

AAUW Board Meeting

May 6, 2021

Zoom Meeting

Members present: Board – Lula Allen, Cyd Averill, Sue Doyle, Betty Harrel, Barbara Hespenheide, Gwen Higgins, Marcine Humphrey, Diane Jablonski, Monique Jones, Sandy Lash, Pat Luczai, Margaret Nijhuis, Vivian Rose, Mary Scalise-Annis, Celia Serotsky, and Sheila Zweifler; **Non-Voting attendee** - Amelia Roger

President, **Monique Jones**, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

The minutes for the April 1, 2021 board meeting were approved as submitted by **Margaret Nijhuis**.

President

Monique Jones reminded the board of the annual reports due on May 14 to M. Nijhuis and M. Jones. They serve as a historical record as well as a resource for member(s) who will assume position in coming year. Please include what you did and what you accomplished this year. She thanked members that had already made their submission. The annual meeting is in the preparation stage. The agenda and PowerPoint have been started. The format will be similar to last year but with a speaker. The plans are to move through the agenda items quickly and wrap up no later than 8:30 pm. She will be reaching out to members for contributions and will ask for them to respond by May 17.

At the April board meeting it was decided “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.” “Leading to Reading” asked for a reconsideration for their sessions of 5 people who would be working on book packets at separate tables, in a very large room, masked. Even though NY State is relaxing the regulations it was decided to allow this exception for “Leading to Reading” but to stand by the decision made in April for all other groups. If regulations are further relaxed the board will reconsider the question at that time.

Monique has received two emails from members concerned that national AAUW was moving too far to the left. She will contact these members and seek help from the membership vice presidents if it becomes a great concern.

Treasurer

Pat Luczai, gave the Financial Position of the branch as of May 4, 2021. Total Assets are \$68,977.59. For the current fiscal year starting July 1, 2020, Total Revenue is \$10,387.45 and Total Expenses are \$9,898.71.

The proposed Operating Budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 was presented for approval. Pat explained each item, there was a change to increase the convention budget. Motion was made and passed to approve the budget. There was some discussion on liability insurance for 2021 – 22 but was tabled until more complete information could be obtained.

Program Vice Presidents

Marcine Humphrey reported that program planning for the next two years has begun. They have received suggestions and have some very good ideas. They will be operating via zoom until the end of the year. She has been in contact with the Unitarian Church and informed them of our plans, hopefully, to return in person in 2022. The church is working on their policy and they will be speaking at a later date. They are talking with the Poughkeepsie Library about cooperating in the Big Read Program. This is in early stages of planning. Marcine and **Maria DeWald** hope members will join them for the program zoom meeting on June 17th.

Sandy Lash reminded the board of the May 13th program at 7 pm via Zoom. She added “be there or be square”- it is an intellectual and emotional journey. She suggested that board members should be thinking of other places to meet if they are not happy with the Unitarian Fellowship.

Membership Vice Presidents

Sheila Zweifler explained to the board their thoughts on open house. She has spoken with Freedom Plains Church and it is open. At this time we could have 75 people and maybe 100 by September. Everything will be dependent on COVID in Dutchess County. The backup will be virtual meeting and a decision will be made by July 15th. A “save the date” for September 9th will be in the newsletter with a request for prospective members.

Mary Scalise-Annis added that the renewal letters should be arriving any day and that a few members had already renewed and we have two new members. The last BYOL will be June - they are taking the summer off and will resume in the fall if the need is still there. **Betty Harrel** and **Margaret Nijhuis** were thanked for their help in running and advertising these BYOL events.

Membership Treasurer

Sue Doyle reported we have 6 new members since the fall and 3 renewals – even without the renewal letters.

Development Vice President

Lula Allen reported that a donation of \$500 had been received through the website for the Irene Keyes Fund from the Keyes family. She questioned if there would be a Dutchess Community College scholarship luncheon this year, she will make contact to find out. **Pat Luczai** will send the check to cover our second \$600 scholarship.

Honors and Awards

In **Marge Barton’s** absence, **Betty Harrel** reported that the Honors and Awards committee had met and were changing the previous announcement made in the newsletter. **Barbara Durniak** was selected as Emerging Leader for 2021 and Named gifts for AAUW will be in honor of **Monique Jones, Sandy Lash, Marcine Humphrey, Sheila Zweifler** and **Mary Scalise-Annis**.

Communications Vice President

In **Barbara Durniak’s** absence, **Margaret Nijhuis** made the request from the board that \$15.16 per year be paid to retain the branch's old website domain name (aaupoughkeepsie.org). If we stop this payment, at that point the domain name would be available on the open market for purchase. The privacy and security committee has recommended retaining control of our old website domain name for a few years so as to avoid it being bought by an organization that might use it for nefarious purposes. The motion was made and passed.

Community Service Initiatives Liaison

Vivian Rose received an email from **Kay Bishop** of The Mothers' Project. Kay requested to coordinate with AAUW to obtain baby blankets and hats to support new mothers. Also a request to support a Mothers' Project Diaper Bank. With the challenges of the pandemic and unemployment, many moms are struggling with sufficient diaper supply. It was suggested that Kay make her request more specific and that an article be placed in the newsletter and on Facebook to request this help. There were several suggestions of local organizations that supply diapers and might be helpful to Kay.

Interest Groups

Linnea Masson no report

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Gwen Higgins’ committee has discussed further a collaboration with Dutchess Community College on a mentoring program starting in August. “Sum of Us” discussion group had their first meeting and the results were very positive. The committee is talking more about the Culture Celebration but not until January. **Betty Harrel** and **Celia Serotsky** are working on the Day One pre-school program in Poughkeepsie. Lastly, the committee is collecting a list of programs in Dutchess County that deal with diversity and they are looking into making our membership more diverse.

Public Policy Chair

Celia Serotsky reported that she had attended a National AAUW public policy forum and found that AAUW is supporting the agenda of the new administration. Also, she and **Betty Harrel** attended a Zoom meeting with Geraldine Laybourne on May 3, 2021, regarding the Day One Early Learning initiative that is being proposed for the City and Town of Poughkeepsie. Geraldine is the director of this initiative. One of the goals of this initiative is to train 200 early childhood teachers in six years. Betty had attended a meeting about Day One last year and suggested that the group be contacted. We thought we might, as an organization, partner in some way with Day One Poughkeepsie as part of Public Policy goals and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee goals. It was a very productive and informative meeting, and they proposed to the Board that *Leading to Reading* assist Day One this summer in their distribution of books for babies Saturdays in Eastman Park in the City of Poughkeepsie. There may be other ways we can support this effort, and we will be in touch with Geraldine as well as Satara Brown and Rebecca Edwards. This activity was approved by the board.

Nominating Committee Chair

Betty Harrel no report.

State & National AAUW Liaison

Barbara Van Itallie sent a report stating "The State will be holding its annual event, called a summit, on Friday evening June 11 and Saturday morning June 12. On Friday evening there will be an interesting speaker and a light-hearted get-together. The State annual business meeting will be held on Saturday morning, with election of officers and reports and news from the state. I will be running again for State Treasurer and although I doubt if anyone else will be running against me, I hope to see some Poughkeepsie members there.

The branch president will be receiving a survey from the State about Zoom use over the past year so watch for it and be sure to return it. I know that Poughkeepsie has been very successful in using Zoom over the past year. We at the state will be looking for volunteers to work with other branches who are still struggling with how to best use Zoom, or the Zoom technicalities itself. If anyone would like to help with the effort, please contact me."

Newsletter Editor

Cyd Averill reminded the board that May 10th was the newsletter deadline. She also asked if there was a slate of officers for New York State AAUW. This is expected in the state newsletter.

Historian

Barbara Hespenheide reported "After several years of wanting definitive guidelines for what would be saved in print and on Amazon cloud, **Margaret Nijhuis, Diane Jablonski** and **Barbara Hespenheide** met to review state and national guidelines and make decisions for our branch. Almost everything suggested was currently being saved. Our wide ranging and very thorough web site and our newsletter with full coverage of activities and programs provide much information to archive. Some materials are stored in print, some on the cloud and a few in both places. A list of what goes where will be kept in print with the historian and on the cloud. As of Sept. 2021 our newsletter, *The Branch*, will no longer be kept in print copy.

When our Amazon Cloud account was started, it had two purposes. One was to archive information and the other was to hold information for leaders. It was hoped that this would help with transition when new officers are elected. This process has been started. In the fall, the historian would like to work with officers, initiative leaders and committee chairs to upload information about programs, processes, grant information and whatever else would be helpful and relevant."

Old business

Sue Doyle reported that the GED committee is working but does not have a recommendation at this time.

There being no **New business** the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, **Margaret Nijhuis**, Secretary
***Poughkeepsie AAUW Budget 2021-22**

Operating Budget

Last Update: 5/6/2021

	Budget 2020-2021 Amount	Approved Budget 2021-2022 Amount	Notes
INCOME			
Investments	\$275.00	\$350.00	Based on current year
Undesignated Contribution	\$800.00	\$700.00	Assumes impact of fewer members
Communication Contribution	\$350.00	\$300.00	Assumes impact of fewer members
Dues	\$28,600.00	\$22,230.00	Assumes membership of 285 and no dues collected for NYS
Annual Meeting	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	Ticket sales should cover expenses
Woman of the Year	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	Ticket sales should cover expenses
TOTAL INCOME	\$37,025.00	\$30,580.00	
		\$5,910.00	Working amount (\$16 of dues per member); excluding ticketed events
		\$5,910.00	Expenses; excluding ticketed events
EXPENSES			
Administration	\$500.00	\$450.00	Zoom=150,Cloud=20, Domain+Security+Hosting=111,+Misc
Awards/Gifts	\$200.00	\$15.00	No Cornerstone award; Science Fair gift cards paid last year & not used
Caring Comm.	\$25.00	\$20.00	Decrease based on history and decline in membership
Convention	\$125.00	\$325.00	Expenses for President; ad in program
Dues	\$23,400.00	\$17,670.00	Amount sent to national
Equipment	\$50.00	\$35.00	No known purchases planned
Historian	\$20.00	\$20.00	No known purchases planned
Insurance	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00	Based on history
<i>Membership Activities:</i>			
Dues Collection	\$475.00	\$500.00	
Directory	\$1,075.00	\$1,125.00	
Open House	\$475.00	\$475.00	
New Member Reception	\$175.00	\$0.00	
Monthly Meetings	\$1,550.00	\$1,550.00	Includes add-on Zoom charges for large monthly meetings
Newsletter	\$160.00	\$180.00	Kathy Friedman, based on this year's cost
Annual Meeting	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	Ticket sales should cover expenses
Woman of the Year	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	Ticket sales should cover expenses
Reserve	\$595.00	\$215.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$37,025.00	\$30,580.00	