

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 4, 2018
Conference Call

Members present: Maria DeWald, Monique Jones, Sandy Lash, Susie Blecker, Bonnie Auchincloss, Kathy Friedman, Diane Jablonski, Mary Anne Hogarty, Barbara Hugo, Eileen Hayden, Betty Harrel, Sabashnee Govender, Margaret Nijhuis, Barbara Van Itallie, Cathy Kinn.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02. The minutes were amended and approved.

President's Report

President Maria De Wald gave thanks and kudos to Eileen Hayden and Barbara Hespenheide for their excellent history articles in the Branch this year. Also thanks to Mary Lou Davis and Gail Sisti for organizing the successful Woman of the Year luncheon honoring Mariel Fiori. Gail will co-chair the event next year with Margy Ouart. A \$100 donation was sent to Mariel Fiori's foundation.

Maria complimented Diana Babington and Laurie on their fine work organizing the Girls' Conference in November. They will be chairing the event again next year.

We need to have a general membership business meeting, and it was decided to have it at the February program meeting. Margaret will announce it in the next newsletter.

Maria announced that the deadline for the \$500 AAUW program grant application is February 15. Betty Harrel will be applying for Leading to Reading, but it can be shared with other interested initiatives. Sabashnee Govender will talk to Betty about this and their two initiatives may share the grant.

The Science Fair at DCC will be April 7. Kay Saderholm and Claudette Hennessy have volunteered to be judges again. We will provide two \$50 Barnes & Noble gift certificates again this year.

Sabashnee has organized a possible new venue for our board meetings, Conference Room D at Vassar Hospital. We will try it out in February, and if we like it we can sign up for the whole year.

Treasurer's Report

Diane Jablonski reported that our finances are in good shape.

\$629 from Ribfest was contributed to LAF as well as another donation that was given to us.

Diane will be away from January 8 to February 9, so any financial needs should be addressed to her before she leaves.

Diane reminded everyone that she will need all budgets in March.

Program Vice Presidents

Monique Jones reported that they have finalized the May program. It will be a History at Play program about women heroes of World War II.

Monique and Sandy have already booked a program for January 2019. Jocelyn Johnson-Kearney will present her program, *Race Soldier*.

Membership Vice Presidents

Susie Blecker and Sheila Zweifler will be calling all the new members to see if they have any questions or complaints in order to encourage their continued participation in branch activities.

On January 23, there will be a meeting to assess the last Open House and to see if any changes or improvements are recommended.

Claudette Hennessy has worked hard on the new directory and it came out beautifully.

The question of honorary memberships was discussed. We usually have five free memberships to give out and we raffle most of them off as incentives for sending renewal memberships in early. Maria asked if some should be reserved for honorary memberships, such as the one we gave to Dr. Eddington. Some suggestions were: to give some to members for exceptional service to the branch, to offer some to the big sisters at the Girls' Conference, and to give some to outstanding women in the community. It was also suggested to save some to use as incentive for early renewals if that turns out to be effective. This issue will be discussed at the January 23 membership committee meeting.

Membership Treasurer

Mary Anne Hogarty reported that we have 350 members at this time.

Development

Planning for the April 15 Writers' Tea and Auction is moving along.

Rib Fest brought in \$629.

Marcine Humphrey is taking care of the NCCWSL scholarship.

Communications

Bonnie Auchincloss thanked Lori Scolaro for her work on the alerts, Cathy Kinn for getting articles about AAUW out to publications, Margaret Nijhuis for the newsletter, Mary Coiteux and Sabashnee Govender for their work on Facebook, Pat Luczai for the member portraits in the directory, and all the photographers who have been helping out.

Margaret Nijhuis reminded everyone that the newsletter deadline for February is January 10, and to please update their web pages.

Margaret received a letter from the State AAUW president thanking her for including news from State and National in our newsletter.

Kim Churches, CEO of National, will be at the State Convention in Corning this year.

Community Service

Barbara Hugo commented that there was a wonderful spirit of cooperation at the Live Your Dream Girls' Conference. The chaperon for the Poughkeepsie girls was very impressed with the program and said that next year she will make sure to recruit more girls. DCC is enthusiastic about having it again next year and the date is set for November 3, 2018. 51 girls attended. Next year, the committee plans to use Snapchat and Instagram more extensively, to stay in touch with the parents and to send email directly to the girls, in order to increase participation. We may possibly open it up to eighth grade girls giving the participants the opportunity to attend through three years of middle school. The Big Sisters are very important to the program and there is some interest in developing a roll for peer mentoring, keeping the program ongoing. It has also been suggested that a conference program could be developed for boys. The first planning meeting for the conference will be held on March 5, at 5:00 PM, in Hudson Hall, room 315, DCC.

Board Committees

**Diversity and Inclusion.* We will be collecting pajamas and toiletries for the Poughkeepsie Closet at our membership meeting on January 11. For those who cannot attend, or in case of snow cancellation, Marcine Humphrey will be accepting donated items at her home.

**International Relations.* Shabashnee Govender reported that Days for Girls is meeting every fourth Saturday at the Boardman Road Library. Shabashnee also reported that the CSW62 parallel event (62nd session of the Commission on Women's Status) will take place on March 15.

Nominations Committee

Barbara Van Itallie presented the slate of officers recommended for nomination for the 2018-2010 term:

President – Diane Jablonski

Treasurer – Pat Luczai

Secretary – Ruth Sheets

Kathy Friedman moved that the slate be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

The committee continue to will help with the selection of other positions. The April Branch will present the slate along with information about the procedure for offering nominations from the floor at the annual meeting.

Additional Board Reports

**State Convention.* The convention will be on April 20-22 at Corning. We usually place an ad in the convention booklet. Margaret suggested that we use this year's ad to salute our programs for youth, including Leading to Reading, Days for Girls, Extending Girls' Horizons, and others.

Eileen Hayden moved that we buy a half page ad, at \$125, in the convention booklet. The motion passed.

**Historian.* Eileen Hayden reported that New York State is giving out grants through the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for historic roadside markers commemorating women who were instrumental in the suffrage movement. We can pick out a woman or two to be honored and apply for a grant. The deadline is in April.

**Annual meeting.* We want to have the annual meeting at the Children's Home, but their catering service cannot do bartending work. Since getting the insurance ourselves is difficult, we will look into using the Children's Home venue with a different caterer or a bartending outfit. Our back-up venue is the Alumni House. Maria is looking for suggestions for a speaker for the event.

Announcements

- * Writer's Tea and Benefit Auction: Sunday, April 15, The Links
- * AAUW Convention: April 20-22, Corning
- * Annual Meeting; June 14, Children's Home of Poughkeepsie
- * Girl's Conference: Saturday, November 3, 2018, DCC (pending check with IBM)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Friedman
Secretary