

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, Nov. 1, 2018  
Radiology Conference Room, Vassar Hospital, Poughkeepsie, NY

Members present: Marticia Madory, Betty Harrel, Barbara Hesperheide, Kathy Friedman, Maria DeWald, Bonnie Auchincloss, Monique Jones, Pat Luczai, Mary Anne Hogarty, Diane Jablonski, Ruth Sheets.

The meeting was called to order by President Diane Jablonski at 7:00 p.m.

The Board Meeting minutes of Oct. 4, 2018 were approved.

### **President's Report**

Diane asked for suggestions for a new meeting room for the board meetings given that Vassar Hospital will be needing the 1st Floor Conference Room B for several months. Possible ideas of using a room at the Unitarian Church, or the Charwat Room at Adriance, or a room at Boardman Road Library were discussed. Diane will check on the status of the Radiology Conference Room and follow up by email to board members.

Diane announced that the autumn Jumpstart program was cancelled due to lack of enough registrants. It is unclear what the future plans will be for this program.

Update on Strategy Committee - Betty Harrel will chair this committee. They plan to meet during the month of November.

Annual Meeting – June 13, 2019. The team for this will be Ann Pinna, Joan Kimmel, and Sharon Fleury, who recommend using the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel. A contract has been received. The board agreed that Diane should proceed with this venue and date.

Diane announced that our branch's participation in the Hudson Valley Ribfest has resulted in a payment of \$572 from the Highland Rotary which will go to the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). She thanked all who worked on this fundraiser.

Our branch is entitled to name 1 honoree for each \$500 donated to NYS AAUW funds. Currently donations from our members is \$2148 for the AAUW fund. To name 6 honorees, as were named last year, we can use the \$572 to LAF and the branch can donate the remainder of funds needed to allow for a total of 6 honorees.

**Treasurer's Report** - Pat Luczai reported that as of October 31, our total assets are \$60,236.37.

Total revenue is \$13,330.57 and expenditures are \$15,047.65.

The majority of activity in October was due to Dues, Woman of the Year, Girls' Conference, and Leading to Reading.

As of October 15th, we have had one year of transactions on Square amounting to \$2,597.50 in sales from 40 transactions. Total sales transacted through Square on the day of the Writers' Tea amounted to \$1,370.

**Program** - Monique Jones reported that our November 8 general membership meeting will be at the UUF where we will host an NEA Big Read event, featuring Dr. Willa Zhen from the CIA. The December meeting will feature Unshattered, the recipient of the 2018 Think Dutchess Business Excellence Awards' Nonprofit of the Year.

**Membership** - Diane read the following report submitted by Sheila Zweifler.

"The New Members' Reception was a great success. We thought the Children's Home was a terrific venue. Thank you Sandy and Monique for setting it up. We really would like to have it there again next year.

Eighteen board members and nine new members and one spouse attended. Thank you board members for the delicious desserts.

The Membership Directory is being edited, updated, and proofed. We are going to have one photo page with Board members as we did last year. Our goal is to have the directory to the printer by November 12<sup>th</sup>, so it can be mailed out and received before December.”

Diane thanked, Sheila Zweifler and Susie Blecker, in their absence, for their work on the reception and directory.

**Membership Treasurer** - Mary Anne Hogarty reported we have 326 paid members, of which 22 are new members.

**Communications** – Bonnie Auchincloss reported that Renie Milliken is the new Publicity chair who is taking over from Cathy Kinn who is training her.

Marti Madory and Bonnie are considering using Burbio calendar service to publicize events. Burbio would require other diversity or internationally focused groups to use to obtain coverage of their respective events. There are ways to link to Facebook and Instagram through Burbio. We would have to pay to get wider audience coverage for special events, which has been done similarly on Facebook. The communications committee will need to consider the pros and cons of AAUW using this service. Bonnie will be contacting Yvonne Laube at Adriance in regards to Burbio.

Bonnie plans to contact all the calendar entities in the area to determine the feasibility and process of using them to publicize our events. Included are Hudson Valley One Calendar, Hudson Valley Magazine, The Chronogram, Hudson Valley Events, Chamber of Commerce, Southern & Northern Dutchess Newspapers, and Weekly Almanac.

**Community Services Liaison** – Kathy Friedman

Live Your Dream Girls’ Conference, November 3, has 90 girls registered. Diana Babington will speak briefly at the November meeting regarding the Girls Conference after it is over.

Sabashnee Govender is applying for a grant from the NYS AAUW to use for materials for Days for Girls. Betty Harrel is also applying for part of this grant for Leading to Reading.

Kay Bishop, Mothers’ Project, is trying to get a grant to pay for an artist to work with the mothers’ art projects. The details of how this would work needs to be considered so that our treasurer does not need to issue paychecks nor file extra financial statements. It was suggested that an artist should apply for the grant perhaps from Arts Mid-Hudson.

### **Reports of Board Committees**

**International** - Marti Madory reported the International committee would be meeting on Nov 5. Marti will be using the AAUW website to capture international events in the community. Board members expressed appreciation of how attractive it looks. Marti has AAUW labels and can make more. She discussed the importance of the Global Friends concept especially in light of the recent hate crimes in Pittsburgh. She reported that the City of Poughkeepsie is pursuing becoming sister cities with Oaxaca, Mexico.

Diane noted that National AAUW has a policy on hate crimes.

### **Additional Board Reports**

**Historian** -- Barbara Hespenheide – nothing to report.

**Woman of the Year** – Diane gave a synopsis of Gail Sisti's and Margie Quart's report. There were many issues regarding contracts and change of dates for this luncheon which impacted some members from attending. However, a successful luncheon was held on Oct 21 at Dutchess Manor honoring Dr. Pamela Edington. Sixty-nine tickets were sold. Dutchess Manor was a very pleasant venue and attendees enjoyed the setting and luncheon. Overall, finances came out about even when calculated over 2017 and 2018 WOY luncheons.

**Old Business** – none.

**New Business** – none.

### **Announcements**

Articles for the Branch are due Nov 10.

Girls' Conference is Nov 3.

The general membership meeting is Nov. 8.

Diane will follow up on the board meeting location.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Sheets, Secretary