

AAUW Board Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2022
Zoom Meeting

Members present: Board – Bonnie Auchincloss, Marge Barton, Mary Ann Boylan, Mary Lou Davis, Beth DeFiglio, Maria DeWald, Barbara Durniak, Betty Harrel, Gwendolyn Higgins, Marcine Humphrey, Diane Jablonski, Monique Jones Kusmuk, Pat Luczai, Linnea Masson, Margaret Nijhuis, Celia Serotsky.

President **Celia Serotsky** called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Secretary **Beth DeFiglio** had distributed the minutes. The Board approved them as distributed.

Beth thanked members for their written reports, but asked that they be sent by the Tuesday before a Board meeting to avoid multiple e-mails and to give members time to read the reports in advance.

President's Report

Celia Serotsky noted that November's membership meeting would be a business meeting to approve the Nominating Committee. She reminded members of the PowHer Equity Conference on October 13, which she plans to attend.

Celia has received a request to restart the International Committee. It used to be combined with DEI, but members were still in favor of keeping them separate. The Board concluded that there is definite interest in International events, but a full committee may not be feasible yet. Perhaps members could be found who would have interest in publicizing three important events: International Women's Day, Concurrent Sessions of the UN, and CTAUN (Committee Teaching About UN). The Committee is mentioned in the By-laws, and the job description of the chair in the Working Rules. Celia will look into this and report back to the Board.

A request from the Days for Girls Service Initiative to list the Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW as Distribution partner to allow them to apply for free, sponsored items from This is L, Inc. was discussed. There were many questions. As suggested by **Betty Harrel**, this item was referred to the Executive Committee to allow research into the Board's questions, and to provide an answer to Sabashnee Govender and Judy Longacre before the next Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Diane Jablonski reported that we are over budget for insurance, equipment (external hard drive), and DB expenses, but the overall position is still good.

Diane's submitted report:

Please note that the funds received for the fundraising event in November are only reflected in the Budget vs Actuals report and not in the Activity Report and the Financial Statement since I received the checks after September 30th. Also, the payment to Freedom Plains for the Open House is not reflected in the reports.

As a reminder, I need a reimbursement authorization for any money you spend. Please provide that to me along with a receipt or the contract for whatever payment you are requesting.

Program

Program VP **Marcine Humphrey** reported that the following programs are planned:

October (in-person) – Scenic Hudson

November (in-person) – Future of Sexual Reproduction and Health

Membership

Membership VP **Bonnie Auchincloss** reported that the Open House was a success with over 70 attendees. She and Mary would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped to make it a success.

As of July 19, there were 78 non-renewals, but after emails, reminder letters and phone calls, 18 of them renewed.

September 30th is normally the deadline for membership renewals, with the list purged in mid-October. Then leaders are informed so distribution lists can be updated. National has now extended their deadline for purging non-renewals until November 30. The Board preferred to keep the normal Sept 30 deadline, but Bonnie will discuss with Mary before making a final decision.

Data base report from **Claudette Hennessy**: The production database is now up and running, and has been brought up to date with Sue Doyle's spreadsheet. The test database is still not operational, but support will work on it. She and **Darlene Yerdon** will meet to ensure that Darlene can take over from Claudette when she is away the end of October and beginning of November. They will produce a trial copy of the directory before she leaves October 24 to ensure no hiccups.

Membership Treasurer

Celia Serotsky reported for **Sue Doyle** that, as of October 1, there were 233 paid memberships, and 11 were new.

Development Vice President

Mary Lou Davis reported that there were 28 paid reservations for the fundraiser on November 5. Thirty are needed for the contract. She thanked **Marcine Humphrey** for doing the flowers, and **Margaret Nijhuis** for the great flyer.

Honors & Awards

Margaret Nijhuis stated that the selection committee will meet on October 31, and asked that any suggestions be sent to her before then. They will work on a new name for the Funds Awards at that meeting.

Communications VP

Barbara Durniak discussed her submitted report:

1. In response to Amazon’s discontinuation of their Cloud service, **Margaret Nijhuis** has transferred all files and photos from our Amazon Cloud account to the external hard drive the Branch purchased last month. The drive will provide temporary storage until another cloud solution is found. Options are being explored.
2. Barbara worked with Claudette to transfer our old website domain name (aauwpoughkeepsie.org) from Namecheap (where it had been archived in July, 2021) so it can be reused as the domain name for the Membership Database. Barbara is investigating whether the contract for the Namecheap license must be kept for the whole 3 years (18 months left).
3. As a security measure, the Branch uses generic gmail accounts (listed below) on its website. The generic accounts are used for situations where non-members need to communicate with us. They are configured so that any messages sent to the generic accounts would also appear in that officer’s personal account.

Google has recently ramped up security measures, and now a “recovery code” is required when first logging into an account, which is currently being sent to Margaret’s cell phone.

Margaret Nijhuis and **Barbara Durniak** proposed that the monitor’s or officer’s cell numbers be on file as the recovery number for their accounts.

Some things to consider:

- When new officers are installed, the numbers will need to be changed
- For positions that have co-chairs, one person will need to be designated as the contact

Account	User/Monitor	Other Purposes
president.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com	C. Serotsky	
board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com	K. Saderholm	
Program.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com	M. DeWald	

initiative.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com	MA Boylan	
Interest.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com	MA Boylan	
membership.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com	M. Scalise-Annis	
communications.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com	B Durniak	Logging into Namecheap

Account	User/Monitor	Purpose
editor.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com	D. Yerdon	Logging into Amazon Cloud
event.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com	M. Nijhuis	Logging into Zoom account
court.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com	Not used	

The Board approved this proposal. Barbara will reach out to all the users/monitors to get their numbers and agreement.

Community Service Initiatives Liaison

Mary Ann Boylan gathered the following reports:

Stem – Barbara Van Itallie

Math Buddies is modeled after Literacy Connections' Book Buddies program, which has a new coordinator, and is in charge of background checks and orientation for all Buddies. A new Buddy, Kathy Smith, makes a total of three.

Court Watch – Ann Pinna

Court Watch Team: Mary Lou Davis, Mara Goldstone, Liz Graham, Sandy Lash, Debbie Lee, Flo Mondanaro, Merrilee Osterhoudt, Ann Pinna.

Five people are actively monitoring, and Merrilee Osterhoudt enters data.

After two years of limited participation, Court Watch is again monitoring. Changes now require members to inform the Court Clerk the date, time and judge they wish to see. Some cases are in the Courtroom with the judge, others are conducted virtually in a special viewing room inside Family Court.

Extending Girls Horizons – Peggy Kelland

Extending Girls' Horizons is up and running again. Two sessions of Girl Scouts signed up for "Maps and Compasses" at Bowdoin Park with Dave Beck: September 27 and October 4 (rescheduled for October 26). A planning meeting is scheduled next week. Troops have expressed interest in Game Night, Woodworking, Animal Helpers, New Cuisines, Special Agent, and A-Maze. AAUW members are needed to help with all of these - many skills and talents needed!

Questions were raised about Day One: who is the contact person, what is the Branch's relationship, should it be publicized to the general membership. Celia and Betty explained the relationship that Poughkeepsie AAUW has with Day One, and that it originated with the DEI committee. Further actions and clarifications were referred back to DEI.

Interest Groups Liaison

Linnea Masson feels that the groups are doing well, in general. Participation in various book groups is down. Movie Groups has not been functioning because of Covid, but people expressed interest at the Open House.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Gwen Higgins, while pleased with DEI's successes, also feels dissatisfied with DEI's effect on the whole organization. Less than a dozen members have attended meetings. Rather than have monthly meetings, she would like to have a small planning committee. She wants to make DEI one of our core values, and the committee could find ways to make it part of what we do. She asked that members e-mail ideas and suggestions to her, and also to look at the DEI toolkit on National's website. A link to the toolkit could be added to our DEI webpage.

Public Relations

Betty Harrel has sent articles to both Southern and Northern Dutchess News, but is not sure whether they were published. She has also tried to contact Vassar and Marist. There are opportunities for tabling events, but a kit should be stocked and ready to go since there's typically little notice. The AAUW banner should also be found. Betty suggested that we might want to join the Women's Professional Network, with which some members have had positive experiences. She will investigate and bring it back to the Board.

Public Policy – Patricia DeLeo

Celia Serotsky told the Board that Patricia DeLeo wants to inform members about the election candidates by generating a questionnaire and then providing the answers to members. She did this for the office of Governor (published in the Branch), and will continue for other offices.

Nominating Committee

Pat Luczai reported that the following committee has been formed and will be presented to the membership for approval at the November business meeting:

Pat Luczai, chair

Members-At-Large: Blanche Bergman, Mary Ann Williams

Board members: Mary Lou Davis, Maria DeWald

Newsletter Editor - Cyd Averill

The deadline for the November newsletter is October 10.

Historian

Marge Barton explained that the previous Historian archived minutes after every three meetings. Marge will go to Adriance to archive approved minutes and papers from the President after the November Board meeting.

State/National Liaison

Celia Serotsky gave **Barbara Van Itallie's** report that the State president is trying to have quarterly meetings with all Branch presidents.

No Old Business

No New Business

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth DeFiglio, Secretary