

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018
Radiology Conference Room, Vassar Hospital, Poughkeepsie, NY

Members present: Kathy Friedman, Barbara Van Itallie, Bonnie Auchincloss, Marti Madory, Sandy Lash, Barbara Hesperheide, Margaret Nijhuis, Pat Luczai, Betty Harrel, Diane Jablonski, Maria DeWald, and Ruth Sheets

Guests: Mary Lou Davis

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

The Board Meeting minutes of Nov. 1, 2018 were approved as corrected.

President's Report

- **Updates from state board meeting:** Diane attended the NYS board meeting in Albany on Veterans Day. The Basket Room is not going to be done at the convention this year. Instead of baskets, NYS wine will be raffled for fundraising. Our branch does not need to supply anything.
- **Giving Funds:** AAUW National is in the process of changing the set of funds to which individuals and branches can donate money. Clear communication has not been forthcoming on how the old funds map to the new funds. The new funds are organized for the four AAUW National goals, namely, Education, Economic Security, Leadership, and Governance and Sustainability, but the website pages for submitting funds has not yet been updated. Diane noted that Pat Luczai has sent in the check (money from the Ribfest 2018) to LAF.
- **Equal Pay Day:** Every branch is being asked to sponsor an event to bring awareness to Equal Pay Day and concerns regarding inequality of pay for women. Equal Pay Day is April 2, 2019. Diane will ask Pat DeLeo to take the lead on this, possibly reaching out to other organizations who are involved with this issue.
- **Announcements:** Girls Conference was a great success. Diane offered congratulations to all involved. Margie Quart will do WOY in 2019, and Mary Lou Davis offered to help. The board will continue to meet in the Radiology Conference Room.

Treasurer's Report - Pat Luczai reported that as of December 1, 2018 our Total Revenue is \$15,020.07 and total expenditures are \$20,065.90. Initiatives income is \$3,445 and initiatives expenses are \$8,050.02. The majority of initiative activity is attributable to Leading to Reading and the Girls' Conference. Total assets are \$56,912.62.

Program - Sandy Lash reported she and Monique Jones are still working on the May meeting. They are still accepting ideas. A program on Hudson River Art was suggested as a possibility. Another person is needed to help with the handling of the equipment at meeting: Sandy asked for suggestions or people who would be interested in this. Marcine Humphrey can go ahead for collecting donations for the Poughkeepsie Teen Closet (at Poughkeepsie High School). There will be information in the Branch regarding this endeavor.

Membership – Diane announced that Sheila Zweifler sent a written report which stated that the directories have been mailed out.

Membership Treasurer – Mary Anne Hogarty sent in a written report stating that one new member joined at the end of November, so our total membership is now 327.

Honors and Awards – The names of members chosen by the committee who will be honored at the June membership meeting was presented by Betty Harrel. There will be no Cornerstone Award this year.

Betty Harrel moved that we allocate funds to the AAUW Fund in the amount needed to name 6 honorees at our June meeting. The motion passed. The amount was determined to be \$812, which when added to previous donations from the branch and individual branch members made during this financial year, will total \$3000, enough for 6 honorees.

Strategy Plan Report – Betty Harrel opened up the discussion of the proposed Strategic Plan 2018 – 2020 by naming the Strategy Committee members (Diane Jablonski, Maria DeWald, Margaret Nijhuis, Judy Linville, Mary Lou Davis, and Betty Harrel, chair). Betty asked for comments regarding the comprehensiveness of the proposed plan. Comments included board members' approval and gratefulness for the work done, suggestions on how to tweak the recording of the current branch activities on the chart, and getting input from the initiatives and programming areas regarding their involvement to support the plan. Betty then asked the board to send further comments to her, including any wordsmithing suggestions.

Communications – Bonnie Auchincloss reported she is still working on setting up the Instagram workshop. Also, a person to do publicity for branch activities is still being sought. Several people have declined because of lack of email skills that would be necessary for the job.

Community Services - Kathy Friedman reported that Peggy Kelland will present a brief report on Extending Girls' Horizons, a partnership with the Girl Scouts, at the December membership meeting. Kathy is working on arranging for presenters for January and February membership meetings. Possible topics are the Mothers' Project, Leading to Reading, and the AAUW Poughkeepsie website.

Reports of Board Committees

Interest Groups – Linnea Masson sent a written report stating that the interest groups are all going well.

International - Marti Madory reported Gloria Ghedini is setting up a Global Friends group which will start by sharing experiences regarding "coming to America" in order to develop understanding among the group members. Marti plans to look into potential opportunities to help international students at Dutchess, Vassar, and Marist. She is also considering ways to support new teachers at a local public school.

Additional Board Reports

NCCWSL - Marcine Humphrey sent a written report stating that she was pleased to announce that her committee has their first candidate for the conference. Kayla Bowen applied last year and was invited to re-apply this year if she was interested. (A custom of the committee to recognize strong candidates). Ms. Bowen, from DCC, had expressed interest and spoke with Marcine at the Girls Conference this year. The committee is thrilled. The committee is trying to get an early confirmation because the Early Bird Registration which ends February 15th is \$465 rather than the usual \$585. The committee is still working on a second candidate as funding would allow for this. Marcine will keep the board posted.

Nominating – Barbara Van Itallie reported that the position of Development VP still needs to be filled. Candidates exist for the other positions.

Regarding the **Writers' Tea**, Barbara reported she is seeking names of organizations and key people within them with whom Poughkeepsie AAUW supports. She will then send Writers' Tea invitations to these people in hopes of boosting attendance from the community. She will send out an email to board members regarding this endeavor. Margaret Nijhuis mentioned that the delightful new logo on the invitation cards was done by Mary Coiteux.

Newsletter – Margaret Nijhuis reported that Cyd Averill will do the February newsletter. The deadline for the February Branch is Jan 10. The deadline for the January Branch is Dec. 10.

State/National Liaison – Mary Lou Davis reported the Federal Minimum Wage of \$7.25 per hour and was last changed in 2008. Because of the rolling back of Title IX by the current administration, Mary Lou encouraged that we contact the Dept. of Education. Diane Jablonski said there was a petition on the AAUW national website that you can use. (<https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>)

Historian -- Barbara Hespenheide worked in the Local History Room of Adriance Library on the 3 most recent of our AAUW boxes. Donations of membership booklets and photos were filed in the correct years. Kira Thompson, Local History Librarian, will label the boxes to conform to the system used in the room. As always, members are welcome to visit the room and look over our history, but call ahead to arrange for entry.

Old Business – none.

New Business – Maria DeWald voiced a concern that we may need to find a new leader for Marist Liberty Partnership.

Announcements

The general membership meeting is Dec 13.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Sheets, Secretary