

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Saturday, June 9, 2018
Home of Maria DeWald

Members Present: Maria DeWald, Kathy Friedman, Sandy Lash, Monique Jones, Susie Blecker, Sheila Zweifler, Mary Ann Hogarty, Barbara Van Italie, Cathy Kinn, Diane Jablonski, Bonnie Auchincloss, Eileen Hayden, Margaret Nijhuis, Barbara Hugo, Betty Harrel, Sabashnee Govender.
Guests: Mary Lou Davis, Ruth Sheets, Claudette Hennessey, Linda Roberts, Lula Allen, Mary Ann Boylan, Marticia Madory, Barbara Hespeneheide, Mary Coiteux, Pat Luczai, Margie Quart.

The meeting was called to order by President Maria DeWald at 10:26 AM. The minutes from May 3 were corrected and approved.

President's Report

- DCC Scholarships: Maria DeWald, Jocelynn Banfield, and Lori Scolaro attended the DCC Awards Luncheon and presented \$600 AAUW scholarships to graduating students Oluwaseum Badejo and Sahomi Cuba, and to Trudy Hankinson Briggs the AAUW Scholarship to a continuing student. Maria suggested that we increase the scholarships next year to \$750-\$800.
- Board members' Annual reports are now due.
- 71 people are signed up to attend the Annual Meeting, June 14, at the Children's Home. There will be two groups taking the tour before the dinner. Attendees are asked to bring a donation of a small stuffed animal.
- Maria met with Lea Bishop of the Women's Professional Network about our co-sponsoring a Sexual Harassment Workshop. They will continue the planning work.

Treasurer's Report

- Diane Jablonski reported that we have approximately \$76,000 as of May 1, and are in good shape financially. The extra money from the District IV conference was sent to the branch that is hosting the next conference.
- Writers' Tea money allocation: The Tea brought in the most money ever this year, grossing over \$15,000. Our net profit was \$10,696. The committee that allocates these funds to initiatives and scholarships gave money the Irene Keys Fund and recommended that we send two students to NCCWSL if we have good candidates. Money was allocated to Days for Girls since it has become an initiative. \$9,487 of the Tea money has been allocated at this time.

Program Vice Presidents

Sandy Lash and Monique Jones are hashing out a number of ideas for next year's programs that were suggested at the planning meeting. They are planning a program on the Big Read for November. Other tentative programs include a program with Planned Parenthood, something similar to the History at Play programs that we have enjoyed, and a program about an organization called Unshattered.

Unshattered is a nonprofit agency that employs women who have completed rehab. They make high quality handbags out of recycled materials and sell them at craft fairs. The program would

involve learning about how this program was developed and having a selection of handbags for sale. It was pointed out that there is a form the organization must sign if they are selling merchandise at a meeting and that we should consult the Working Rules for guidance about any honorarium conferred.

Membership Vice Presidents

- Open House. Sheila Zweifler and Susie Blecker reported that the Hellenic Center is not available for our Open House in September. They are looking at other venues for the 13th or the 6th including Boardman Road Library, Freedom Plains Church, Town of Poughkeepsie Senior Center, Community Methodist, and the Vassar barn. The Mid-Hudson Library System auditorium is a possibility but there is an issue with parking.
- *Member Awards: We have 35 members receiving longevity awards, honoring them for 5 to 55 years of membership.
- Please send Sheila names of prospective members to contact for our open house.

Membership Treasurer

- Free memberships. Mary Ann Hogarty reported that we have five free memberships to award this year. Three will be raffled off to renewing members. It was decided that the other two will be given to Pamela Edington, president of DCC, and Elizabeth Bradley, president of Vassar College.
- Renewals. 226 people have renewed their memberships as of May 8.

Development

Lula Allen and Linda Roberts have finished nine years of successful Writers' Teas. They thank their committee members and chairs for their participation and thank the membership for monetary donations that totaled \$1757.

Communications

- Alerts. Bonnie Auchincloss thanked Cathy Kinn for the great job she has done with the alerts.
- Facebook. Mary Coiteux reported that Facebook has changed its algorithms and viewership is down. State and National political articles get few responses, but items with pictures get more. Mary recommends that groups include pictures in their communications to encourage more interest.
- Newsletter. Margaret Nijhuis reported that the deadline for the September newsletter is August 10. She asked the officers to please read their individual sections of the Working Rules and the Bylaws which can be found on the branch website.
- Cyd Averill will chair a meeting about digitizing our public relations communications.

Community Service Initiative Liaison

*Girls Conference. Barbara Hugo reported that the Girls' Conference will be on November 3 at DCC. Lori Scolaro and Diana Babington can use all the help they can get for the conference. This year they will include 8th grade girls as well as 6th and 7th graders. The younger girls will be tracked differently than the older girls in order to insure an age appropriate experience.

*Barbara thanked Lula and Linda for their hard work on the Writers' Tea fundraiser which has made the initiatives possible.

*Sabashnee Govender reported that Days for Girls will have a fundraiser in October at Chipotle. The initiative will get a portion of the money spent by supporters at Chipotle on that day. The group wants to send supplies to the Puerto Rico group and needs funds for shipping.

*Kristina Puzza is coordinating with Marist Liberty Partnership to give STEM workshops in June to eighth grade girls. The branch is providing volunteers.

Honors and Awards

Betty Harrel thanked Daniel, at Prime Printing for donating the insert page in the dinner program for our honors and awards.

Historian

Eileen Hayden welcomed Barbara Hesperheide who is transitioning into the position of historian. Eileen stressed the importance of corporate memory.

Special Committees

- International Relations: Sabashnee announced a change in the meeting dates for Days for Girls. It will now be the 3rd Saturday of the month from 1:30-4:30 at the Friends Meeting House at 49 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie.
- State/National Liaison: Mary Lou Davis announced the next state convention will be at the Otesaga Hotel in Cooperstown. Mary Lou met with National and talked about the Work Smart Program. Their goal is to run the program for 10 million women. Mary Lou also reported that there will be a New York City conference for college women funded with money from the sale of the city branch's Manhattan house.
- The Woman of the Year luncheon will be on October 14 at Dutchess Manor.

Announcements

- **National Voting/Comments** ends tonight at midnight
- **Annual Meeting/June 14, 6:00-9:00/Children's Home of Poughkeepsie**
- **AAUW-NYS Summer Leadership Conference/Cazenovia/July 20-22/\$115 for entire weekend**
- **District IV Conference, August 26/Brunch/98th Women's Equality Day/Glens Falls**
- **RibFest: August 17-19 to Benefit LAF/Ulster Fairgrounds**
- **Branch Open House: September 13/Helenic Center**
- **New Member Reception, October 11, Location TBD**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectively Submitted,

Katherine Friedman
Secretary