

**AAUW Board Meeting  
December 2, 2021  
Zoom Meeting**

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

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

Secretary, **Margaret Nijhuis** presented for approval the November board minutes and the November business meeting minutes. They were approved as presented. Margaret noted for information that assets and revenue were down and expenses up since the business meeting November 2020.

**President**

Report from the president, **Monique Jones**:

“The annual meeting planning committee which is comprised of **myself, M. Nijhuis, B. Hespenheide, B. Van Itallie, S. Zweifler, J Goffe-McNish, and K. Saderholm**, met on Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. After some discussion, we agreed to move ahead with planning an in-person annual meeting. We discussed the concept of having an escape clause in the venue contract as well as putting protections in place such as 6 person seating per table as opposed to 8. We also discussed the advantages of having entrée table service as opposed to a buffet. In terms of location, we are first going to look into the Poughkeepsie Grand since we have worked well with them in the past and Christos will be a back-up option. We discussed a general theme of “Coming Together after being apart” and the possibility of having two poet speakers. As far as the meeting date, we are looking first at June 9<sup>th</sup> and using June 2<sup>nd</sup> as a back-up. The committee will meet again in January but will share updates via email.

During last month’s meeting, I asked everyone to consider for this month’s Board meeting the idea of recording the Board meetings to assist the secretary with capturing the minutes. Over the past two years, we have experienced difficulty in keeping someone in the position of secretary. While not necessarily the sole reason for this, there was a thought that the minutes may be part of the concern. A suggestion was therefore made that this could help members feel more confident in filling this role. I will editorialize and state that if we want new people to join the Board who are not familiar with each member and who also are not wholly familiar with all the facets of what we do, having something to refer back to could create a level of comfort and increase accuracy.

Additionally, while I believe you are able to record meetings using Zoom, there is the possibility of using a recording device when/if in-person meetings resume next year. Keep in mind the suggestion was also made that the recording be deleted once the minutes are completed. I would take it a step further and suggest that this be done once the minutes are approved at the subsequent Board meeting in the event there is something contested or that requires clarification.”

Motion and passed that board meetings be recorded. The recording for this meeting was started.

**Treasurer**

**Pat Luczai** reported “as of December 1, 2021, Total Current Assets are \$65,616.81. For the current fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, Total Income is \$7,436.67 and Total Expenses are \$12, 118.84.

On August 23rd, the finance committee consisting of **Monique Jones, Mary Lou Davis, Sheila Zweifler and Pat Luczai** met to approve the funding requests from the initiatives. Court Watch, Days for Girls, Expanding Girls Horizons and Scholarship all have sufficient funds to cover anticipated expenses.

Leading to Reading and the Mothers Project both made requests. \$2000 was approved for Leading to Reading. Subsequent to the request, it was determined that the Mothers' Project was concluding, so Kay Bishop was informed that the balance of \$1,137.52 should be used for expenses until it was exhausted and no additional funds would be allocated.

One of our favorite vendors, Prime Print Shop, will be moving from its current address on Main Street, Poughkeepsie to a new location in Red Oaks Mills. The move is planned for January.”

### **Program Vice Presidents**

Program VP **Maria DeWald** reported on the December program. Tara Dalbow of The Barn in Hopewell Junction will discuss the purpose of the museum and give us a virtual tour of the exhibits. **Mary Coiteux** has seen the exhibit and said that the venue and style is both interesting and different. **Marcine Humphrey** reported that the January meeting will be a discussion by Miriam Cohen of her book on Julia Lathrop. She will also discuss how women leaders of the past would be viewed in today’s world. In February we will collaborate with the Dutchess County Pride Center.

A discussion followed on the need we have experienced to upgrade our Zoom account when registration for meetings goes over 100. **Betty Harrel** and **Maria** had both checked with Zoom and found it would be quite expensive to upgrade permanently. They did find out that registration can go over 100 but only 100 can actually sign in to the meeting. Since we have never had over 100 sign in, it was decided not to upgrade unless we noted 10 minutes before the meeting that we were getting more than usual participants. **Maria** will make the call on this instead of so many emails to make the decision.

A committee to find a location for in-person membership program meetings was formed with **Maria DeWald, Mary Lou Davis, Marcine Humphrey** and **Gwen Higgins** on the committee. It was also suggested we might form a permanent committee to find locations for all the events we have as an organization. The program will be on Zoom for March.

### **Membership Vice Presidents**

**Bonnie Auchincloss** and **Mary Scalise-Annis** reported that the membership directories are in the mail – many have been received. They also had 250 rack cards printed and available for distribution. If anyone wants some to hand out in the community send an email to **Mary** or **Bonnie**. The membership booklets will not be printed but the information will be included on the website. The membership committee will work with communications to see what needs to be changed and added.

### **Membership Treasurer**

**Sue Doyle** announced we have 281 members – includes 8 lifetime and 3 dual. There were 36 non-renewals and 26 new members. Membership was congratulated on the work done to get new members, renewals and to bring back members from previous years.

### **Development Vice President**

**Mary Lou Davis** asked the board’s approval to send a letter to the membership requesting funds. The letter is attached below. It was moved and passed to send the note to the membership. There was a great deal of discussion on how the Named Gifts will be handled at state and national. **Mary Lou** will check.

**Mary Lou** also reported on the work of the Woman of the Year Committee. They have checked 8 or 9 places and most do not have dates available. The price has increased (estimated at \$60) so the board felt they should not add to the price in the hope of making it a fundraiser. It was suggested they might consider a weekday evening to make it more affordable.

### **Honors & Awards**

**Margaret Nijhuis** reported that honorees had been notified, asked for brief paragraph and an OK on photograph. The announcement will be in the March newsletter.

### **Communications Vice President**

**Barbara Durniak** reported she is working with membership to include the information from the membership booklet on the website. She felt most was already included. Some parts just need a fuller description.

### **Community Service Initiatives Liaison**

**Sheila Zweifler** sent the information that Extending Girls Horizons will resume their evening and week-end programs in January 2022. **Gwen Higgins** encouraged members to join them for the evening programs.

### **Interest Groups Liaison**

**Linnea Masson** no report

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

**Gwen Higgins** reported that there was no response to the request for mentors for DCC so they were reaching out to other groups. Huddle will start in January and will be shorter than the previous discussion series. It is very appropriate for our organization. More ideas are coming to the committee from webinars. **Gwen** has a very short video on implicit bias and it will be shown at the February program meeting.

### **Public Policy**

**Celia Serotsky** - no report

### **Nominating Committee Chair**

**Betty Harrel** gave the following report:

"The Nominating Committee has selected the slate for the 2022-2024 officers. It includes:

President: **Celia Serotsky**

Communications Vice President: **Barbara Durniak**

Secretary/Bylaws: **Beth DeFiglio**

Treasurer: **Diane Jablonski**

The slate will be presented in a spring issue of *The Branch* and the officers will be voted on and installed at the June Annual Meeting."

### **Newsletter Editor**

**Cyd Averill** - no report- January Branch deadline is December 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Historian**

**Barbara Hespenheide** gave the following report: "**Cyd Averill** recently found some AAUW materials and gave them to me. I will compare them to what we have archived and keep any that are not duplicates. Other board members may have AAUW materials that do not need to be kept with your information about your position. If so, please let me know and I will be glad to add them to our archives if we do not have them already."

### **State & National AAUW Liaison**

**Barbara Van Itallie** - no report

### **New Business**

**Margaret Nijhuis** made the request that all board members be aware that information for their area is on the website and please keep it up to date.

She announced the death of Marion Efron, a member of AAUW who has passed away after moving to NC some years ago.

**Margaret** also announced the death of Dave King who had built websites for Poughkeepsie AAUW over the past 30 years. She asked if the board would like to do anything in his memory. After a great deal of discussion it was decided if the fundraiser produced enough funds we would present a Named Gift to the AAUW Funds in his memory.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Margaret Nijhuis**, Secretary



Dear members of Poughkeepsie AAUW,

The Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW canceled the fundraiser which was being planned for this fall to support our initiatives and scholarships due to the Covid 19 pandemic. As we all think about making donations this holiday season, please consider including a contribution to help support the following initiatives and scholarships. Donations to all funds listed below are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

The Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW community initiatives include **Days for Girls, Leading to Reading, Court Watch** and **Extending Girls Horizons**.

Days for Girls addresses the lack of feminine hygiene products for those who live in developing countries, refugee camps and the USA. Leading to Reading distributes books to children from low and moderate income families. Extending Girls' Horizons offers a variety of stand-alone monthly events on leadership and STEAM to girls in grades 6-12 throughout Dutchess County. Court Watch promotes the equitable and fair treatment of women who are victims of domestic violence.

The branch also funds two **Dutchess Community College scholarships** for women continuing their education and an **Irene Keys Fund** scholarship for the AAUW leadership conference (NCCWSL).

Also consider making a donation to **AAUW National funds**. Until December 31 AAUW will be able to match 1 to 1 any donation you make to any of their funds.

Donations can be sent to:

**Pat Luczai**  
**9 Bridgewater Way**  
**Poughkeepsie, NY 12601**

Make checks payable to: **Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW**

There is a form available from our website where you can indicate exactly where you want your donation to go or you can put it in the memo line of your check.

[https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net/files/2021/10/AAUW\\_General\\_donation\\_form\\_2021.pdf](https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net/files/2021/10/AAUW_General_donation_form_2021.pdf)

Donations can be made by credit card at <https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net>

Donations can be made directly to National at

AAUW

PO Box 98045

Washington, DC 20090-8045

Or online at [www.AAUW.org/contribute](http://www.AAUW.org/contribute)