

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

Members present: Maria DeWald, Kathy Friedman, Barbara Van Itallie, Barbara Lemberger, Sandy Goldberg, Mary Anne Hogarty, Diane Jablonski, Betty Harrel, Margaret Nijhuis, Barbara Hugo, Cathy Kinn. Guest: Mary Lou Davis.

The meeting was called to order by President Maria DeWald at 7:05 pm. The November minutes were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

### **President's Report**

#### *Woman of the Year chairs*

Gail Sisti will be a co-chair for the Women of the Year Committee. Mary Lou Davis will be a member of the committee and we are looking for someone to be the other co-chair.

#### *AAUW-NYS grant*

Betty Harrel has received a \$500 grant for Leading to Reading.

#### *Hospitality Status*

Maria reported that we are still looking for someone to be Hospitality Chair. The fellowship is giving us the use of a cabinet to store our hospitality items. Coffee-to-go can be bought at Dunkin' Donuts or Stewart's. These things will make the job of Hospitality chair easier. For next week's meeting, Maria will bring the coffee and arrange for someone to call for snacks. Barbara Lemberger suggested that a sign-up sheet be passed around at the meeting for volunteers to bring refreshments for the next meeting.

#### *Rack Cards*

Maria asked that all program meetings have rack cards and member information available.

#### *Suffrage*

Maria reported that Paul Sparrow, FDR Library Director, is interested in partnering with us for a suffrage program. Maria is meeting with him on December 15.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Diane Jablonski reported that she will be away for the month of February, and so if any checks are going to be needed for that time, please contact Diane before she leaves.

We have \$2100 left from the Girls' Conference this year. That money can go toward next year's conference.

## **Programs**

### *Defensive Driving*

Sandy Goldberg reported that she is ready to set a date for the Defensive Driving Course. Maria will check the calendar and give Sandy some dates in the spring. The course will be open to family, friends, and the general public.

### *Recycling*

Barbara Van Itallie has researched and drawn up an extensive list of places that will take different items for recycling. This list will be put on our website. As it will be a good marketing tool for us and a service to the community, we will ask Vassar if they will print it for our February program on recycling.

## **Membership**

Maria thanked the membership chairs for taking over the job of putting the directory together.

There are still four members who say they are going to renew, but have not done it yet. The consensus was that they should be taken off the email list and lose their interest group memberships now. Next year we should be strict about taking membership privileges away from members who do not renew by October 15.

### **Membership Treasurer**

Mary Anne Hogarty reported that we now have 350 members.

## **Community Liaison**

### *Court Watch*

Barbara Hugo reported that there is an article in the Poughkeepsie Journal about the Court Watch program, mentioning AAUW. Our branch is being recognized by Modern Courts, and four members will be attending the Samuel J. Duboff Memorial Award ceremony in New York City.

### *Girls Conference*

The November 5 Girls Conference was a huge success. 106 girls attended, enjoying 10 workshops and 5 activity tables. Diana Babington and Lori Scolaro did a wonderful job organizing the conference and recruiting the girls. They will co-chair the event again next year on November 4.

## **Honors and Awards**

Betty Harrel reported that she is working on the named gifts now and they should be announced in February. Anyone interested in working on the committee should contact her. We have made \$140 from The Susan B. Anthony bag raffle so far.

## **Special Committees**

### *Suffrage Centennial*

Maria reported that a trip to Seneca Falls has been planned by both Diversity and Soleil. It was decided that Diversity will be in charge of the trip, and that it will be open to everyone.

### *Mid-Hudson Refugee Alliance*

Martin Medori has an idea for a program pertaining to a book about the Muslim refugee experience in this country.

## **New Business**

### *Discussion on Guidelines*

The printout, "Draft Guidelines" was discussed, detailing guidelines for the branch concerning Thank You note responsibilities, Collaborations with other organizations, and fundraising for other organizations.

### *Meetings*

Maria DeWald proposed that our January meeting either be cancelled or be a conference call.

Our second General Membership Business Meeting will be in January.

## **Announcements**

The AAUW New York State convention will be April 21-3 in Syracuse.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Friedman  
Secretary