

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018  
Radiology Conference Room, Vassar Hospital, Poughkeepsie, NY

Members present: Linnea Masson, Pat DeLeo, Marcine Humphrey, Barbara Hespenheide, Margaret Nijhuis, Marticia Madory, Kathy Friedman, Diane Jablonski, Monique Jones, Sandy Lash, Mary Anne Hogarty, Sheila Zweifler, Betty Harrel, Bonnie Auchincloss, Patricia Luczai, Barbara Van Itallie, Maria DeWald, and Ruth Sheets. Guest: Gail Sisti.

The meeting was called to order by President Diane Jablonski at 7:01 p.m.

The Board Meeting minutes of June 9 were approved as corrected. The General Membership Meeting minutes of June 14, 2018 were approved.

*Ruth Sheets moved that the Board adopt the Conflict of Interest Policy as written and provided by AAUW National.* The motion passed.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Forms were collected from all Board Members present at the meeting.

#### **President's Report**

- Diane discussed the need for volunteers for the Professional Jump Start for College Women 2018 program to be held October 20 at the Roosevelt House (Hunter College), Manhattan. The AAUW NYS website has information. Diane noted this is an exciting venture for our branch.
- Diane reported that the District IV AAUW Conference was very exciting and she encouraged members to think about going in the future. She thanked all who attended. The highlights included a parade, working with League of Women Voters and other organizations, and presentations by the NYS Secretary of Labor and the President of St. Rose College on gender equity issues.
- *Pat Luczai moved to approve that Margaret Nijhuis continue as newsletter editor.* The motion passed. Margaret stated that this will be her last 2 years as Editor of The Branch.
- The new AAUW National strategy has 4 prongs of focus: Education & Training, Economic Security, Leadership, and Governance & Sustainability which is concerned with running the organization with best practices, innovation, and strengthening fiscal sustainability. Diane asked that the Board look at how our branch should incorporate these into our strategic plan so that we have our priorities aligned with the national strategy.
- Diane thanked the Membership Committee for their work on the successful Open House, and stated that they did a really great job.
- Diane brought up the need for allowing more people to have read-only access to the branch's member database so that individual member interest data could be utilized by people with a need to know. There was a discussion regarding limiting access and how to do it. Diane will come back with a recommendation regarding this at the next board meeting.

**Treasurer's Report** - Pat Luczai reported totals through August: \$41,799.09 in the checking account, \$20,421.58 in our savings accounts, \$3,105.36 was collected in dues, \$1879.20 in Initiatives income, \$1405.09 in Initiatives expenses, and \$4842.61 in total expenses. Diane added that Pat is doing a wonderful job as treasurer.

**Honors and Awards** – Betty Harrell shared a thank you note that she received from Mary Coiteux, recipient of the 2018 Cornerstone Award. Betty will be setting up a committee for Honors and Awards. She noted that the Cornerstone Award is not necessarily given every year. The committee will only award it if it is determined that there is a member worthy of receiving this honor.

**Program** - Monique Jones reminded us that Judge MacKenzie will be the speaker for the October 11 membership meeting, which will be held at the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie. This is also the night of the Welcome Dinner for new members. It was decided that Margaret Nijhuis should invite Cathy Albanese, a longtime member, to this dinner. Monique reported that all the monthly meeting programs are planned except for May.

**Membership** -- Sheila Zweifler thanked everyone who contributed to the success of the Open House. She reported that 50 invitations were sent, 20 of those invitees attended, 13 joined, another member rejoined and 2 members renewed at the Open House. September 15 is the deadline for renewals. She passed around a list of members who have not renewed and asked that board members indicate who of these people they will call to ask why they are not renewing. On or about Sept 20 the newsletter will go out and there will be a note attached about this being the last Branch the person (who is not renewing) will receive. Sheila will send Linnea Masson a list of people who have not renewed so Linnea can forward the list to the various interest groups for removal from their email lists.

Sheila is questioning whether we should hold the Open House again at the Vassar Barn, and discussed problems with this venue such as no one is there to help if there are problems and the lack of adequate lighting when driving out of the site at night. She will probably look elsewhere for next year's Open House.

**Development** – In Jocelynn Banfield's absence, Diane reported that Barbara Van Itallie is forming a committee to explore possible future fundraising endeavors. Diane asked that board members give any ideas to the committee.

**Communications** – Bonnie Auchincloss plans to eliminate Alerts because more responses are received from emails. She thanked Maria DeWald for her help in marketing other organizations info, which has resulted in the other organizations' marketing of Poughkeepsie AAUW's information. Cyd Averill has been named Assistant Newsletter Editor. Joanne Scolaro is Communications Assistant. The use of Instagram will be addressed by a committee, including Vanessa Williamson, a new member, who has indicated an interest in teaching others about Instagram. Pat Luczai pointed out that members with knowledge of our needs should be involved, as well.

**Community Services** – Kathy Friedman plans to have a 1-2 minute overview presentation on one of the Initiatives at each monthly membership meeting. In October, Ann Pinna on Court Watch; in November, Lula Allen/Kay Bishop on Mothers Project. Sandy Lash will send list of program topics to Kathy Friedman so she can coordinate relevant initiatives to the programs. Kathy also noted that

volunteers are needed for outreach to schools to promote Live Your Dream Girls' Conference scheduled Nov. 3.

Maria DeWald reported on Careers and Leadership Initiative and their efforts to partner with other organizations, working with colleges in this area, namely, Marist, DCC, Vassar, and Mt. St Mary's College. She discussed the Sexual Harassment in the Workplace event that happened Sept 11 at Vassar College in collaboration with WPN (Women's Professional Network). AAUW Member Leah Feldman was one of the panelists who discussed creating a safe, legal workplace.

**Membership Treasurer** -- Mary Anne Hogarty, reported 274 members renewed, 12 did not renew, and 44 have not responded. Twenty-nine members used online payment methods; 23 used PayPal and 6 used Square.

**Interest Groups** -- Linnea Masson reported there are about 20 interest groups. Ediss I and II no longer exist. Carol Demicco continues to seek members for the Photography interest group.

**International** - Marti Madory reported she is compiling a prospect list for the International Committee and is sending a survey to gain feedback. The focus of this committee is religion, immigrants, and refugees. There is a planning session Oct 2 at 7 p.m. for Global Friends to determine ways to start to form personal relationships with those of other religions and nationalities.

**Public Policy** -- Pat DeLeo encouraged members to keep reaching out to their Representative and Senators even if you believe they agree with your viewpoints. It is helpful if they can show large numbers of support to their colleagues. She has contacted the offices of candidates for a "Meet the Candidates" night but has not received callbacks as of yet.

**Nominating** - Barbara Van Itallie reported that the committee is working on nominations for VPs of Program, Membership, and Development, as well as Membership Treasurer.

**Woman of the Year** -- Gail Sisti shared that the WOY Luncheon will be held Oct. 21, at Dutchess Manor. She strongly encourages our members will come out in force to honor our honoree, Dr. Pamela Edington. Diane Jablonski reminded us that Edington has a personal involvement in AAUW through her support of Live Your Dream Girls' Conference and other events held at DCC. WOY committee will meet Sept 17 to wrap up loose ends for the event.

**Historian** -- Barbara Hespenheide reported she is determining what to take to Adriance Library. After a discussion, the consensus is that YE reports should be archived at Adriance.

### **Announcements**

Margaret Nijhuis announced that Oct 1 is the deadline for the November Branch. Jan 1 is the deadline for the February Branch. Margaret reminded the Board that all Poughkeepsie AAUW events are on the website calendar and please be mindful to avoid conflicts.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Sheets, Secretary