

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 4, 2016
St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie, NY

Members Present: Kathy Friedman, Marcine Humphrey, Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, Betty Harrel, Eileen Hayden, Cathy Kinn, Mary Ann Hogarty, Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, Bonnie Auchincloss, Susie Blecker, Barbara Van Itallie, Maria DeWald, Barbara Hugo.
Guests: Mary Lou Davis, Sabashnee Govender.

Barbara Van Itallie called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The minutes from the January 9 board meeting and the January 14 meeting were accepted as corrected.

President's Report

Barbara announced that Mary-Jo Cottrell, our database manager, will not continue in her position as of June. Please contact Barbara if you have any suggestions for the replacement.

Sheila Zweifler has been appointed to the new off-board position of Assistant Membership Vice President.

Lisa Ghartey, of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, will be the speaker at our annual meeting.

The nominating committee has identified Bonnie Auchincloss as the nominee for the Communications Vice President for the term starting in July. She will be the link between the many people who work on communications for our organization. Barbara asked the board to appoint Bonnie for the rest of the current term until she can be elected in June. **Betsy Kopstein-Stuts moved that we appoint Bonnie Auchincloss to the position of Communications Vice President starting from now until June 30. The motion passed.**

International Women's Day

Sabashnee Govender reported that the salute to International Women's day will be Saturday, March 5 at the Walkway over the Hudson, 8:30-11:00 AM. She asked if anyone had posters or banners that we have used in previous celebrations. Mary Lou Davis offered one. Betty Harrel has joined the Women's Leadership Alliance, who are setting up tables at the event, and Betty will be setting one up for us.

UN Bus Trip

18 members, and possibly two more, have signed up for the UN trip for the Commission on the Status of Women events. The deadline to sign up for the trip is February 10. After that she will invite members of other organizations to join us. She is looking for a venue for a follow up meeting after the trip. The Boardman Road Library was suggested. Geeta Desai is giving a presentation to the Commission on March 21, and has volunteered to give a presentation at our program meeting in the fall.

NCCWSL

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Marcine Humphrey is looking for applicants for the NCCWSL scholarship (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders). Marcine has tweaked the application this year to make it easier. If anyone knows of a student who might be interested, please give her name to Marcine. The deadline is March 28. Marcine asked the board if the scholarship can be given to someone who is not a citizen. The consensus was that she does not need to be a citizen, but should have a green card or a student visa. Since the conference is in Washington, DC, Marcine asked that we provide a stipend for transportation, if needed. Margaret Nijhuis moved that we include a travel stipend to the scholarship, if needed, not to exceed \$100.

Membership

Susie Blecker reported that she and assistant Sheila Zweifler will be calling all the new members before renewal time, to see if there are any problems, answer any questions and hopefully encourage them to renew their memberships.

Program

Betsy Kopstein-Stuts reported that the program on Common Core was excellent, well attended and well received. The upcoming programs will be on human trafficking and women of Iran in photos. Barbara Van Itallie mentioned that the World Affairs Council has shown interest in these two programs.

Community Liaison

Maria DeWald reported that the initiatives are undergoing some reorganization. Diana Babbington and Lorie Scalaro from DCC are working together to reinstitute the Girls' Conference. They are focusing on recruitment of 6th and 7th grade girls with a goal to get 100 participants. Diversity had to cancel its January program, but still has the yearly program on the agenda. Kriss Puzza is the local STEM chair and will oversee the various STEM initiatives.

Interest Groups

Cathy Kinn reported that the interest groups are enthusiastically participating in donations for the auction. Soleil is donating the expenses and train ticket to one Soleil trip, and Ediss is donating a membership to audible.com.

Old Business

The New York State AAUW convention is April 15-17 in Saratoga Springs. Soleil is offering it as their April trip. Anyone who is interested in going to the convention, please let Barbara know.

New Business

Awards

Barbara Hugo moved that the Poughkeepsie Branch establish a new award, tentatively called "The Unsung Hero Award." The motion passed. Barbara will ask board members for suggested recipients, who have done much for the branch with little recognition.

Barbara Hugo made a motion that listed the six members who will be named gift honorees at the NYS convention. The motion passed.

Ribfest

Barbara Van Itallie reported that she received an email from Sharon Clarke about the Ribfest in August. She will be coordinating volunteers to work at the Ribfest.

Cloud Account

Bonnie Auchincloss is the chair of the photography committee. She has research various cloud accounts and Amazon has the one that best meets our needs, allowing us to archive all our photos and documents. **Bonnie Auchincloss moved that we open an Amazon Cloud Account with “unlimited everything” for \$60 a year.** Bonnie will need to set up folders and work out a procedure for uploading items. **The motion passed.**

Newsletter

Margaret Nijhuis reminded everyone that the 10th of the month is the deadline for articles and she asks all members to update her on their activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Friedman
Secretary