

**AAUW Board Meeting
April 1, 2021
Zoom Meeting**

Members present: Board - Barbara Durniak, Betty Harrel, Barbara Hespenheide, Gwen Higgins, Marcine Humphrey, Diane Jablonski, Monique Jones, Sandy Lash, Pat Luczai, Linnea Masson, Margaret Nijhuis, Vivian Rose, Celia Serotsky, and Sheila Zweifler; **Non-Voting attendees** - Amelia Roger and Barbara Van Itallie

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

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

President

Monique Jones welcomed **Amelia Roger**, as the nominee for Secretary, to observe the working of the board. The vote on national bylaws to change the requirements for membership in AAUW will start on April 7th. She will provide an email reminder to our membership. **Sandy Lash** and **Sheila Zweifler** both attended the webinar held by national on the bylaws proposal. Both felt it was more a GOTV (get out the vote) event than an information event as few questions were taken or answered. After a long discussion on in-person gatherings either indoor or outdoor, **Monique** made a motion "to approve the meeting of interest groups, community service initiatives, and other activities in outdoor areas only through August 31, 2021. Attendees must follow best practices, including social distancing, mask usage, and handwashing, when engaged in these activities. The Board will revisit this issue in the fall. Members will be reminded that our Zoom account is still available for use through March 2022." The motion passed. Plans for the annual meeting, by Zoom on June 10, are going forward. Lisa Maatz, formerly with AAUW public policy and a former lobbyist for AAUW concerns, will be our speaker.

Treasurer

Pat Luczai, gave the Financial Position of the branch as of April 1, 2021. Total Assets are \$69,418.68. For the current fiscal year starting July 1, 2020, Total Revenue is \$9,959.48 and Total Expenses are \$8,956.88. Budget input is needed for board approval on May 6. Pat will prepare a notice to all who need to give information. The budget will be prepared with input from the Finance Committee.

Program Vice Presidents

Marcine Humphrey reported that she and **Maria DeWald** have a meeting scheduled for April 9th to look at the future and begin planning. She has received several suggestions already for next year and has attended a Big Read Meeting and read the book (a graphic novel). She will place an article in the newsletter announcing the time and date of the "program planning meeting" (Zoom of course). She continues to welcome suggestions from members for programs. **Sandy Lash** explained the background of the May program from One Day University. There will be a video presentation of a music program and the professor who gave the program will answer questions. The One Day U is offering our members a discount for the coming year.

After much discussion it was decided that membership programs would continue by Zoom through 2021. This decision will facilitate the planning for programs which need a three month lead time and looking for a new program meeting location

Membership Vice Presidents

Sheila Zweifler reporting for **Mary Scalise-Annis** and **Sue Doyle** as well, explained that renewal letters will be sent the end of April. We have 2 new members and 2 resignations. Non-renewing members cited Zoom as the reason. **Mary** and **Sheila** both attended the AAUW webinar on membership. They did glean some ideas, one was the acknowledgement of members' birthdays which is being done at the BYOL parties and will be listed in the newsletter - just names not dates or years. Sheila also attended the town hall by national on the bylaw changes as previously noted. She has spoken with Freedom Plains Church about a September open house. She does not know their current meeting policy. This will be discussed at the May board meeting. They will definitely not meet outside.

Development Vice President

Lula Allen asked in her absence that the board be reminded:

Two ways to support your Branch: Donate when you renew your dues for 2021/2022 or Donate anytime at the Poughkeepsie Branch Website <https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net>

Honors and Awards

Marge Barton –Monique will reach out to **Marge** to see what is happening with the awards for this year.

Communications Vice President

Barbara Durniak gave a report from the Privacy and Security Committee:

Possible Security Guidelines for Branch Operational Technologies

- System updates will be installed on a regular basis.
- Privacy and security settings and controls will be monitored.
- Passwords, as well as important information (licensing, registration, renewal dates, etc.) related to the software/platforms the branch uses, should be stored in a centralized, secure environment, ideally one that is stored in the cloud so that it can be remotely and, if so desired, by more than one administrator.
- Passwords should be changed regularly.
- Passwords used for branch operational technologies should be strong.
- Passwords should be shared verbally or in written format given directly to recipient, not via email, text or other electronic formats.
- Secure protocols should be in place for handling sensitive financial information, including donor information.

Possible Privacy Guidelines

- It is of the utmost importance that membership data, especially the data in the membership directory, not be shared externally.
- The posting of member phone numbers and email addresses should be avoided when possible.
- A release form must be obtained before taking photos of minors. This ensures that permission has been granted to use the pictures in materials (print and online) that pertain to branch activities.

If anyone has additional suggestions, please let the committee know. There was a discussion on the removal of contact names from the calendar in the newsletter and the interest groups and initiatives on the website. The question was whether we have gone too far and making it too difficult for members to get in touch with the contacts for these groups.

Community Service Initiatives Liaison

Vivian Rose reported that the High School Equivalency committee has a new member, **Lori Scolaro**, with a background in work at DCC. The Days for Girls Initiative has sent 30 kits to Africa. Their work continues even during the pandemic.

Interest Groups

Linnea Masson said there were no major changes. Group leaders feel that only names are necessary in the newsletter. **Sheila Zweifler** emphasized that this being the case, the chairs and coordinators of Interest Groups and Initiatives must be very vigilant in the follow up with anyone expressing interest in their activity. New and prospective members do not always have a directory or membership booklet.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Gwen Higgins reported the MISSION STATEMENT for the committee as follows: "The Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. encourages and supports a diverse and inclusive membership. Through its Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, we commit to create open and safe dialog opportunities on issues of social justice, bias, equity and culture. The focus is dissolving barriers which limit the aspirations of women and girls."

COMMITTEE GOALS: to create abundant, welcoming spaces and opportunities within the membership community; to form community connections which further the AAUW mission and serve as a reliable source of social justice; to

provide educational resources and information to membership and others concerning diversity, equity and inclusion; and to highlight and support community progress in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion

COMMITTEE PLANS: holding "Sum of Us" book discussion, investigating collaborating with DCC to create a mentorship program, connecting with various LGBTQ+ organizations, working on a project that acknowledges the various cultural celebrations of our community and forming a subcommittee to work on legislative issues concerning women and DEI. The committee wishes to regularly schedule discussion circles and make community connections an important function of the committee. At the next meeting, they will be discussing strategies to make the membership of our Branch more inclusive.

Gwen introduced a statement from DEI "The Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW is outraged by the violence inflicted upon members of our Asian American and Pacific Island community. We condemn both the physical violence and verbal abuse directed toward them. This ugliness has festered beneath the surface of our everyday lives but has come to our country's consciousness recently. We ask to be considered as allies for all marginalized groups and will support them against injustices." The motion for the board to accept the statement on behalf of Poughkeepsie AAUW was made and passed with the request to distribute the statement to organizations in the community.

Public Policy Chair

Celia Serotsky no report.

Nominating Committee Chair

Betty Harrel no report

State & National AAUW Liaison

Barbara Van Itallie deferred to the previous discussion on the bylaws vote. National will send a reminder. The AAUW-NYS will have a conference by Zoom on June 11 and 12. The Friday night event will be more social and Saturday will be the business meeting. There are extensive changes planned in the bylaws.

Newsletter Editor

Cyd Averill has received no complaints about eliminating contact information from the Calendar section of the April newsletter. She will continue with this practice for subsequent issues. She reminded us that April 10th is the deadline for May issue.

Historian

Barbara Hespeneide gave a report from the Archival Guidelines Committee. The Archival Guidelines committee met on March 29 via Zoom. Members present were **Margaret Nijhuis**, **Diane Jablonski** and **Barbara Hespeneide**. Using National AAUW guidelines, they compared our current print archiving process. With a few exceptions, what we save aligns with the recommendations. The committee recommends that the few needed changes be made going forward. Our next meeting will focus on what is now stored on the cloud and what else should be. Amazon does provide back up for the cloud storage.

Barbara also worked in the local history room of Adriaance Library adding and reviewing documents. In addition, she was given a digital copy of our 1982 film "Poughkeepsie, A City on the Hudson." Kia Thompson, local history librarian, made copies of a VHS tape in the Mid-Hudson system. Barbara will ask others to view the copy and consider if this would make a good historical program in the future (since next year would be the 40th anniversary of the making of the film).

There being no **Old business** nor **New business** the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Nijhuis, Secretary