

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 1, 2016
St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie, NY

Members Present: Kathy Friedman, Barbara Van Itallie, Diane Jablonski, Linda Roberts, Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, Sabashnee Govender, Betty Harrel, Eileen Hayden, Susie Blecker, Cathy Kinn, Mary Ann Hogarty, Bonnie Auchincloss, Barbara Hugo, Maria DeWald. Guests: Mary Lou Davis. Patricia Luczai

The meeting was called to order at 7:05. The minutes from the board meeting of June 2, 2016, and the general membership meeting of June 9, 2016 were approved as corrected.

The Conflict of Interest Policy was discussed and the disclosure forms signed and collected by the secretary.

President's Report

President Maria DeWald welcomed the board members and announced the formation of the new board position of Past President (Barbara Van Itallie) and the off-board positions of Assistant Historian (Barbara Hespeneide) and State and National Liaison (Mary Lou Davis).

Working Rules

Maria, Barbara Van Itallie, Betty Harrel, and Margaret Nijhuis have met to discuss revisions in the Working Rules. Many job descriptions need editing, and some terminology will be changed. Members are asked to look at their Job descriptions in the Working Rules and contact Maria with any suggested changes.

Hospitality

Our Hospitality Chair has resigned. Assistant Hospitality Chair, Bev Nathan, with help from Joann Clark, will be able to handle our busiest events in the fall, but they are not available for the whole year. It was suggested that, at membership meetings, we ask for volunteers to sign up to coordinate hospitality for a specific monthly meeting during the year. The membership VP's can organize this if there are no volunteers for a meeting. The items that the hospitality chair has had to store will be weeded, getting rid of unused tablecloths, etc., so that there are fewer boxes to deal with.

Assistant Membership Appointment

Susie Blecker reported that she and Sheila Zweifler, the Assistant to Membership are working closely together, and with the large membership and increased duties, the position should be a co-chair position. The board agreed to inform the nominating committee that two membership vice-presidents should be nominated for the election in June. Since the membership co-chair cannot be elected until the general membership business meeting, we would like the assistant to be a member of the board now.

Susie Blecker moved that the Assistant to Membership be changed to an appointed board position for now, until it becomes an elected position at the general membership meeting. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Donations

Diane Jablonski reported that we have had a lot of donations this year, especially for the Girls Conference. We now have \$1707.69 in donations yet to be allocated.

Diane reported that Laurie Scolari asked for and was given \$100 for arts and crafts for the "Bridge to College" program at DCC. There was some discussion about the issue of giving money to outside organizations, and it was decided that there should be a process for this added to the Working Rules.

Work Group for PayPal Discussion

Diane reported that the use of PayPal worked well for the Writers' Tea registrations, and we plan to use it again as an option for members to register for the Woman of the Year Luncheon through our website. However, if we want to use it more extensively, Diane feels that we need to look at it more carefully. The work group will reconvene to explore the issue.

Membership Vice President

Open House

Susie Blecker reported that she has sent out 70 invitations to the Open House to prospective members. She has met with Sheila Zweifler and the committee, and they have set up some new procedures. Interest group coordinators will be getting their lists in a timely manner. Twenty people have volunteered to help show prospective members around.

New Member Reception

The new member reception will be at the Boardman Road Library at 6:00 PM. New members and board members will be invited and are asked to RSVP to Sheila. Board members will provide desserts. Susie mentioned that last year many board members did not RSVP, and asked that we please remember to do it as soon as we get the invitation.

Membership Treasurer

Mary Ann Hogarty reported that we have 300 paid members at this time. There are eight members, including three new members, who have informed us that they will not renew. However we still have not heard from 49 members, including 10 new members. Phone calls will be made to those members, and board members are asked to speak to those on the list that they know. Interest group coordinators will be given a list of non-renewals who should be dropped from the group.

Educational Fund

Linda Roberts reported that she met with Diana Pollard, Director of the DCC Foundation, and was able to get questions answered about our scholarships. We give out two \$600 scholarships annually to DCC students. One is funded by a \$12,000 endowment and the other is donated from our funds each year. We can amend the criteria for the scholarship as we choose. We award the scholarships at the May convocation at DCC.

We now have a new scholarship. Linda Beyer has donated a named scholarship in honor of her mother.

Communications

Bonnie Auchincloss reported that Adriance Library is holding a discussion series about women's suffrage. Dr. Sandra Opdyke will be the facilitator for the series, *Votes for Women*. Bonnie suggested that Dr. Opdyke might be recruited as a speaker for one of our programs in 2017.

Community Liaison

Barbara Hugo reported that the initiatives are in good shape, although STEM has not been active. There is a STEM workshop planned for the Girls' Conference.

Barbara Van Itallie has gathered a group of six volunteers to work with kids in the *Math Buddies* program, which is expanding under *Literacy Volunteers*.

Interest Groups

Maria read a letter from Blanche Bergman, proposing the inclusion of Canasta in the Mah Jongg group, provided that enough experienced canasta players are interested.

Special Committees

Suffrage Celebration

Maria displayed the limited edition replica of Susan B. Anthony's purse. We will be selling raffle tickets for the purse at our monthly meetings.

Our May 11, 2017 monthly program will be "Lucy Stone, Women's Suffrage."

Interest groups have been asked to plan to use the theme of women's suffrage for some of their activities.

New Business

The nominating committee will include Betsy Kopstein-Stutts, Barbara Van Itallie, Judy Linville, Mary Coiteux.

The conference call number for some future meetings is:
1-615-715-0700/Access Code 840605

Announcements

The District IV Conference will be on October 15 in Schenectady.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Friedman
Secretary