

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 7, 2016
St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie, NY

Members Present: Kathy Friedman, Betty Harrel, Diane Jablonski, Linda Roberts, Pat DeLeo, Susie Blecker, Eileen Hayden, Janna Whearty, Bonnie Auchincloss, Barbara Lemberger, Sandy Goldberg, Barbara Hugo, Barbara Van Itallie, Mary Ann Hogarty.

Guests: Carol Barmann, Joanne Long, Sheila Zweifler, Mary Lou Davis.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. The February minutes were approved as written.

President

Barbara Van Itallie shared the many thank you notes we got from the women of Grace Smith House for the gifts we donated in December.

Barbara announced that our new Database Administrator will be Claudette Hennessy. She will replace Mary Jo Cottrell who is stepping down.

Treasurer

Diane Jablonski reported that our finances are still in good shape. Diane needs input for the budget. Our membership income has to be estimated. She is thinking about redoing the budget categories and eliminating the lines that we never use. All members should let Diane know about their budget needs by April 20th.

Woman of the Year Committee

Carol Barmann and Joanne Long announced that the committee's unanimous choice for Woman of the Year is Krista Jones. Krista is the founder and executive director of *Sparrow's Nest*, a charitable organization which provides meals for the families of caregivers who are being treated for cancer. Carol and Joanne are looking at venues for the luncheon in October and, because many places are booked already, they are considering a Sunday instead of the usual Saturday luncheon. Possible dates are October 23 or October 16. Date, time and place will be confirmed by May 10, in time for inclusion in the June Newsletter.

Membership

Susie Blecker introduced the new membership assistant, Sheila Zweifler. Sheila has phoned all 39 of this year's new members, and the members were pleased at the outreach. Only one was conflicted about renewing her membership. The others were enthusiastic about becoming active in the organization. Susie believes that this personal touch is very helpful in getting new members involved. Renewals will go out May 1. There will be an envelope stuffing party at Margaret's house on Friday, April 29 for any members who can take the time to help.

Susie is planning to use the Hellenic Center again for the Open House in September and will enlist the help of Anthula Natsoulas to deal with the manager.

Membership Treasurer

Mary Ann Hogarty reported that National is calling lapsed AAUW members to encourage them to rejoin the organization. This has caused some confusion because these members often do not realize that they have joined only the National organization, not the local branch and our branch is not informed about who has joined the national organization. Barbara Van Itallie will reach out to National and ask them to let us know what they are doing.

Programs

Sandy Goldberg announce that the upcoming April 14 membership meeting will feature Maria Idoni speaking on suicide prevention, what to look for and how to respond. Our May meeting will be the Writers' Tea and the June meeting is our Annual Dinner. Our October 13 meeting is scheduled already. Sue McClane will present a program on Utopia.

Sandy reported that there is a problem with scheduling the Boardman Road Library for our programs next year. We can only book the room three months in advance, with no guarantee that the room will be available for every second Thursday next year, since a library program would take precedence over our program. Changing our meeting venue for certain meetings may cause confusion for our members. *Betty Harrell moved that we continue using the Unitarian Fellowship for our membership meetings next year. The motion passed.*

Newsletter/Website

Barbara reported for Margaret Nijhuis, who asked that anyone who has information on the website, please check the pages and let her know if there are any problems. There have been some technical issues recently. Also Margaret reminded us of the May 10 deadline for items for the June newsletter, including any summer activities.

Interest Groups

Barbara reported for Cathy Kinn who asked members to make sure that information about the Branch's activities is announced at every interest group meeting.

Special Committees

Scholarship Fund

Linda Roberts reported that we award two \$600 Scholarships to Dutchess Community College students. One comes out of our Scholarship fund and the other comes out of our budget. Linda is concerned that we have received no paperwork for the fund that Dutchess holds. She is asking DCC for a copy of the fund agreement and yearly statement.

Equal Pay Day

Pat DeLeo announced that we will celebrate Equal Pay Day at the Piano Piano Wine Bar in Fishkill. There will be appetizers and the owner will donate 22 cents for every drink sold to the Fishkill Women's Shelter.

Writers' Tea

Linda Roberts reported that the new Chef at The Links at Union Vale is very enthusiastic about the Tea and is making some special treats for us. We will be raffling off a large basket of local items, "Dutchess County Bounty." There are 32 registrations at this time. April 29 is the deadline for letting Linda know about donated items, so the program can be printed.

Nominating Committee

Eileen Hayden presented the slate of nominees for the 2016-18 term:

President – Maria DeWald
Communications Vice President – Bonnie Auchincloss
Secretary – Kathy Friedman
Treasurer – Diane Jablonski
Membership Treasurer – Mary Ann Hogarty
Off-board positions:

Assistant membership VP – Sheila Zweifler
Database Manager – Claudette Hennessy

Eileen moved that we approve the slate. The motion passed.

Barbara read a letter from Maria Dewald, who could not be present. She asked that the board meetings be held on the first Wednesday of the month instead of Thursday next year. We hope to continue meeting at the Lutheran Church.

LAF Basket

Janna Whearty asked that any donations for the basket be given to her by Sunday, April 10.

NCCWSL scholarship

Mary Lou Davis reported that we received ten applications for the scholarship this year, many more than usual. She and Betty Harrel are requesting that we award two scholarships this year since there were so many fine applicants. *Susie Blecker moved that we fund a second scholarship this year. The motion passed.*

New Business

Women's Leadership Alliance

Betty Harrel has become a member of the Women's Leadership Alliance, which is a networking organization for women. Individuals and Women's organizations can become members. Betty will sign us up as a member organization.

Gift to Dave King

Barbara reported that Dave King, Mary King's husband, has been very helpful to us and housed our Website on their server. Barbara suggested we give them a gift. The board decided on a gift VISA of \$100. This would include a \$4 fee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48.