

AAUW Board Meeting

May 5, 2022

Zoom Meeting

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

Maria DeWald asked for a minute of privilege to present a wedding gift to our President, Monique Jones from the board. She will be married in June and we all wish her the very best.

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

Secretary, **Margaret Nijhuis** presented for approval the April minutes. They were approved as submitted.

President

Monique Jones, president, reported that she and Celia Serotsky had met with Planned Parenthood Community Health Promoter, Isis Benitez. She advocates for people of color finding essentials and services they need. They shared the purposes of the two organizations. They plan to stay connected and Isis expressed interest in presenting at a program in the near future.

Monique reminded the board the annual reports are due on May 15th and that the AAUW national vote is online and closes on May 16th.

It was moved and passed not to hold a board meeting in June with the note that the board members involved in the annual meeting would need to meet concerning last minute details for that event.

Treasurer

Pat Luczai reported as of May 4, 2022, total assets are \$70,323.63. For the current fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2021, total revenue is \$18,359.80 and total expenditures are \$18,470.27.

The finance committee met to discuss the disposition of the \$20,000 CD which was maturing before month's end. It was decided to allow the full amount of \$21,523.61 to roll over for another 24-month term at a rate of 1.75%, beginning April 27th.

AAUW is being offered a Directors & Officers Liability Insurance policy effective July 1, 2022 at a discounted rate of \$346.80 for \$500,000. **Pat** recommended that we purchase this policy and pursue acquiring a separate general liability policy for an additional \$500,000 that would ensure we could provide a certificate of insurance for vendors providing space for in-person meetings for the coming year. It was moved and passed that the Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance be purchased at an annual rate of \$346.80. **Pat** will research the additional policy and the board will be further notified.

The Woman of the Year event netted a profit of \$1,329.99

Program Vice Presidents

Program VP **Marcine Humphrey** reported that May will feature the film "Rebel Hearts" introduced by **Cathy Kinn**. A program planning meeting is scheduled for May 26. They have some suggestions but are looking forward to many new ideas.

Maria DeWald confirmed that Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church will be the location of our membership meetings. A contract has not been received but no problems are anticipated.

Membership Vice Presidents

Mary Scalise-Annis and **Bonnie Auchincloss** reported that the renewal process had been launched and some renewals have arrived. Recruitment of new members is ongoing. Memorials for Peggy Lombardi and Marion Efron are planned for the Annual Meeting and a request was made for information on AAUW activities in which they participated. Open House will be September 8. The location is set at Freedom Plains Church.

Monique Jones thanked everyone involved in the updated renewal process and **Barbara Durniak** thanked **Monique** for making this changeover as easy as possible.

Development Vice President

Mary Lou Davis reported that the Woman of the Year event went well with 71 attendees. The honoree and her family were very pleased. The large profit was unexpected. A fundraiser is being discussed for the fall, details will follow.

Honors & Awards

Margaret Nijhuis announced to the board that the Cornerstone Award will go to **Diane Jablonski**. The awards for the Annual Meeting are all set. Certificates for the honorees have been made. Programs will be printed for the event. Longevity awards will be presented on the computer instead of in print.

Marcine Humphrey gave the following report:

“The Irene Keyes Memorial Scholarship Committee is sponsoring two young women to attend the Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Program. HOBY is an international organization dedicated to the recognition and development of leadership. The program is funded by a school registration fee and an ambassador scholarship fee. The 3 day seminar focuses on civic responsibility. Students will collect food, build little food pantries, plant edible greenery and participate in other themed activities. We will provide a scholarship to a female Beacon High School and a female Highland High School student.

Since NCCWSL is virtual again this year, the committee searched for local in-person leadership programs for girls and young women. The committee has a few new members and will continue to support programs that develop new women leaders with the Irene Keyes Memorial Scholarship funds.

Committee Members: Maureen Tremblay, Betty Harrel, Miriam Cohen, Mary Coiteux, Patricia Luczai, Jocelynn Banfield”, Mary Lou Davis

Since this was a departure from the traditional support of NCCWSL, the motion was made and passed to give two \$200 scholarships to this summer program from the Keyes Scholarship Fund.

Communications Vice President

Barbara Durniak reported that the sound equipment has been passed on to **Marcine Humphrey** for housing.

Community Service Initiatives Liaison

Sheila Zweifler thanked Barbara Van Itallie for her annual report. The initiatives have not been as active this year but are anticipating renewed activity.

Interest Groups Liaison

Linnea Masson reported that Soleil has returned to an in-person trip this month, Cuisine also will have a restaurant outing this month. The Movie Group will disband, at least for the present. Trekkers and Pedal Pushers have both resumed. Pins and Needles met in April and May for in-person gatherings. Art-on-the-Go is also back.

Margaret Nijhuis shared the fillable PDF Hold Harmless form. **Linnea Masson** will coordinate the collection of the forms and make a spreadsheet available to the necessary group leaders of the names and contact information that she has. An instruction will be added to the form to return them to the Interest Group Liaison.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Gwen Higgins reported that there was no meeting in April. The program for incarcerated women is still being investigated. They hope to hold an event next year that deals with DEI. They have hopes of organizing a walk through Poughkeepsie to point out all the changes. Gwen introduced to the board a program she is spearheading in Spackenkill called "It takes a Village."

Public Policy - Celia Serotsky no report

Nominating Committee Chair - Betty Harrel no report

Newsletter Editor

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

Historian

Barbara Hesperheide is looking forward to working with Marge Barton as she takes over as historian.

State/National Liaison

Barbara Van Itallie reported there will be a virtual AAUW-NYS Conference June 24-25. There will be a need for delegates and **Monique** will seek members to serve as delegates. Details on the conference will follow.

No Old Business

New Business

Celia Serotsky shared the duties of the Public Relations Chair as stated in the Working Rules:

The Public Relations Chair is responsible for promoting branch programs and events in the community.

Overall responsibilities:

- ♣ Become familiar with branch programs, initiatives, and events in order to write about them
- ♣ Compile a list of community media contacts and maintain contact with them
- ♣ Work with Board members to write press releases about upcoming events; create visual references; send to media and follow up
- ♣ Cultivate relationships with local organizations for the purpose of sharing information and collaboration
- ♣ Write articles for the newsletter
- ♣ Write articles for local print and online media
- ♣ Prepare annual report and give to the president in June

Other duties for all board members follow...

At **Celia's** request the motion was made and passed to update the Working Rules to make Public Relations Chair an appointed board position instead of off-board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Nijhuis, Secretary