

AAUW Board Meeting

March 3, 2022

Zoom Meeting

Members present: Board – Bonnie Auchincloss, Maria DeWald, Sue Doyle, Barbara Durniak, Betty Harrel, Barbara Hespenheide, Gwen Higgins, Marcine Humphrey, Monique Jones, Pat Luczai, Margaret Nijhuis, Linnea Masson, Mary Scalise-Annis, Celia Serotsky and Sheila Zweifler. **Non-Voting members:** Mary Coiteux and Barbara Van Itallie

President, **Monique Jones**, called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Secretary, **Margaret Nijhuis** presented for approval the February board minutes. They were approved as presented.

President

Monique Jones, president, reported:

For the purposes of the minutes, we had a vote by email in February on whether to make our membership aware of a housing need of a Day One workshop participant. We have 17 voting members - 16 voted - 8 yes, 8 no and one of the yeses was with reservations. Without the availability of discussion, the proposal was not approved.

AAUW Community Hub was launched. This is a member platform that replaces the Member Services Database. Training is offered on how to use system. There was a session on March 3rd that a few of our members attended and there will be another session on March 31 which should give more detail. **Sue Doyle**, who attended the first session, will let the board know the details. There seem to be many problems but Sue suggested that we give it another month to smooth out. The date of renewal will be the anniversary of the joining date, instead of the end of the fiscal year.

The Five Star Program committee met on February 7, 2022. **Betty Harrel** (we decided on no chair) said they are attempting to find out if the program will be continued after June 2022. If this is not the case, it would not be worth the effort to pursue the designation as a Five Star Branch. They did feel, with the exception of financial contributions, our branch would fulfil the necessary requirements.

AAUW's Zoom subscription was renewed with a 20% discount which brought cost down to about \$120. Renewal date has now shifted to February.

The Virtual Diversity brunch co-sponsored with Rockland County Branch was well attended. Over 60 people logged on to the program and, of that, at least 6 or 7 were our members. Monique sent a follow-up thank you to Suzanne Young-Mercer and let her know we looked forward to future opportunities to work together. The program was enjoyed by the board members that attended. Monique reminded the board that March 15th was Women's Equal Pay Day and March 8th was International Women's Day.

Treasurer

Pat Luczai reported as of March 2, 2022, Total Assets are \$68,611.71.

For the current fiscal year beginning, July 1, 2021, total revenues are \$12,159.75 and total expenses are \$13,946.40

We have had another speaker decline the honorarium. It was suggested the program organizers ask if the speaker would like the honorarium so that funds will not have to be returned.

PayPal has indicated that as of March 21, 2022 they will be implementing changes that could impact us. It appears that the changes will have a minimal impact on our activities and are likely to reduce the fees we pay by approximately 8 cents on a \$100 donation made via PayPal.

The proposed operating budget, which is attached, was provided for review and discussion and was approved unanimously by the Board. The budget will be published in *The Branch* and presented at the Annual meeting to answer any questions from the membership.

There was a great deal of discussion on an increase in local dues. The budget is balanced for 2022-23 so it was decided that it should be discussed in some detail at a later time.

Pat and **Margaret Nijhuis** will work on a revision of the online donation form to be presented next month.

Program Vice Presidents

Program VP **Marcine Humphrey** announced that the speaker, Gary Miller, for the program in March will be outstanding and all should attend. He seemed quite pleased to be asked.

Program VP **Maria DeWald** presented a report from the Program Site Committee. The full report is attached. After discussion it was decided that the Children's Home and the Poughkeepsie Day School be contacted. The programs will continue by Zoom through May so the decision can be made in April.

Membership Vice Presidents

Mary Scalise-Annis and **Bonnie Auchincloss** have been working on putting everything online for membership renewal and new membership applications. See the report below from Communications.

Membership Treasurer

Sue Doyle announced that she had contacted National about the 3 free memberships, or maybe more, we should be getting. She has not gotten a response. If she does not hear soon, she will try other means of communication.

Development Vice President

Mary Lou Davis sent a report that she mailed the invitations for the Woman of the Year luncheon before leaving on her trip. Board members are encouraged to register for the event. As of March 1st, we only have 18 reservations.

Also, **Monique** reported that she received an email from Carol Griffith earlier this week reporting that our 2021 Branch donations to National totaled \$3281.00. The AAUW-NYS Executive Board thanked us for our continued support of the AAUW Mission. She will include something in the upcoming newsletter. Note that there was a delay in seeing donations in the online system. This resulted in us exceeding the \$3000 goal with the supplemental funds provided.

Honors & Awards

Margaret Nijhuis thanked Claudette Hennessey and Bonnie Auchincloss for agreeing to serve as special judges at the Dutchess County Regional Science fair on April 2, 2022. We give a \$50 Barnes and Noble gift certificate to a female participant in the 7th grade and one in the 8th. Since we did not seem to have an official name for the award – the committee and others involved in STEM named it **Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW STEM Award**. Announcement of the Emerging Leader and the 6 honorees for the Named Gifts to the AAUW Funds will be in the April Branch. Certificates will be given to the honorees and an engraved vase to the Cornerstone Award recipient, who will be announced at the annual meeting in June.

Communications Vice President

Barbara Durniak gave a Communications Update: "The membership, database and website teams met on February 21, 2022 to discuss making the membership form interactive. As discussed last month, there are 2 options. We decided there was not enough time before spring renewals to launch the Site Resources dynamic version. For this year, we decided to proceed with the editable membership form option. After downloading the form, members will be able to type in their information, but the form will need to be printed and mailed in (or sent as an email attachment). A sample editable form is included with the board meeting materials.

The above teams will be meeting again to further examine the dynamic form option, with the goal of possibly moving to this format in 2023. The dynamic version, which the Westchester branch has been using for about 7 years, will allow members to fill out and submit the form directly from the website. This form will be placed on our website by AAUW National. We can still offer a pdf version for members who prefer to print and mail in the form.”

Community Service Initiatives Liaison

Sheila Zweifler announced that “Leading to Reading” has been looking for new outlets for their books and recently delivered books to Angels of Light (serving hospitalized children), the DC Probation Department, Clinton Elementary School, and Tabernacle Christian Academy. They received permission to place Little Libraries at a 5th Wappingers Central School District elementary school, at the Astor Pre-School on Sheafe Road, and on Holmes St. near Tabernacle Christian Academy.

Sheila also announced she will be moving to New Jersey and that **Pat Luczai** had agreed to take over Pedal Pushers. Sheila was thanked for all her contributions to AAUW. She will indeed be missed.

Interest Groups Liaison

Linnea Masson reported there were two groups not meeting – Mah Jongg and Aventures in Soleil. Both are making plans to re-open in the next few months. She is investigating starting a Broadway play group to replace the current Movie night.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Gwen Higgins gave an account of what is happening with DEI. She is disappointed that the group has gotten smaller. The mentoring of DCC students has no volunteers so will be discontinued. The book discussion is going well. They will discuss working with incarcerated women, perhaps as pen pals or providing books for children that visit.

Public Policy

Celia Serotsky floated the idea of a possible presentation from the two candidates in the 19th congressional district. It was decided there are really not enough of our members in that district to justify the expenditure of time.

Nominating Committee Chair

Betty Harrel reported that the slate was formed for the officers for 2022-23. The vote will take place at the annual meeting.

Newsletter Editor

Report from **Cyd Averill** was a reminder that deadline for the April newsletter is March 10th.

Cyd has created a template for board member business cards and purchased a pack of Avery business cards so she can print small quantities on her home printer. Any board member wishing to have personalized AAUW Poughkeepsie business cards should contact Cyd. If you will need more than 20 cards, she can send you the template and you can buy the Avery cards and print on your own printer. The cards were showed to the board and greatly appreciated.

Historian

Barbara Hesperheide had no report but did announce to the board that this was her last year as historian and asked that we be thinking of someone to take her place.

State & National AAUW Liaison

Barbara Van Itallie passed on that AAUW-NYS is looking for nominations for President-Elect. She urged members to consider serving on the state board and sharing the talents that are in our branch to help revitalize the state organization.

Old Business

Margaret Nijhuis disclosed that she had received only one note for Gloria Gibbs. It was decided that an email be sent and any notes received be sent directly to Gloria's granddaughter. Gloria's eyesight does not permit her to read and she does not attend events. Her granddaughter was looking for things to stimulate her.

No New Business.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Nijhuis, Secretary

Committee Report - Program Site Status:

- We confirmed that the only possibilities for a potential new site, as confirmed by members of the Committee, were Freedom Plains Presbyterian, United Methodist in Poughkeepsie, Sons of Italy Lodge in Hopewell Junction, Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls, the Boardman Road Library, and St John's Lutheran on Wilbur.
- If all else failed we could possibly go back to the Unitarian Church.
- Specified criteria was: Sites for monthly meetings from October to May on the second Thursday of the month in the evening with the possible exception of January/February (may be on ZOOM/TBD); cancellation penalties; costs and how paid, i.e., \$200 or less per use and how payment is made (on used or annually); and, special occasion use as for the Open House if Membership wanted to include that in the same site.

Status:

- **The Boardman Road Library:** As we thought, they do not accept reservations on an ongoing basis. On a one-time basis, indeed you can reserve but there is always the possibility of being bumped at the last minute. Although it is unlikely being bumped would happen a lot, it just creates uncertainty. They will let us know if there is ever a change in their process. I would say this is off the table.
- **Freedom Plains Presbyterian:** We are going through the final approval process but, at this point I would say we have this reserved pending final approvals. Thursdays are available, the cost is \$100 per meeting (they even said if this was too much they could help a bit) with complete use of the kitchen. Parking, location, facility, and environment are all terrific. This includes us doing the set up and take down of the chairs and probably bringing our own mike. They have screens, tables, chairs, and so forth. I have sent them all dates September through May noting that September is the Open House and Mary Scalise-Annis would speak to them on that (they will probably need more space than we need so it might be more dollars but maybe not). They know that January and February at least may be via ZOOM and they will work with us on that. All in all, this sounds like a great choice.
- **United Methodist in Poughkeepsie:** **Gwen Higgins** sent us the application to fill out which **Marcine Humphrey** did and sent in. In a few weeks at most they will let us know when they are available and the costs. However, we already know that Thursdays are not available so we would have to change our day of the week. Location, parking, facility, environment, and kitchen are also excellent.
- We have not checked on the other sites as these two were the priorities and it seems that we will definitely choose one of them

Maria DeWald and Committee, 3/3/22

Operating Budget

Last Update: 2/27/2022

Approved

Budget

Budget

2021-2022

2022-2023

Notes

Amount

Amount

INCOME

Investments	\$350.00	\$400.00	Projected based on current year
Unrestricted Contrib.	\$700.00	\$1,200.00	Year to Date: Other than newsletter, initiatives or scholarship
Communication Contrib.	\$300.00	\$70.00	Based on history
Dues	\$22,230.00	\$25,650.00	Assumes membership of 285
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	\$30,580.00	\$34,320.00	TOTAL INCOME EQUAL TO TOTAL EXPENSES

\$5,910.00

\$6,230.00

Working income (\$16 dues per member, contributions, interest)

EXPENSES

\$5,910.00

\$6,230.00

Operating expenses (w/o dues, annual mtg or WOTY)

Administration	\$450.00	\$450.00	Zoom=120, Cloud=20, Domain+Security+Hosting=111 +Other
Awards/Gifts	\$15.00	\$200.00	Science Fair gift cards, certificates, printing
Caring Comm.	\$20.00	\$10.00	Based on history
Convention	\$325.00	\$325.00	Expenses for President; ad in program
Dues	\$17,670.00	\$21,090.00	Payment of National & State Dues
Equipment	\$35.00	\$0.00	No purchases planned
Historian	\$20.00	\$20.00	Printing, storage
Insurance	\$1,000.00	\$900.00	Based on history

Membership Activities:

Dues Collection	\$500.00	\$50.00	Moving to a primarily on-line renewal process
Directory	\$1,125.00	\$1,400.00	Higher printing costs
Open House	\$475.00	\$565.00	Rack cards=\$90.00, Venue, decor, food, name tags = \$475
New Member Reception	\$0.00		Remove from budget
Monthly Meetings	\$1,550.00	\$1,550.00	See Program assumptions, below *
Newsletter	\$180.00	\$230.00	Print(\$14) + mail (\$9) 10 x/yr to 14 subscribers
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	\$215.00	\$530.00	Reserve
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$30,580.00	\$34,320.00	TOTAL INCOME EQUAL TO TOTAL EXPENSES

*** Program assumptions:**

- Venue: \$100 x 8 = \$800 (may be six if Jan. & Feb. Zoom)
- Honoraria, October - May: 10 x \$50
- Snacks, Coffee: \$100
- Misc. and contingency for special speaker: \$150