

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 5, 2018
Vassar Brothers Hospital

Members present: Margaret Nihuis, Betty Harrel, Diane Jablonski, Sandy Lash, Bonnie Auchincloss, Mary Anne Hogarty, Cathy Kinn, Barbara Lemberger, Maria DeWald, Kathy Friedman, Susie Blecker, Sheila Zweifler. Guest: Mary Lou Davis.

The meeting was called to order by Maria DeWald at 7:03. The minutes from the February 1 and March 1 board meetings and the February 8 general membership meeting were approved as amended.

President

*Honors and Awards: Maria DeWald reported that the DCC Science Fair is this Saturday. Kay Saderholm and Claudia Hennessy will be judges.

The annual meeting awards are set for our June meeting.

*Development: Katie Murray has been chosen for the NCCWSL scholarship. She and her mother will be invited to the Annual Dinner.

The DCC scholarship recipients have been chosen. Jocelynn and Maria will attend the ceremony.

The Tea now has 115 attendees signed up and many donations.

*National Bylaws: There are three proposed amendments, including one that drops the requirement of a college degree for membership. Voting will be open from April 25 to June 9. As a branch we will not suggest a point of view, but we need to provide members with step-by-step instructions for the voting process. Maria will stress the importance of voting in her letter to the membership.

*Working rules: Maria proposed two amendments to the Working Rules:

1. Honorariums/Donations

An honorarium **may** be given to speakers at program meetings if the speaker is not an AAUW member or otherwise prohibited from receiving an honorarium as a public employee. The maximum honorarium is \$50. If a speaker requests more, it becomes a speaker's fee and is approved by the program Vice President(s) as part of their budget. Program Vice Presidents should provide the Treasurer with a voucher request for the honorarium prior to the meeting. Donations to other charities in lieu of honorariums can only be done in compliance with Not-for-Profit and AAUW regulations and with the president's approval.

2. Mileage:

Travel will be reimbursed per mile consistent with the AAUW NYS mileage rate. Travel must be approved by the President. Travel will **only** be reimbursed when formally representing the Poughkeepsie Branch outside Dutchess County as a requested speaker or program mentor, excluding Conventions/Conferences.

The amendments were approved.

*Bylaws: Maria proposed the following bylaws amendment:

Article XIII, Section A: Change by adding

(bolded) or deleting (in parenthesis), to the following: “Committees of the corporation shall be program, membership, **diversity and inclusion, international relations,** and public policy.” (deleted Educational and Legal Advocacy Fund)

*Annual reports are due to Maria by May 31. This pertains to elected officers, appointed Board members, and Event Chairs.

*CTAUN Conference. Betty Harrel and several other members will attend the CTAUN conference at the UN on Friday April 6. The Leading to Reading project is receiving CTAUN’s Excellence in Education Award.

*In lieu of the June board meeting, Maria will be hosting a thank you brunch and board meeting at her home on June 9.

Treasurer

Diane Jablonski reported that our financials are fine and our CD is going to be rolled over. The proposed budget for 2018-19 is based on an enrollment of 350 members. It is possible that we may lose some members next year because of the dues increase. In order to balance the budget in case of a shortfall of members, Diane has included a \$345 reserve. Diversity/Inclusion and International Relations are not included in the budget because they have money left over from this year, but Days for Girls will be added as an item for next year.

Kathy Friedman moved that the proposed budget be approved by the board. The motion passed.

The budget will be presented for approval by the general membership at the Annual Meeting in June.

Membership

Sheila Zweifler and Susie Blecker are collecting names of prospective members. They get recommendations from the same few members every year and are looking for ways to get more members to make recommendations. Barbara Lemberger offered to send a note out to the interest group leaders to ask for recommendations from their group members.

The renewal letter goes out to the printer on April 25. The cost is the same as last year, with the addition of envelopes provided by the printer. Sheila and Susie will also bring renewal forms to the Tea and the Annual Dinner. Open House will be on September 13 at the Hellenic Center.

Membership Treasure

Mary Ann Hogarty reported that 3 new members joined in March. Membership dues went up in April. There will be a drawing at the dinner for three free memberships.

Communications

*Newsletter. Margaret Nijhuis reported that the April 10th deadline for the May newsletter is very strict this month because she will be going away and will not be able to handle any late additions.

*Publicity. Wendy Maragh Taylor, director of the ALANA Center at Vassar, will be writing a column about the panel discussion we sponsored jointly with Vassar, "Lean in? Opt out? What's a woman to do?"

Interest Groups

A Canasta Group will be starting in May, on the second Thursday of the month, 1:00-5:00 PM.

Margaret Nijhuis moved that we approve the Canasta Interest Group. The motion passed.

Board Committees

*International Relations. Several members attended events in New York for the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

*Public Policy/AAUW Priorities. Equal Pay Day is April 10. Members are encouraged to call their state representatives on that day in support of pay equity.

Announcements

* CTAUN Conference: NYC, Friday, April 6

* Writer's Tea and Benefit Auction: Sunday, April 15, The Links

* AAUW Convention: April 20-22, Corning

* DCC Awards ceremony: May 16

* Program Committee meeting: May 22, 7PM

* Thank you brunch and Board meeting: **Saturday June 9** at 10:00 a.m./Maria's home

* Annual Meeting; June 14, Children's Home of Poughkeepsie

* Girl's Conference: Saturday, November 3, 2018, DCC/no answer yet from IBM

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Friedman
Secretary