

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 2, 2017
St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie, NY

Members Present: Kathy Friedman, Diane Jablonski, Jocelynn Banfield, Betty Harrel, Monique Jones, Jackie Goffe-McNish, Sabashnee Govender, Barbara Lemberger, Sandy Lash, Janna Whearty, Barbara Van Itallie, Sheila Zweifler, Mary Anne Hogarty, Maria DeWald. Guest: Mary Lou Davis.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. The minutes from October 5 were approved.

President

Maria DeWald reported that she participated in the "Pass the Torch" program in honor of Women's Suffrage. She picked up the torch at the Westchester AAUW branch meeting and will be passing it on to the State Board.

We have a number of collections planned for our upcoming monthly meetings. In November we will collect items for Days for Girls. In December we will collect for Grace Smith House and In January we will collect items for the Poughkeepsie Closet.

The Candidate's Forum, moderated by Ellie Charwat, was very successful.

The Woman of the Year luncheon, honoring Mariel Fiori, founder of La Voz, was attended by over 60 people.

30 members attended the District IV conference at the Poughkeepsie Underwear Factory.

Treasurer

Diane Jablonski reported that the financials are in good shape. Although it is not meant to be a fundraiser, we made close to \$1000 on the Woman of the Year luncheon.

Sheila Zweifler moved that we make a donation of \$100 to La Voz. The motion passed.

Diane reminded members to please let her know about any bills that will come in, such as Prime Print bills, so that she knows what they are for. She also asks that small receipts be taped on 8 X 11 paper so she can scan them.

We now have a credit card reader so that card transaction information can be swiped to a phone. We will try this out at the Writers' Tea, charging the purchaser \$2.00 for up to \$50 and \$3.00 for over \$50.

Program

Sandy Lash reported that all programs are scheduled except for May. "History at Play" has a new production about Women Heroes during World War II. Unfortunately, the \$600 cost is over budget for our programs.

Diane Jablonski moved to amend the budget to include \$600 for the History at Play program for our May monthly meeting. The motion passed.

Membership

Sheila Zweifler reported that the Directory is at the printer and will include an insert with color pictures of officers.

Mary Ann Hogarty reported that there are a total of 349 members at this time.

Development

Jocelynn Banfield suggested that, with the holidays coming, the Writers' Tea would make a good gift. The Tea will be held at The Links on April 15. Mary Lou Davis is in communication with the two authors.

Communications

Maria reported for Margaret Nijhuis. The Branch deadline for December is November 10. Please check the website calendar for free dates when arranging activities around the holidays.

Community Services

Barbara Hugo is lining up committee chairs to speak about their activities at our monthly meetings.

Honors and Awards

Betty Harrel suggested that anyone who is interested can join the committee.

Every year our branch donates \$3000 to AAUW for six named fellowships. EOF and LAF are fully funded at this time. There are other funds, such as NCCWSL and StartSmart, and there is the unrestricted AAUW fund that will put the money wherever it is needed. The committee can decide how it wants to steer the donation.

Board Committees

**Diversity/Inclusion.* Jackie Goffe-McNish reported that the committee has three speakers for the year confirmed and on the website. On November 16 Notunda Daisy Bopela will speak on Inclusion and the African Immigrant.

**International Relations.* Sabashnee Govender reported that participants of the Girls' Conference will be working on the Days for Girls kits. Cultural Connections and The Marist Fashion Institute are also interested in working on the Days for Girls kits.

Sabashnee suggested that it would be useful to have business cards for contacts at events like International Women's Day. Maria suggested that Sabashnee use money out of the budget to have business cards made.

**Nominating Committee.* Barbara Van Itallie reported that the nominating committee has met and has made up lists of prospective candidates for the three elected board positions for next year.

Additional Board Reports

*Mary Lou Davis, State/National Liaison, recommended the AAUW webinar discussion on November 9 with Winona LaDuke about her book about experiences of indigenous communities, *The Winona LaDuke Chronicles*.

*The Woman of the Year luncheon was a great success. We need another co-chair for this committee.

*The annual meeting will be held on June 7 at the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie in their new dining hall.

Announcements

*Girls Conference: November 4 at DCC

*The December 7 board meeting will be via conference call.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Friedman