

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 1, 2018
Vassar Brothers Hospital Conference Room B

Members Present: Kathy Friedman, Eileen Hayden, Jocelynn Banfield, Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, Monique Jones, Betty Harrel, Margaret Nijhuis, Sandy Lash, Cathy Kinn, Susie Blecker, Sheila Zweifler, Maria DeWald, Barbara Van Itallie. Guest: Mary Lou Davis.

The meeting was called to order by President Maria DeWald at 7:02 PM. The minutes of the January 4 meeting were approved as corrected.

President

*Maria reported that she was contacted by Didi Barrett's office for recommendations for women to include in this year's Hudson Valley Women's History Booklet. They are using a picture found on our website for their article on Anna Buchholtz.

*Maria has recently met with a member of the Junior League who is organizing a conference for high school girls which will be a nice opportunity for our middle school girls as they age out of our Girls' Conference.

*Betty Harrel met with the Poughkeepsie Public Library district, which has supported Leading to Reading. They are writing the grant for The Big Read and need to have community involvement. We have been involved in the program, reading the books in our book groups and poetry groups. It was suggested that we plan one of the fall programs around the Big Read this fall. The book is *Everything I Never Told You*, by Celeste NG.

**Leading to Reading* and *Days for Girls* are sharing the AAUW-NYS Program Grant. They will each receive \$250.

*Woman of the Year event co-chairs Gail Sisti and Margie Quart have selected the honoree, Dr. Pamela Edington.

*Maria went to the Women's Leadership Alliance meeting on behalf of AAUW. They are hosting a bus trip on International Women's Day, March 8, to the New Historical Society's Center for Women's History. We can publish our events on their calendar.

*Maria will be absent for our February Program Meeting which will include a general membership business meeting. Sandy Lash and Monique Jones will preside. We will inform the membership of the many scholarships we support and explain how the Writers' tea will fund these scholarships and also our initiatives. Also Sabashnee will talk to the membership about *Days for Girls*.

Treasurer

Diane Jablonski was absent but sent in the treasurer's report. Board members must tell Diane about any financial needs by March 15. Since convention costs have gone up, we do g

be increased. Initiative budget requests must be submitted by April 30 to Barbara Hugo who will submit them to Diane.

Honors and Awards

Betty Harrel announced the selections for the named AAUW Funds Honorees: Pat DeLeo, Eileen Hayden, Judy Linville, Sabashnee, Govender Sandy Lash, and Joanne Scolaro. The emerging leader award selection is Monique Jones.

Betty Harrel moved that we accept the list of Honorees. The motion passed.

Program Vice-Presidents

Monique Jones and Sandy Lash announced that there will be a program planning meeting in early spring. The snow date for the February 8 meeting will be the following Thursday, February 15.

Membership Vice-Presidents

Sheila Zweifler and Susy Blecker are calling all 29 new members to get feedback on their experiences with the branch. So far, about half have been called and they have positive things to say about their experiences.

We get five free memberships each year from National and traditionally we have raffled them off at the June meeting as incentives for those who send in their renewals early. There was a discussion about using these free memberships for honorees, selected from the community, who have been active in working toward goals similar to our and who may be interested in membership to AAUW. The consensus was that we will use two of those free memberships for honorees, and include free local memberships. The other free national memberships will be raffled off in June.

Development

*Jocelynn Banfield reported that the Tea Committee met last week and plans are moving along. Fliers for the event have been made up. There is a letter of introduction and receipt online for members to use when asking businesses for donations. Linda Roberts and Lula Allen are in their ninth year of a ten year commitment to organizing the Writers' Tea and Auction.

NCCWSL applications must be in by March 15.

Communications

* Newsletter. Margaret Nijhuis announced that there is a strict deadline of February 10 for March Newsletter items since she has travel plans. All groups should check their web pages and let Margaret know if there are any updates. Margaret will put a section on the membership page with information about student memberships.

*Publicity. Cathy Kinn encourages members to write letters to the Poughkeepsie Journal about AAUW activities. Please send any such letter to Cathy before it goes to the paper. Cathy announced that the Journal will soon publish an article about our Court Watch initiative.

Interest Groups

The Movie Night interest group is coming to an end because Sue Osterhoudt cannot find a volunteer to co-chair the group with her. Also Jeanette Cantwell is taking next year off from the popular Travelers group that she has been coordinating for many years. We are hoping that some members will step up to help out these groups.

Board Committees

*Diversity and Inclusion. Jacky Goffe-McNish reported that we have acquired many donations of pajamas other items for the Poughkeepsie Teen Closet donated by members at the last program meeting. Diversity and Inclusion will meet in March and April with programs about Pakistani and Latino immigrants.

*International Relations. Sabashnee Govender reported that Days for Girls is going well with regular meetings at the Boardman Road Library. On March 15 a group will be going by train to New York to the parallel workshops on the Status of Women.

Additional Board Reports

*New York State AAUW Convention, April 20-21. Mary Lou Davis announced that the keynote speaker will be Kim Churches. There will be workshops on media literacy, women's health, women's marches, and how to run for office. There will be trips to Corning Museum of Glass and the Rockwell museum.

*Historian. Eileen Hayden may be applying for a grant for a historical road marker commemorating a woman involved in the suffrage movement and is researching possible women in history to be honored.

*Our Annual Meeting will be at the Children's Home on June 14. We have hired an outside bartender since the home does not have a license. National has furnished us with a certificate of insurance.

Announcements

- * Commission on the Status of Women/March 15
- * 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 2, 2018, DCC (pending check with IBM)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Friedman
Secretary