

## AAUW Board Meeting

April 7, 2022

### Zoom Meeting

**Members present: Board** – Bonnie Auchincloss, Mary Lou Davis, Maria DeWald, Barbara Durniak, Betty Harrel, Barbara Hespenheide, Marcine Humphrey, Monique Jones, Pat Luczai, Linnea Masson, Margaret Nijhuis, and Celia Serotsky.

**Non-Voting members:** Mary Coiteux and Beth DeFiglio.

President, **Monique Jones**, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

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

#### President

**Monique Jones**, president, reported:

“First I would like to acknowledge the historic Senate confirmation of Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Annual Meeting update – the committee met on Thursday, 3/31. We’re proceeding with the in-person event based on the response to Woman of the Year. Registration information will go into the May newsletter with a 5/27 registration deadline. Will be in touch with certain board members for contributions to annual meeting presentation (i.e. photos)

Annual Reports due by May 15th. For those of you who have not done this before, this is just an overview of what you did this year to fulfill the goals of your board position. You can look at past reports on our website. Please submit reports to **Margaret and Monique**.

June 2<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting? Will have had 8 meetings after May session. On a personal note, this will be a very busy time for me. If we decide to hold the meeting, I would just ask that one of the Program V.P.'s preside over it. We will likely have to correspond, however, about final annual meeting preparations. (Note while several board members were in favor of not holding the June 2nd Board meeting, a final decision will be made next month.) “

#### Treasurer

**Pat Luczai** reported as of April 7th, Total Assets are \$69,050.62. For the current fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, Total Revenue is \$14,170.91 and Total Expenditures are \$15,552.96.

Pat presented the new donation form and explained the reasons for the changes. The main focus was to encourage members to give funds that can be used for the most needed purposes. The form will be placed on the website.

#### Program Vice Presidents

Program VP **Marcine Humphrey** encouraged all members to attend the programs for April and May. In April the program will highlight City of Poughkeepsie Development. May will feature the film “Rebel Hearts” introduced by **Cathy Kinn**.

Program VP **Maria DeWald** presented the two best options for a location for AAUW program meetings:

#### New Site Options Beginning in October 2022

##### General:

- Use of the facility on the **second Thursday of the month** for 6 months (October 14, November 10, December 8, March 9, April 13, and May 11 at the usual 7:00-8:30 time). It is assumed January-February will be via ZOOM.
- Approximately 50-70 people
- Set up/break down of chairs and tables by AAUW as always
- AV as listed below

- Open House negotiated by Membership (They have chosen Freedom Plains)
- Both options have plenty of parking, well-lit walkways and parking areas and both are on main roads.
- One is a little more accessible than the other, one is newer than the other, one is slightly less \$ than the other.

**Option I: Freedom Plains Presbyterian**

- \$100 fee/month for half the space (80 person MAX). However, if it is not being used, we can have the whole room.
- Use of kitchen
- In weather related cancellation, probably no charge.
- AV: Large pull-down screen/podium/ “finicky” microphone

**Option II: Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church**

- \$110/month paid ahead of time in one lump sum (\$660)/Marcine checking re cancellations
- No use of kitchen per se but we can fill up our coffee pots, etc.
- AV: No pull down screen/they do have a podium and microphone

After some discussion it was moved and passed that the Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church be the location of our membership meetings.

**Membership Vice Presidents**

**Bonnie Auchincloss** reported for membership that the Open House is scheduled, with signed contract, for Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church.

Around April 15, the dues notices will be sent to members for renewal all by email except for the few members that do not have email. **Monique Jones** will provide a brief note to the membership to be included. The board was asked to help test the new membership form by renewing early.

It was moved and passed that the fee to use PayPal would be increased to \$2.50 so that costs would be covered.

**Development Vice President**

**Mary Lou Davis** reported that the committee had met with Woman of the Year 2022, **Jody Miller**, for lunch and it was very enjoyable. 71 people will attend the luncheon, 1 for dessert and several others that were too late in making reservations are coming just for the program. \$205 was given in donations.

**Honors & Awards**

**Margaret Nijhuis** thanked **Claudette Hennessey**, **Bonnie Auchincloss** and **Kay Saderholm** for serving as special judges at the Dutchess County Regional Science fair on April 2, 2022. The **Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW STEM Award** was given to a 7th grade student. No 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls participated. We have one Barnes & Noble gift certificate to use next year.

**Communications Vice President**

**Barbara Durniak** asked **Bonnie Auchincloss** to discuss the photo release form. Bonnie explained that the form was just for children. We will no longer use one for adults. Leading to Reading and Girls Conference (when it resumes) will need to be mindful of children in photographs. Extending Girls Horizon works through the Girls Scouts for their photo releases. Math Buddies only photographs the children from their back. Forms will be forwarded to Secretary for safe keeping. Bonnie, representing the Photography committee, explained the changes.

Motion was made and passed to amend the Working Rules to include the updated Photography Coordinator’s job description. Motion was made and passed to add to the secretary’s job description that the photo release forms be kept with other such forms.

### **Community Service Initiatives Liaison**

**Sheila Zweifler** sent this report: "Leading to Reading got 2 separate grants recently. 4Imprint.com, where they buy their string bags, gave them a \$500 donation to purchase the bags. 4Imprint.com's foundation arm is One by One, and LTR got the grant to distribute the bags this summer. They also got a grant from Stewart's Shops Holiday Match for \$1,000. Customers donate money in November and December and the company matches it and gives out community grants. This money will be used to purchase additional books, especially multi-ethnic and pre-school ones."

### **Interest Groups Liaison**

**Linnea Masson** reported that some groups were still meeting by Zoom. Mah Jongg and Adventures in Soleil are both scheduled to restart in the spring. These groups will be meeting in-person. The Movie Group will discontinue as they find the selection of films in the theater of little interest.

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

**Gwen Higgins** sent a report of the AAUW DEI Committee Meeting held on March 31, 2022. Committee reports included a renewed commitment to the DAY ONE initiative. DEI committee members have put together a program which gives graduates training in resume writing and interview skills. Any members who are interested in participating in this program should talk to **Betty Harrel** or **Celia Serotsky**. The discussion group of the "Huddle" book will resume on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Even if you have not read the book, the lessons presented make for great conversation as they emphasize the power of women collaborating.

The group discussed sponsoring and organizing a new activity: "Diversity Day." It is a further attempt to encourage discussions of current issues, foster cultural appreciation, respect diversity and embrace a sense of inclusion. We will keep the Board informed as the ideas and structures form.

We encourage members to observe the newly formed library at the Family Partnership Center. Committee members will be finding out how we can help. It is a new branch of Adriance Library. The Poughkeepsie Oaxaca program is renewed and there will be a celebration and art exhibit in late spring. A new initiative in the Spackenkill School District, called "It Takes a Village" celebrates the ethnicities in the community and raises awareness of various heritages each month. This program is strictly for children. April 7 is a CLS debate on Critical Race Theory. April 20<sup>th</sup> is the monthly Race Unity Circle discussion and April 22<sup>nd</sup> is the next CTUAN webinar.

### **Public Policy**

**Celia Serotsky** asked **Betty Harrel** to report on the program which gives graduates of the DAY ONE program training in resume writing and interview skills. They have developed a program for teaching these skills and are ready to go when they get the word from DAY ONE.

### **Nominating Committee Chair**

**Betty Harrel** will give the report from the nominating committee at the annual meeting.

### **Newsletter Editor**

Report from **Cyd Averill** was a reminder that the deadline for the May newsletter is April 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Historian**

**Barbara Hespenheide** reported "More documents have been archived at the local history room of Adriance Library including our citation from the Dutchess County Legislature for our 90th anniversary in 2015. As requested in the historian's job description, the annual review of which documents are kept in print and which are stored on the cloud has been completed with the assistance of **Margaret Nijhuis**. Also an article has been submitted for the May 2022 Branch about recent history ... our year's activities in 2007. (This, of course, is 15 years ago, though that is very hard to believe!)

### **Old Business**

**Margaret Nijhuis** read a note from Gloria Ntegeye the granddaughter of Gloria May Gibbs. The note is below.

### **New Business**

**Margaret Nijhuis** read a note from Daniel Clark of Prime Printing in which he donated the printing of the programs for our Woman of the Year luncheon. She asked that the members of the board note his support of AAUW and try to have materials printed by his company. **Betty Harrel** mentioned contributions he had made to Leading to Reading and **Pat Luczai** emphasized that we have an account and all work can be charged and the bill sent directly to her.

**Celia Serotsky** discussed filling the board and off-board positions. She has made good progress but still has Historian, Public Policy and Assistant Newsletter Editor. She asked for suggestions from the board. Monique will make an announcement at the April 14 membership program.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Margaret Nijhuis**, Secretary

From Gloria Ntegeye, granddaughter of Gloria Gibbs March 26, 2022

Dear Margaret,

I don't know if it is possible to find words to convey even a measure of our gratitude to you for your generosity of time, kindness and friendship to our beloved grandmother. Thank you. I believe it may have been the pictures you shared yesterday (which I did manage to have printed) that shocked her into complete understanding that she is still known, and still has friends and community. She was delighted to see Marie Tarver and Loraine Roberts. At her request, I've added all four photos to her digital frame. Seeing them gave her such a boost - she was completely amazed and thrilled by the email you sent out at the beginning of the month to the AAUW branch membership, with her picture and the lovely note. She read (on my phone!) every single message from so many wonderful ladies with her own eyes, as she became impatient with being read to. She re-read with new eyes and newer, fuller appreciation, the messages I'd shown her on my last visit, from Carol and Cathy - she was so tickled by the pictures of Cathy's grandchildren, especially the twins, who she remembers as babies. Gma was so moved to know that the friends she loves but has not seen in such a long while still love her, and took their time to send her such thoughtful, warm wishes. The quote, if I remember well, is "That is so nice, just wonderful. It feels so good." She shed tears of joy, and could not stop smiling - she has a truly beautiful smile. I regret not taking notes, as she had a reaction to each message, and I cannot be sure now which recollection is attached to which lady. But what's important is that each message made her so happy. I've since assembled the attached, which I plan to laminate or otherwise preserve as a reference she can reach for whenever she wishes, so she always remembers that she has the love of her sisters to hold her up. Which we all need.

Margaret (I don't know if Gma ever mentioned that you have the same name as her mother and her second daughter, my mother) - I hope your life is full of nothing but the kindness you have demonstrated to our Gma, and our family.

Stay well warmest regards, g

Just like moons and like suns,  
With the certainty of tides,  
Just like hopes springing high,  
Still I'll rise.

-Maya Angelou