

AAUW Board Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2022
Zoom Meeting

Members present: Board – Cyd Averill, Marge Barton, Mary Ann Boylan, Mary Lou Davis, Beth DeFiglio, Maria DeWald, Sue Doyle, Betty Harrel, Marcine Humphrey, Diane Jablonski, Margaret Nijhuis, Mary Scalise-Annis, Celia Serotsky.

Non-Voting members: Barbara Van Itallie

President **Celia Serotsky** called the meeting to order at 7:00.

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

President's Report

Celia Serotsky gave the following report:

- The Executive Committee met and approved (via e-mail) the request that AAUW Poughkeepsie be listed as a Distribution partner for This is L, Inc to allow Days for Girls to apply for free items. Celia stressed that this is a temporary solution.
- Celia reminded the Board of the Nov. 5th Fundraising event at Beekman Arms.
- Celia attended the PowHer Equity Summit on October 13 and will report on it through the Branch.
- There are no other business items other than approval of the Nominating Committee at the November 10 Business meeting (other than the standard ones like minutes, Treasurer report, etc.)
- The Erick Hawkins Dance Company will be performing November 19 at 7:30 PM at the Old Dutch Church, Kingston if anyone wants to see them before the May Program meeting.
- Communications sent to **Margaret Nijhuis, Cyd Averill, and Mary Coiteux** for e-blasts, the Newsletter, and FaceBook, respectively, should be publication ready and not drafts which need a lot of editing.

Sue Doyle noted that gifts and/or donations for the Grace Smith House can be brought to the December program meeting or checks can be sent, and details will be in the program flyer and the Branch.

Treasurer's Report

Diane Jablonski discussed her report and noted that on the Class Activity report the information under Tea is really for the development program at the Beekman Arms. Also, not all receipts are accounted for nor have the expenses been put in for the luncheon.

A question arose about funds in the Mothers Project, which is not functional. Allocation of these funds will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Program

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

November (in-person) - Planned Parenthood

December (in-person) - Storytelling

January (Zoom) – Financial Literacy

Program VP **Maria DeWald** gave additional information about Katherine Duke, who is part of the Erik Hawkins Dance Company, and whom they would like to schedule for the May program.

Marcine also reported on the Irene Keyes Fund. Since the national conference was virtual last year, the Fund sent two students to the in-person Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference. Applications for The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in spring of 2023 will start in January.

Membership

Membership VP **Mary Scalise-Annis** reported that the committee is gathering information for the Membership Directory, which members should receive by December 1. Prime Printing will be used and the committee will stuff envelopes themselves. Interest group leaders will be notified which members have not renewed, so those names can be removed from distribution lists.

Membership Treasurer

Sue Doyle noted that there are 243 total members, which includes 16 new members.

Development Vice President

Mary Lou Davis reported that 55 people registered for the fundraiser at Beekman Arms on November 5. Tickets will be sold for a raffle basket donated by Joan Monk, containing \$250 worth of books. The Board decided to pull the winning ticket at the December program meeting, after selling additional tickets at both the November and December meetings. Mary Lou thanked everyone for all the help.

Honors & Awards - Margaret Nijhuis

Barbara Van Itallie reported that the committee proposed the following changes to the Working Rules on page 8, under *Considerations for these awards*:

Current Wording:

Named Gifts

Each gift of \$500 or more to an AAUW fund(s), to be determined annually by the Board, may be named for persons who have provided distinguished service to the branch. They may be designated in honor or memory of the person. Selection shall be made by the Honors and Awards Committee and approved by the Board. The list of named gifts shall be submitted to AAUW-NYS in February.

New Wording:

Poughkeepsie AAUW Honorees

Gifts to the AAUW fund(s), to be determined annually by the Board, will be given in honor of persons who have provided distinguished service to the branch. The awards may be designated in honor or in memory of the person. Selection shall be made by the Honors and Awards Committee and approved by the Board. The list of honorees shall be submitted to AAUW-NYS in February.

Maria DeWald moved to accept the changes to the Working Rules proposed by the Committee.

There was discussion about how much funding the Branch is responsible for and the source of the funding. Barbara and **Cyd Averill** explained that the awards originated from a National program that no longer exists, and that the Committee was only trying to 1) disconnect the amount sent to National from the number of people honored, and 2) disconnect from a specific timeline.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Proposed Awards:

The committee decided to present the Cornerstone Award this year. The name will be put forth in the spring to help keep it a surprise for the recipient.

Emerging Leader – Darlene Yerdon (work with new database)

Poughkeepsie AAUW Honorees

JoAnne Abraskin (leader of 2 interest groups)

Susan Doyle (master the new AAUW national data base)

Betty Harrel (ongoing leader of Leading to Reading)

Claudette Hennessy (programming of new database)

Gwen Higgins (organizer and leader of DEI)

Marti Madory (work with International and Diversity Committee and continued work for the needs of many of our AAUW projects)

“Our branch is very active and our members very involved so this decision was difficult with a long list of worthy nominations to choose from.”

Marcine Humphrey moved to approve the list of proposed awards, which carried unanimously.

Communications VP

Celia Serotsky mentioned the report from **Barbara Durniak**:

Zoom is making some changes that will take effect on Nov. 5th. Please make sure that the Zoom program/app you use to join meetings is up-to-date. See the article in the Nov. Branch for details and instructions.

Community Service Initiatives Liaison

Mary Ann Boylan discussed her submitted report:

Court Watch Chair **Ann Pinna** attended the Family Services Walk for Domestic Violence held last Saturday at the Galleria and made a contribution on behalf of our team. A Court Watch update is in the November Branch.

Extending Girls Horizons – The September 27 event for Girl Scouts at Bowdoin Park to learn about maps and compasses was enthusiastically received. The next event is International Games on Friday, November 18, at Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls. **Gwen Higgins and Peggy Kelland** will be leading games.

Leading to Reading received a \$3,000 grant from the Nora Roberts Foundation. They have delivered books and book kits recently to the Harriet Tubman Academic Skills Center, AgriBusiness Child Development Center in New Paltz, Holy Light Pentecostal Church, and the Arlington High School reading program.

No reports from STEM or Days for Girls.

Interest Groups Liaison

Linnea Masson said the October Soleil Driving trip was very successful. She is working with Trekkers and the movie group.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Gwen Higgins – No report

Public Relations

Betty Harrel reported that people are putting together a tabling kit for both Leading to Reading and AAUW. The banner was found! **Maria DeWald** will send information to Betty about a weekly radio show.

Public Policy – Patricia DeLeo

Submitted report: Reminder! Early voting is open with Election Day being Tuesday, November 8.

3 articles on the candidates have been distributed. The first, Hochul and Zeldin was in the newsletter and 2 email blasts were sent out on the Hinchey /Serino and Shiroishi/Rolison races. Kingston AAUW is going to send out the articles as well.

The Board recognized how valuable Patty’s articles have been, and recognized how much work has gone into them.

Nominating Committee Chair - Pat Luczai – No report

Newsletter Editor

Cyd Averill noted that articles do not need to have fancy formatting, although single space is helpful. Articles can be any length, even a sentence; but as a guide, most articles are 500 words or less, which is a column.

Historian

Marge Barton and **Celia Serotsky** will go to Adriance Library to archive minutes and material which Celia has.

State/National Liaison

Barbara Van Itallie stated that a State Directory has gone out to branches, which may facilitate communication. **Maria DeWald** has been in charge of this project. Barbara wondered whether our branch had applied for a \$100 Zoom grant, available from State AAUW. **Celia** will investigate.

No Old Business

No New Business

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth DeFiglio, Secretary