

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
General Membership Business Meeting
November 11, 2021
By Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Co VP for Programming, Maria DeWald at 7:00 pm.

Margaret Nijhuis, Secretary, acknowledged there was a quorum present.

Margaret explained that the minutes from the previous business meeting which was held on June 10, 2021 were referred to the board, approved at the September board meeting and are on the AAUW Poughkeepsie website under About Us/Leadership/Minutes. She further explained, as stipulated in the bylaws, the minutes of this meeting will also be approved by the board and placed on the website.

Pat Luczai, Treasurer, reported that 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.

Maria DeWald presented the following bylaws changes for consideration:

ARTICLE VIII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. There shall be a nominating committee of 5-7 members, including at least 2 members of the board and at least 2 members from the general membership. ~~...elected at a regularly scheduled branch meeting.~~ **The committee shall be elected at a regularly scheduled branch meeting.**

ARTICLE IX OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 2

F. The treasurer shall be responsible for collecting, distributing, and accounting for the funds of the branch. The treasurer or membership treasurer shall collect dues and properly remit them to national and state by the specified deadline. The treasurer shall send moneys for the ~~Educational Fund and the Legal Advocacy Fund~~ by the specified deadlines and shall keep separate ledgers for each type of account. **...AAUW Funds or other special Funds approved by the board by the specified deadlines and shall keep close accounting of all such actions.**

ARTICLE XIII. COMMITTEES

Section 1.

A. Committees of the corporation shall be Program, Membership, ~~Diversity and Inclusion~~, International Relations, and Public Policy. **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

The bylaws were approved as presented.

Maria called on Betty Harrel the chair of the nominating committee. Betty moved that the Nominating Committee be established with the following members: Pat Luczai, Celia Serotsky and Sheila Zweifler from the board and Donna Fitzgibbons and Ruth Sheets from the general membership. Maria asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, the committee members were approved as presented.

Maria announced that Barnes and Noble has selected our community service initiative, Leading to Reading, for its Holiday Book Drive. From November 1st to December 5th, any books donated by customers will be given to Leading to Reading. So, members were asked to plan their holiday shopping during this time to benefit the children of our community in the coming year and help them experience the joy of reading. Betty Harrel said there was a need for books for children from 0-3 years old. Betty also announced that the first "Little Library" has been placed at Fishkill Plains Elementary School.

Maria asked that members please make note that AAUW National is celebrating its 140th anniversary this month. In honor of this milestone, national is holding a webinar on November 17, 2021, at 4 p.m. At this time, members will have an opportunity to hear from the new Chief Executive Officer of the organization, Gloria L Blackwell. Members should have received an email about this event. They were asked to register and join the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm and was followed by the November program “Leaving Home/Finding Home” in cooperation with the Big Read and their selection “The Best We Could Do” by Thi Bui. The program featured the stories of three local women including our own member and facilitator, **Wendy Maragh Taylor**, who was joined by **Diana Cruz** and **Christine Wang**.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Nijhuis, Secretary