

AAUW Board Meeting
March 4, 2021
Zoom Meeting

Members present: Board: Lula Allen, Cyd Averill, Sue Doyle, Barbara Durniak, Betty Harrel, Barbara Hespenheide, Gwen Higgins, Marcine Humphrey, Diane Jablonski, Monique Jones, Sandy Lash, Pat Luczai, Linnea Masson, Margaret Nijhuis, Vivian Rose, Mary Scalise-Annis, Celia Serotsky, and Sheila Zweifler.

President, **Monique Jones**, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

The minutes for the February 4, 2021 board meeting were approved as submitted by **Margaret Nijhuis**.

President

Monique Jones reported that an email of thanks for the dues waiver was sent to the AAUW-NYS Board and received a note of appreciation.* Monique will attend the AAUW-NYS town hall discussing the change in membership requirements on Saturday. Those that attended on March 2 found it beneficial and encouraged the other board members to attend. Two subcommittees of the Working Rules Committee have been formed and have met – the Privacy & Security Committee and the Archival Guidelines Committee. Their reports are below. Another discussion at the Working Rules Committee meeting was the lack of audit (or financial revenue) in recent years. Monique will arrange this for September.

Treasurer

Pat Luczai, gave the Financial Position of the branch as of March 3, 2021. Total Assets are \$68,863.99. For the current fiscal year starting July 1, 2020, Total Revenue is \$8,903.60 and Total Expenses are \$8920.49. An additional report was included to show the individual financial positions of each of the initiatives. This will be used in a discussion later.

Program Vice Presidents

Marcine Humphrey reported that the March program from last year has been rescheduled, “A Long & Winding Road: the Local Path to Women’s Suffrage on its 100th Anniversary,” and will be presented by Bill Jeffway, Executive Director, Dutchess County Historical Society and Melodye Moore, Head of Collections. We are in for a truly exceptional evening. **Sandy Lash** asked that the board consider what we want to plan for next year and if there will be in person meetings do we want to consider a larger venue so that more space will be possible.

Membership Vice Presidents

Mary Scalise-Annis told the board that all new members have been contacted and the responses have been good. She also said that the dues decision had been explained in the newsletter and by email. **Sheila Zweifler** reported that the renewal notice and profile have been updated and are on the website. The fund raising paragraph has not been included but can be added if the board makes that decision tonight.

Membership Treasurer

Sue Doyle reported that a non-renewal from last year has been in touch and will be rejoining on March 15. There has been one resignation and two membership inquiries.

Development Vice President

Lula Allen reported that the Finance Committee – **Pat Luczai**, **Vivian Rose**, **Monique Jones** and **Lula Allen** – met to discuss the need for a fund raiser. There is no immediate need for funds for the initiatives as can be seen in the report that Pat included in the Treasurer’s Report on the financial position of the initiatives. Discussion ensued on what to put on the dues notice concerning donations. After many

opinions it was decided to table the fund raiser for this year and revisit if the need becomes necessary. The line on the dues form for donations to initiatives and scholarships will remain.

Honors and Awards

Marge Barton –no report

Communications Vice President

Barbara Durniak who is chairing the Privacy and Security Committee reported that she and the committee members, **Bonnie Auchincloss**, **Cyd Averill** and **Mary Coiteux**, have met to discuss emails, phone numbers, addresses and photographs that appear on all platforms. Donor information was also discussed. Cyd noted that in the March newsletter the contact information had been removed for all members except membership and program vice presidents. Interest groups coordinators still have their contact information listed and Cyd requested that **Linnea Masson** find out what their preference would be. **Pat Luczai** told the board that a photo release form had been used since 2017 for the individual pictures taken and stored on the cloud. The committee wants to be assured that all pictures taken from the cloud have been taken with the permission of member being photographed. This was later explained that this would be pictures going forward. The committee asked for permission to take a screen shot of the BYOL meeting on March 18th. It would be announced at the beginning of the meeting and take place in the last few minutes. After much discussion it was tabled until another time.

Facebook

Mary Coiteux – no report

Community Service Initiatives Liaison

Vivian Rose reported for **Sabashnee Govender** and **Judy Longacre** that Days for Girls needs a new meeting place. The board was asked to look for such a location. The Friends Meeting House has been sold. **Gwen Higgins** suggested everyone contact their churches who have fellowship halls and that an article be included in the newsletter stating the space requirements. Kits will be sent to support women in refugee camps. The initiative has received a large donation of fabric from the American Sewing Guild. **Betty Harrel** announced that Leading to Reading has a new donated storage and meeting place at the Staatsburg Firehouse through the influence of **Judy Linville**. The storage is not locked but Betty said they are giving away books so if someone takes one it will be fine! Vivian continued by saying that the Mothers Project is still providing health packages to their clients and that two Vassar College students have been added to their team. Also the GED (General Educational Development) committee is compiling resources. The DCC Foundation will be contacted to see if funds are available for GED funding. The committee (**Sue Doyle**, **Linnea Masson**, **Sabashnee Govender** and **Vivian Rose**) is still in the fact finding phase

Interest Groups

Linnea Masson reported that all the interest groups that possibly can are meeting by Zoom.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Gwen Higgins reported that her committee was working well. They have lots to handle and will not be taking on women's issues. A discussion of the book "The Sum of Us" will start in May. They are still working on a calendar of cultural events and have discussed a way to make our members aware of what is available in the community from minority businesses. **Cyd Averill** mentioned the Women Empowerment Cards by Force 5 that are appearing on Facebook and have been summarized on the website.

Public Policy Chair

Celia Serotsky feels that Public Policy and DEI are closely related and has been working with that committee. This coalition will be discussed further at the next board meeting after the committee has had time to work on it. Celia is also forming a committee from the members that expressed an interest in public policy to give her input on issues and articles that arise.

Nominating Committee Chair

Betty Harrel no report.

State & National AAUW Liaison

Barbara Van Itallie - no report

Newsletter Editor

Cyd Averill reminded us that March 10th is deadline for April issue.

Historian

Barbara Hesperheide reported for the Archival Guidelines Committee, **Amelia Roger** (secretary elect), **Diane Jablonski**, **Margaret Nijhuis**, **Eileen Hayden** and **Barbara Hesperheide**. For several years branch historians have suggested reviewing what materials are kept and having more formal stated guidelines for what we archive. This has become an even more important issue now that we have storage on the cloud as well as in print. Using local and state guidelines, we started with print items housed at the Adriance Library Local History room. Future meetings will continue this discussion, consider national AAUW guidelines, as well as what will be archived on the cloud and who will be responsible for different areas.

Old business

Margaret Nijhuis made the request that board members with long reports furnish a paragraph summary of their report to the secretary before the board meeting. If these summaries are received in time they will be included in the final reminder of the board meeting.

There being no new business nor announcements the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Nijhuis, Secretary

*Note written to AAUW-NYS Board by Monique Jones

Dear AAUW-NYS Board of Directors:

On behalf of the Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW Board, I am writing to thank you for granting the state dues waiver for the 2021-2022 membership year. We appreciate the consideration shown when deciding to take this action in light of the national dues increase and the impact the pandemic has had on branch operations for almost a year.

While the Poughkeepsie Branch has remained active - offering a number of ways for members to engage virtually - the state dues relief serves as both an incentive for individuals to renew their membership as well as a 'thank you' for staying with us through this extraordinary time.

Thank you for your leadership and all you do to support AAUW branches throughout New York State.

Healthy Regards,

Monique Jones
President, Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW