

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018  
First Floor Conference Rm. B, Vassar Hospital, Poughkeepsie, NY

Members present: Sandy Lash, Monique Jones, Sheila Zweifler, Ruth Sheets, Margaret Nijhuis, Jocelynn Banfield, Diane Jablonski, Kathy Friedman, Bonnie Auchincloss, Barbara Hesperheide, Patricia Luczai, Barbara Van Itallie, Betty Harrel, Linnea Masson, Mary Anne Hogarty, Marticia Madory. Guest: Mary Lou Davis.

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

The Board Meeting minutes of Sept 13, 2018 were approved as corrected.

**President's Report**

There was a discussion regarding concerns over disbanding the Diversity Committee and why it was done to restructure the branch for alignment with the National strategy value of Inclusion and Intersectionality. Diane's response, which will be the November Branch's President's Letter, was discussed. Concerns by Board members included the need for careful handling of such committee changes, and need for education about the concept of "intersectionality".

The discussion moved to how to incorporate the AAUW National strategy into our existing Branch Strategy which dates back to the 2014 – 2016 timeframe. Concerns included limiting the scope to what is possible to change short term, and the need for a strategic plan that is not overwhelming to read. It was pointed out that we currently incorporate inclusion ideas in many of our Initiatives and programs. After much discussion, members of the board volunteered to participate in a committee to look at how to use the new national strategy to create a rewrite the branch strategy by fitting our local goals with the key ideas of the national strategy. Members of the committee include Betty Harrel, Margaret Nijhuis, Mary Lou Davis, Kathy Friedman, and Diane Jablonski. The branch article will be modified to refer to the committee and ask for volunteers from the general membership.

**Treasurer's Report** - Pat Luczai reported that as of September 30th, our current total assets are \$61,785.45. Total revenue is \$9,953.34 and expenses are \$10,115.95. The majority of activity for September was related to dues, Woman of the Year, Girl's Conference and Leading to Reading.

A question was raised regarding the possible need for revising the budget. According to Diane Jablonski, the budget was based on 340 members. Mary Anne Hogarty estimated the expected membership totals, and it was decided that no revision was needed at this time.

**Honors and Awards** – Betty Harrell asked that if there are recommendations for Honors and Awards to let her know. Also, Betty passed around flyers for NEA Big Read Calendar, mentioned its calendar included AAUW's November 8<sup>th</sup> membership program, "How Americans Learned to Love Chinese Food", and noted we will likely see non-members attending that program.

**Program** - Monique Jones / Sandy Lash

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. Monique reported that all the monthly meeting programs are planned except for May.

**Membership** -- Sheila Zweifler / Susie Blecker

- New Member Reception – Sheila reported that half of the new member are planning to attend. She reminded the Board to they are to bring desserts.
- Directory - There will be room for 12 more pictures in the directory, for a total of 36 pictures. These will be chosen from Board, Off Board positions and Community Chairs.

**Membership Treasurer** – Mary Anne Hogarty reported there are 18 new members, resulting in 317 members now paid. She is waiting to receive payment from 4 – 5 more people.

**Development** –Jocelynn Banfield – Nothing to report.

**Future Strategy** – Barbara Van Itallie reported that her committee has come up with a list of fund raising activities that members are asked to participate in, so though we have only one major fundraising event, the Writers' Tea, there are many times donations are collected. The general consensus of her committee is that the Writers' Tea is a pleasant event that people enjoy. However, it is the last one for the 2 leaders, Lulu Allen and Linda Roberts, though they are willing to function as mentors for new leaders in the future. The committee will discuss ways to achieve monies for our initiatives in the future. Please let Barbara know if you want to attend a planning meeting.

**Communications** – Bonnie Auchincloss is still planning how to utilize Instagram for the branch. Diana Babington, Pat Luczai, and Vanessa Williamson are interested in helping.

**Community Services** – Kathy Friedman is scheduling short presentations on a particular Initiative to be given each general meeting. She has October, November, March, and May planned.

Live Your Dream Girls' Conference scheduled Nov. 3. Let Diana Babington know if you can help on the day of the conference.

**Interest Groups** -- Linnea Masson reported that she has reminded interest group leaders to talk about upcoming events during their group meetings.

**Reports of Board Committees**

**International** - Marti Madory reported that her committee had their first planning meeting. They are seeking some way to announce on a calendar international events in the community, including those at Adriance, World Council and AAUW's. She is plans to start something on our website. Betty Harrel suggested to look into using Burbio, a community calendar service, through Adriance Library.

**Public Policy** – Pat DeLeo (absent). No report.

### **Nominating** - Barbara Van Itallie

Working on nominations for VPs of Program, Membership, and Development, as well as Membership Treasurer.

### **Additional Board Reports**

**Woman of the Year** – Mary Lou Davis reported that WOY Luncheon will be held Oct. 21, at Dutchess Manor, honoring Dr. Pamela Edington. There are 45 registrations, 17 from DCC. Many of Dr. Edington's friends and family are attending the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-kill event the week before to honor her. The chairpersons might try to get a smaller room to accommodate our smaller group at Dutchess Manor.

**State / National Liaison** – Mary Lou Davis asked that we consider attending the State Conference at The Otesaga Resort, Cooperstown, April 26 -28, 2019. In 2020, the State Conference will be held in Rochester. The October Jump Start, Roosevelt House, Manhattan is not getting the turnout, as hoped.

**Historian** -- Barbara Hesperheide asked to destroy old membership cards from years past. There was no objection.

### **Old Business**

A question was raised regarding how we publicize our events. Several suggestions including using the library system's community calendar and distributing flyers were made.

The Database Base Access Form was discussed. Several people did have concerns about security. Diane emphasized that signing the form indicated that you agree not to download the information for other reasons, only as needed for AAUW Board position. Margaret Nijhuis volunteered to gather the pertinent information for Board members when needed. *Kathy Friedman moved that the Board accept the database access policy as distributed.* The motion passed.

### **Announcements**

Superintendent Dr. Richard Hooley, is promoting a capital program for BOCES and would like support. Volunteers are needed to work at the polls in November.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Sheets, Secretary