

Annual Meeting Report – June 2019

The annual meeting of the Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW was held June 13th at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel. Diane Jablonski, Ann Pinna, Sharon Fleury, and Joan Kimmel were on the committee to plan the event. Seventy-one people signed up for the event:

- 63 members
- 6 non-members - 3 spouses, 2 mothers of the NCCWSL scholarship winners and the keynote speaker, Sabrina Marzouka, Commissioner of Children and Family Services for Dutchess County.
- 2 NCCWSL scholarship winners, Kayla Bowen and Alyssa Cavelli

An innovation this year was to have a “photo booth” where groups of members could have their pictures taken, some with props that were provided. Pat Luczai and Bonnie Auchincloss took the photos which will be put on Facebook with a link provided to the members. In addition, Leading to Reading collected small stuffed animals to give out books. A photo slide show was provided during cocktail hour and dinner of events and activities during the year.

The normal business meeting including adoption of the budget and election and installation of new officers. Our emerging leader, Sabashnee Govender, and the named fellows – Lula Allen, Bonnie Auchincloss, Maria Dewald, Claudette Henessey, Linda Roberts, and Donna Reichner were honored. Members with significant years in the organization were recognized, and there was a special recognition by Lula Allen and Linda Roberts of all those who worked on committees for the Writers’ Tea and Auction over the last 10 years. Margaret Nijhuis reported on a \$2000 donation by Catherine Albanese in support of the tea.

Margaret was thanked for her 19 years as editor of the Branch, and Lula Allen and Linda Roberts were thanked for their leadership of the Writers’ Tea and Auction over the last 10 years.

The two students who were recipients of the Irene Keyes Scholarships to attend NCCWSL each talked about their experience at the event and how it broadened their perspectives and understanding of leadership.

The speaker for the evening, Sabrina Marzouka, Commissioner of Children and Family Services for Dutchess County. Sabrina provided an inspirational talk laced with memories of her personal life growing up in Haiti, talking about the gender pay gap and the myths that sound women at or below the poverty level. She challenged us to remember that we all have a briefcase of talents we should use to share with the world to work for social justice.

Diane Jablonski