

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 3, 2015  
St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie, NY

Members Present: Barbara Van Itallie, President; Kathy Friedman (remotely), Sandy Goldberg, Betty Harrel, Eileen Hayden, Barbara Hugo, Diane Jablonski, Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, Margaret Nijhuis, Linda Roberts, Janna Whearty. Guests Present: Lula Allen, Mary Lou Davis, Sabashnee Govender.

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Van Itallie at 7:05 pm. The minutes from the September 3, 2015 and November 5, 2015 meetings were accepted as presented. The order of business was changed so that all voting items would be consecutive.

#### **Treasurer**

Diane Jablonski reported that the LAF funds account has \$621, which includes money from the Ribfest and \$154 transferred into the account. A motion was made and approved to donate \$620 to LAF. The EOF account has \$3079 in the account and \$170 was contributed directly to EOF by members. A motion was made and approved to take \$2830 from the account to provide a total \$3000 donation from our branch.

#### **Bylaws**

Betty Harrel reported that the following wording is recommended for Article VI Section 1c (formerly Article VII, Section 3): The appointed directors shall be appointed by the president and the board as needed to fulfill the functions of the Organization. This eliminates a specific list of appointed positions and provides more flexibility. The motion was approved and the changes will appear in the January Branch and will be voted on at the January meeting. Other wording changes are part of the national mandated changes and do not require a membership vote.

#### **Program**

Betsy Kopstein-Stuts and Sandy Goldberg have received excellent feedback from the previous meetings. The December program will consist of 8 hands-on stations, including arts, math and word games, cuisine, books, and play reading. A representative from Grace Smith House will talk briefly about their program and new, unwrapped gifts will be accepted for the residents. The January meeting will focus on the myths and realities of the Common Core and will be a panel with 3 varying perspectives. Programs for the remainder of the year, as well as next October, are being planned.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Diane Jablonski reported that we have approximately \$42,000 in our accounts. The directory was completed and costs were under budget. A new committee is looking at alternatives for payment. They will be meeting on December 8 and will begin researching possibilities.

#### **Membership**

The only report was that the membership directory was distributed. There are currently 368 members

#### **STEM Initiative**

Barbara reported that Kris Puzza is reaching out to Marist College. Another possibility is a STEM-related tutoring program.

### **Health Care Initiative**

Lula Allen said that the mothers' sessions are going well and cover topics on parenting and self-esteem. Next summer they hope to coordinate with Cecilia Dinio-Durkin on job training.

### **International Relations Initiative**

Sabashnee Govender discussed the UN session sponsored by the Commission on the Status of Women to be held on March 14-24. She would like to coordinate a trip to the program with the AAUW Day held during the conference. Since a reservation for a bus can be cancelled 2 weeks prior to the event, there was consensus that she should plan a bus trip for one day.

### **Interest Groups**

The only announcement was that Tori Smith has volunteered to coordinate the Trekkers group.

### **Newsletter**

Margaret Nijhuis asked that each leader with information on the website update it if needed. The deadline for the February Branch will be December 20. Joanne Scolaro will make late changes but the bulk of the newsletter must be completed in December. Dave King, under the direction of Mary Jo Cottrell, completed a major overhaul of the database. Mary Jo will be leaving her position as database coordinator at the end of June.

### **Writers' Tea**

The tea will be held at the Links on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Lula Allen reported that two authors, Lucinda Franks and Jeffrey Sammons, have been selected and should provide a fascinating program. Linda Roberts said that the key to a successful auction is member involvement, and she is already being contacted about items for the auction.

### **Other Business:**

Barbara Hugo talked about nominations for the emerging leader, who will be honored at both the branch and state level. She has to submit the name by February 15 and asked that suggestions be sent to her. In February, we also have to select those being honored with named fellowships.

Barbara Van Itallie asked who is planning to attend the state convention. It was suggested that it be proposed as the Soleil trip for April.

The board meeting in January will be held on Saturday, January 9 at Barbara Van Itallie's house. It will be a brunch, and members can contact Barbara if they'd like to bring something.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Betty Harrel*

Betty Harrel  
For Kathy Friedman, Secretary