One scholarship is paid from our endowment fund and the other comes from donations. We have \$12,000 in our endowment account, \$3362.20 in the spendable account, and \$348.66 in the restricted account. It has been suggested that we can move some or all of the spendable account into our endowment account. The board did not make a decision on that, but asked for clarification on what the restricted account is for.

Special Committees

The Irene Keys Memorial Fund has \$2000 in it. There were no applicants for the scholarship to attend NCCWSL this year, and it is too late to donate money to the AAUW national scholarship fund.

Diane Jablonski moved that we use money from the Irene Keyes Memorial Fund for a 2015 scholarship for a Dutchess County student to attend the Girls Leadership Worldwide Program at the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, not to exceed \$500. The motion passed.

Old Business

Writers' Tea

Lula Allen and Linda Roberts reported that the Writer's Tea was a great success and thanked everyone for being part of it. The Tea raised \$8600.13, the most ever raised. Having more people involved in organizing the event, and having monthly reminders in the Newsletter helped to make the day more successful. The items that were donated for the auction were very high quality and monetary donations of \$700 were given before event was held.

Linda reported that the Writers committee chair is moving away, and we need a new chair. Mary Lou Davis volunteered to chair the committee next year. Linda asked that anyone who is interested in being on the committee to let her know soon, because that work will start early.

New Business

Social Media Policies

Christie VanHorne reported that Mary Coiteux is going to help Christie reorganize our Facebook page. We have too many Facebook pages because, in addition to the general branch page that Christie oversees, there are several separate pages for specific Branch events and initiatives. We need to combine these pages into one Branch page which can include all the various events.

Christie moved that, as we evolve as a Branch, we have only one Facebook page that represents all of our activities, interests, and events. The motion passed.

Christie also commented that we are not utilizing Facebook and social media as well as we could. It was suggested that Christie's "Social media 101," would be a good general meeting program for next year, where Christie would educate members about various social media, primarily Facebook.

Diversity Initiative Trips

Jackie Goffe-McNish informed us of the overnight trip to Seneca Falls planned by the Diversity Initiative for June 5-6. She is also working on a 5 day trip to Jamaica for the second week in July.

Annual Meeting

Barbara Van Itallie reported that the Annual Dinner Meeting for the election and installation of officers will be held at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel at 6:00 PM on June 11. Dr. Pamela Edington, president of Dutchess Community College will be the speaker. We will also be celebrating our 90th anniversary. Sheila Zweifler is organizing the event.

International Day of the Girl

Barbara received an email from Joan Monk informing us that the International Day of the Girl is October 11, 2015.

Working Rules

Our working rules need to be updated this year. A link to the document is on our website.

New off-board position

Bonnie Auchincloss has been appointed to the position of Photo Coordinator. She will make sure that someone takes pictures at our events and will coordinate how pictures are formatted and presented.

DC Legislature Proclamation

Dutchess County legislator Alison McAvery is giving us a proclamation in honor of our 90th anniversary on Monday, May 11.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Friedman
Secretary