

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

Members present: Board – Bonnie Auchincloss, Cyd Averill, Mary Lou Davis, Maria DeWald, Barbara Durniak, Betty Harrel, Barbara Hespenheide, Gwen Higgins, Marcine Humphrey, Monique Jones, Pat Luczai, Margaret Nijhuis, Mary Scalise-Annis and Celia Serotsky. **Non-voting** - Barbara Van Itallie.

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

Secretary, **Margaret Nijhuis** reported that all Conflict of Interests forms have been signed. The board approved the September minutes as corrected and October board minutes as presented.

Also a request was made to respond to Board meeting notice so we will know that a quorum will be present.

President

Monique Jones announced that 5 members had volunteered to serve on the Annual Meeting committee. The committee will meet in a few weeks. Consideration will be made by the committee of the decision by State and National AAUW not to meet in person.

Next was a preview of the November 10, 2021 business meeting. The agenda will include minutes approval, treasurer's report, bylaws approval, nominating committee election and highlighting Leading to Reading's selection for Barnes and Noble's Holiday Book drive November 1 – December 5, 2021. The meeting will be brief since the program follows.

Monique reported that she had made application for the Poughkeepsie Branch to receive the \$100 grant offered by AAUW-NYS for use with Zoom expenses.

From AAUW-NYS, Monique announced that Carole Griffith was elected President-Elect AAUW-NYS. Monique thanked all the delegates that participated.

Monique asked the board to consider a suggestion that we record the board meetings on Zoom to make the taking of minutes easier. Secretary has been a difficult position of late to keep filled and this might be helpful. The recording would be deleted as soon as the minutes are approved. This consideration will be on the agenda for December.

Treasurer

Pat Luczai, gave the Financial Position of the branch as of November 3, 2021. Total Assets are \$68,021.48. For the current fiscal year starting July 1, 2021, Total Revenue is \$5,990.71 and Total Expenses are \$6,204.30. Pat also reported that the taxes for the 2020-2021 fiscal year have been completed and submitted.

Program Vice Presidents

Program VPs **Maria DeWald** and **Marcine Humphrey** reported they were very excited about the November program and encouraged everyone to attend. About 6 attendees registered through the library. The first December presenter had to cancel due to business conflicts. The new program will present The Barns Art Center in Hopewell Junction, NY with speaker Tara Dalbow, Gallery Director and Curator. The January program is also set.

Membership Vice Presidents

Bonnie Auchincloss and **Mary Scalise-Annis** reported for **Sue Doyle** that membership is now 277 with 27 new members and 30 non-renewals. There are 3 more memberships pending. Some reasons given for not rejoining were too busy, did not like Zoom, politics and moving. Others did not answer emails so reasons are not definitely known. The directory is in the process of completion and should be mailed by December. They have booked the Freedom

Plains Presbyterian Church for the Open House in September 2022. The BYOL hours will continue on the third Thursday of the month. They will be contacting new members in January to see how everything is going.

Gwen Higgins made a request for a handout to give prospective members – the DEI committee is especially interested in this for their quest to improve the diversity of our branch. **Marcine Humphrey** also asked for a business card template that could be personalized. There was a great deal of discussion with the result that **Mary Scalise-Annis** will evaluate the rack cards that presently exist, update them and have a supply printed. **Cyd Averill** will supply logos as needed. Cyd will also assist with the business cards.

Development Vice President

Mary Lou Davis, asked the status of the second scholarship for DCC since they would like to know by the end of November. Motion was made and passed to approve a second scholarship of \$600.

The Woman of the Year committee has met and is looking for places. The board felt that prices should be sought for April, May and October. There was a question of making this a fund raiser since none exist at the present time. The Woman of the Year committee will discuss this further and report in December.

Honors & Awards

Margaret Nijhuis gave the report for the committee. She asked the board's approval for AAUW Funds Honorees: Cathy Kinn, Vivian Rose, Judy Longacre, Blanche Bergman, Mary Ann Williams and Catherine Albanese (in Memoriam) and for Celia Serotsky as emerging leader. There will be a Cornerstone Award but in hopes of keeping it a secret we will announce this at a later date. The board approved the selections.

Communications Vice President

Barbara Durniak told the board that the Privacy and Security Committee has requested a photo release form from the Photography committee and it is currently being revised.

Community Service Initiatives Liaison

Sheila Zweifler sent in a report that she will write an article for the December "Branch" updating the activities of Math Buddies, Leading to Reading, and Days for Girls.

Interest Groups Liaison

Linnea Masson sent in a report that to the best of her knowledge there are no Interest Groups meeting in person right now. Several hope to start meeting in person again in the spring. A few (Soleil, Pedal Pushers, Trekkers) will not meet again until the spring. She sent an email asking leaders to urge their members to attend the upcoming general meeting.

This information was corrected by board members present since most of the interest groups are meeting in person with appropriate precautions. Pins and Needle, Bridge I and II, Cuisine (in small groups), Poetry and Plays, Art-on-the-Go, Daytime Literature and Canasta have all met in person.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Gwen Higgins reported the book "Huddle" by Brooke Baldwin will be the next one chosen for discussion. She stressed they have active meetings with discussion – all are encouraged to attend. They pick a topic and have terrific discussions at the end of the meeting. She spoke about diversity in the membership. She still needs members and others to be a part of a mentoring program. The committee is looking into working with incarcerated women.

Public Policy

Celia Serotsky – no report.

Nominating Committee Chair

Betty Harrel reported that some preliminary discussion had taken place. She requested suggestions and expressed the hope they would have some success to report by December.

Newsletter Editor

Cyd Averill asked if she should rerun the article from last year as regards Grace Smith House and the donations we have given for gifts for the mothers that live there. It was agreed that we should continue to support this effort. The board was reminded that the deadline for the December branch is November 10th.

Historian

Barbara Hesperheide asked if any board members have found any information they would like stored on the cloud to let her know. Also print materials for 2020/2021 AAUW year have been archived in the library. We are no longer saving print issues of the newsletter. They are stored on the cloud in digital form.

State & National AAUW Liaison

Barbara Van Itallie repeated that Carole Griffith was elected as AAUW-NYS president-elect. She also reminded us of the Zoom programs listed on the state site and said **Marcine Humphrey** had been faithful about putting Poughkeepsie's program on the list. There will be an AAUW-NYS board meeting in a few weeks, which anyone can attend just ask her to send the link. Our membership vice presidents felt the lack of state dues had been a definite plus in recruiting members this year. Barbara reminded everyone that even though members might move they can remain a National member of AAUW. She also announced that Gloria Blackwell is the new CEO and will be introduced in a program on November 17, 2021.

New Business Crown Heights Club House on Nassau Road might be a possible venue for AAUW programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Nijhuis, Secretary