

**AAUW Board Meeting  
February 4, 2021  
Zoom Meeting**

**Members present: Board:** Lula Allen, Cyd Averill, Barbara Durniak, Betty Harrel, Barbara Hespeneide, Gwen Higgins, Marcine Humphrey, Monique Jones, Sandy Lash, Pat Luczai, Linnea Masson, Margaret Nijhuis, Mary Scalise-Annis, Celia Serotsky, and Sheila Zweifler. **Non-voting regular attendees:** Mary Coiteux and Barbara Van Itallie

President, **Monique Jones**, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

The minutes for the December 3, 2020 board meeting were approved as submitted by **Margaret Nijhuis**.

**President**

**Monique Jones** announced that **Laura Ramsey Russell** had agreed to fill the position of Zoom Support Manager. Laura is attending the practice sessions before the general program events.

Monique thanked the Strategic Plan and Working Rules Review Committee composed of **Barbara Durniak, Betty Harrel, Margaret Nijhuis** and **Vivian Rose** for their work in January and noted that the process will be ongoing with completion planned for early spring. In their discussion the need arose in two areas for more in-depth work. Monique asked for volunteers to develop privacy and security guidelines and to develop guidelines and policies for archiving materials of AAUW – which would include the cloud and Adriance Library. **Barbara Hespeneide** noted that this had been mentioned in reports since 2016 and should be finalized. Monique said we might think of privacy as the equivalent of choice. She reminded members that program meetings and other AAUW activities held on Zoom should not be recorded or screen shots taken and posted online.

Emerging Leaders were not honored at the AAUW-NYS level this year so the question was raised should we continue. Barbara Van Itallie will check to see if the state will continue. The Board felt we could continue this as it was good to support new members or members who have recently become active. There were other items that came up in the Working Rules review that will be discussed next month.

The comment period by National on the proposed bylaws change on membership requirements and on the proposed changes in the Public Policy Priorities will end February 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. The board will not submit an opinion letter to National.

**Treasurer**

**Pat Luczai**, gave the Financial Position of the branch as of February 1, 2021. Total Assets are \$69,125.50. For the current fiscal year starting July 1, 2020, Total Revenue is \$8,891.62 and Total Expenses are \$8,500.78. Although in December, the board approved making a donation to AAUW National to ensure that our 2020 contributions totaled \$3,000, it was not necessary as our members' year end contributions made up the difference.

**Program Vice Presidents**

**Marcine Humphrey** reported that we have an exciting program for February and encouraged all to attend. Several other organizations have been notified of the February program. Programs for the next two months are set but May is not yet final. **Sandy Lash** said she would monitor the registration for February and keep Monique apprised if a Zoom add-on will be needed.

**Membership Vice Presidents**

Monique read an email from **Diane Jablonski**, "On the dues proposal, I would suggest that we also see if we can agree on something to send to AAUW-NYS thanking them for the waiver of dues, but also asking if they are planning to re-evaluate the state dues overall.

On a side note, I think Pat needs to set up a separate account to keep the excess dues funds that so we can keep track of them. We also need to think about handling the situation if someone pays the full dues for the year, but then leaves the organization in the next 2 years either due to death, moving, or another choice, if we need to/want to refund what is still left in the treasury. That requires additional tracking and I suspect would not be a common event; I think we should discuss the situation and document in the minutes the intent on how it is to be handled in case the question arises.”

**Mary Scalise-Annis** and **Sheila Zweifler** reminded the board that AAUW-NYS will not collect dues for the 2021-22 year, a savings of \$13 for the membership. National AAUW will increase dues by \$3, \$5, \$5 over the next three years. With that information as background they presented two options: 1) pass on the entire \$13 savings to the membership for the year 2021-22, making the dues \$78 for this year, and \$96 and \$101 for the following years or 2) collect the \$13 for the state this year and spread the \$13 over the next three years making dues \$88, \$91, \$96 and finally in 2024-25 \$101.

Concern was expressed for the large increase in dues for 2022-23 but the problems arising from collecting the extra \$10 from members seem to present even greater concerns.

Sheila moved that the \$13 dues waiver from AAUW-NYS be applied for the year 2021-22 making the dues \$78; the motion passed.

The membership committee was cautioned to be sure that all members understood the \$78 was only for one year and dues will be \$96 the next year. Articles will appear in the newsletter, by email and on Facebook. The reduced dues can be used as a marketing tool. A thank you note will be sent by Monique to the state board to express appreciation for the dues waiver.

#### **Membership Treasurer**

**Sue Doyle** no report

#### **State & National AAUW Liaison**

**Barbara Van Itallie** reminded the board of the state calendar that posts programs from around the state. **Marcine Humphrey** is the contact for Poughkeepsie AAUW. Several members had attended virtual meetings from other branches and found them very worthwhile. Barbara has been looking into causes for the increase in National dues and finds they are cost related. All felt this was a good time to remind our members of the services that National AAUW offers. Barbara will write articles for the newsletter that stress the advocacy aspects of National, the webinars, now the home of our new website, etc.

#### **Development Vice President**

**Lula Allen** questioned if we needed to consider fundraising for this year. It was suggested that we look more closely at the budget and see what is needed by the Initiatives. We know that Days for Girls is looking for space for meetings and storage, Mothers Project was given money this year and \$600 is needed for the DCC Scholarship. However the AAUW scholarships were funded by individual donations to National and Leading to Reading has continued to obtain grants and donations. This will be discussed further in March.

#### **Honors and Awards**

Marcine Humphrey, Chairperson of the Irene Keyes Memorial Scholarship Committee, reported for the **NCCWSL** committee. “This year the National Conference College Women Student Leaders is going to be a virtual conference. The committee has been following the developments and discussing our options. Considering the nature of the conference, the level of interactive participation, exposure to women leaders, travel experience, Washington, DC tours, the college fair and the general atmosphere, we have decided to forgo our usual recruitment for the scholarship this year. Next year we will actively seek to

send two, maybe even three young women. The information on the conference is on the website and if anyone contacts me I will work with the committee to accommodate their interest. We did not reach this choice without careful consideration.”

### **Communications Vice President**

**Barbara Durniak** cited a report previously sent to the board. The website committee is pleased to report that the new website is ready and can be viewed at <https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net/>. **Margaret Nijhuis** and **Joanne Scolaro** have worked tirelessly to learn the technical details of the new platform and transfer content from <http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org/> to the new platform. Additionally, backfiles of some documents, such as newsletters and annual reports, were moved to cloud storage, a task that the webmasters will repeat annually.

Margaret is working with Mary King on how to implement a redirect from [aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org/) to [Poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net](https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net/).

Please update any documentation/email templates or zoom messages that list the website with the new url.

As per previous board discussions, phone numbers and email addresses for board members have been removed. A generic gmail account for the President already existed and is now listed; a generic gmail account for all board members was created and is now listed. The Assistant Secretary monitors this account and will forward messages to the appropriate board member. However, numbers and emails for others, including program vice presidents, membership vice presidents, newsletter editor, and Interest Group and Community Initiative leaders, are still available.

The board has previously discussed creating a “Members Only” area. Direction is needed from the board.

During website committee discussions, the question of photo release consent forms came up, especially with respect to photos of children. It is assumed that any photo supplied for the website, newsletter, or for any other purpose has the consent of those who are in the photo.

Barbara moved that the new website go live on February 12; the motion passed

### **Facebook**

**Mary Coiteux** reported to the board that Facebook use was up. Users seemed more interested in photos than articles and she has been encouraging Interest Groups to send photos of their activities. Concern was expressed on receiving permission to publish such photos. This will be a part of the work of the committee on privacy and security guidelines

### **Community Service Initiatives Liaison**

**Vivian Rose** sent a report from the GED scholarship meeting:

“We are at the outreach stage - assessing needs and services in the Dutchess County area so we do not duplicate programs already existing for women pursuing their GED. We will develop a list of resources and post them on our website for members to easily access. We will meet again this month.

In addition, **Sabashnee Govender**, Days for Girls chair, is doing a “shout out” to our Board and membership for a FREE meeting venue with a small storage space for materials. She reports that their current space (Quaker Church on Hooker Ave) is closing in April. They need a space for once per month for 3 hours. Please pass the word and contact Sabashnee if you have any suggestions. Vivian suggested that Sabashnee post something in *The Branch* by Feb 10”.

### **Interest Groups**

**Linnea Masson** said that everything is going well with the Interest Groups meeting by Zoom. The Traveler's group is interested in using Zoom even after we can meet in person. Monique said the account will be renewed when the year is up in March.

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

**Gwen Higgins** reported that the Diversity group had met twice with some 21 members attending. In response to discussion by the group, Gwen moved that the name be changed to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI); the motion passed.

At the last meeting they adopted a new mission statement which will be presented to the board in March. The group identified several projects that they would like to adopt. One such project is a calendar of holidays and cultural events occurring in the community. They discussed several ideas for Women's History month. They have shared many online sources and would like to share this with the membership. An article for the newsletter is in development.

### **Public Policy Chair**

**Celia Serotsky** asked for an understanding of the guidelines for sending email blasts. There was some discussion and reference was made to the newsletter guideline found in the Working Rules which states:

"In general, there will not be any individual emails sent to members about non-AAUW activities, unless they are about a very special activity or award involving a member, again at the sole discretion of the President and *The Branch* Editor or Communications Vice President."

Support of AAUW policies should be the guideline of what we send. Placing articles in the newsletter was encouraged and the guidelines for such articles can be found on page 38 of the Working Rules.

### **Nominating Committee Chair**

**Betty Harrel** announced the slate of officers for 2021-23. Election will take place at the June annual meeting. Announcement will be placed in the newsletter.

Program Co-Vice Presidents: **Maria DeWald** and **Marcine Humphrey**

Membership Co-Vice Presidents: **Bonnie Auchincloss** and **Mary Scalise-Annis**

Development Vice President: **Mary Lou Davis**

Secretary/Bylaws (1 year term): **Amelia Roger**

Membership Treasurer: **Susan Doyle**

### **Newsletter Editor**

**Cyd Averill** reminded the board of the Feb 10<sup>th</sup> deadline for the March newsletter and thanked them for the promptness in the past months.

### **Historian**

**Barbara Hesenheide** continues work with Adriance and emphasized the information about our recent years that is available on the website in the AAUW Poughkeepsie yearly history taken from the pages of our newsletter

There being no Old business nor New Business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Margaret Nijhuis, Secretary