

AAUW Board Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2022
Zoom Meeting

Members present: Board – Bonnie Auchincloss, Cyd Averill, Marge Barton, Mary Ann Boylan, Mary Lou Davis, Beth DeFiglio, Maria DeWald, Barbara Durniak, Betty Harrel, Gwendolyn Higgins, Marcine Humphrey, Diane Jablonski, Pat Luczai, Mary Scalise-Annis, Celia Serotsky.

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

Secretary **Beth DeFiglio** had distributed the November Board meeting minutes and the November business meeting minutes. The Board approved them as distributed.

President's Report

Celia Serotsky reported that the Executive Committee unanimously approved (via e-mail) joining the Women's Professional Network for two months. She thanked Betty Harrel for taking care of this.

Celia also reminded Board members of their responsibility to read reports that are sent out ahead of time, so that the report can just be summarized during the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Diane Jablonski noted that a \$500 bill for printing the directories will be in next month's report. Included this month is a special report on the Beekman Arms fundraiser. Because of the calendar, the interest from the accounts is not included in the report.

Program

Program VP **Marcine Humphrey** reported that the December program was about storytelling, and members are invited to bring an artifact. January meeting is by Zoom.

Membership

Membership VP **Mary Scalise-Annis** reported that the Directories have been printed. Each one costs \$1.08 to mail, so they are trying to hand-deliver as many as possible. **Bonnie Auchincloss** will also hand them out at the December program meeting. There is a new membership application since the name of the movie group changed.

Mary noted that there are 248 members, with 17 members who are new or returning after a lapse. Mary and Bonnie plan to reach out to new members so they feel connected.

Mary and Bonnie also reminded Board members to use every opportunity to tell other people about AAUW and possibly recruit new members. Informational "rack" cards are available to have on hand. A discussion ensued about making generalized business cards available to members that would be easy to hand out. **Cyd Averill** will look into this.

Membership Treasurer

Sue Doyle submitted the following report:

I'm working through the spreadsheet with the National database. There are several who show as not paid so I am trying to reconcile that.

Development Vice President

Mary Lou Davis reported that the November fundraiser went well, and the committee will start working on the Woman of the Year event next. For future fundraisers, it will be noted on the announcement that a donation can be made even if someone cannot attend. The Board thanked Mary Lou for an enjoyable and successful event.

Honors & Awards - Margaret Nijhuis - no report

Communications VP

Barbara Durniak reminded the Board to make sure their Zoom software is at the latest level, and to upgrade if it's not. Instructions are in the Branch. **Cyd Averill** will rerun the article in the next newsletter. While Margaret Nijhuis is away, Barbara will receive the code when someone tries to access the gmail account the first time (also the first time on a new device).

Community Service Initiatives Liaison

Mary Ann Boylan discussed her submitted report:

Days for Girls asked their US teams and chapters to participate in the Period Poverty Program, and to partner with community groups to distribute kits. They donated 70 kits to Kingston and Middletown high schools, the Redeemed Christian Church food pantry in Poughkeepsie, and Day One. They plan to make up another 20 kits and want to find someone to help coordinate and oversee the local distribution efforts. **Celia** noted that Planned Parenthood and Hudson River Housing have requested kits.

When the Saratoga Springs Days for Girls team disbanded, **Sabashnee Govender** was able to recover all of their Days for Girls products.

Leading to Reading received a grant from Holiday Helping Hand to provide books for children living at the Hudson River Lodging shelter. The books will be wrapped at gift wrapping sessions and distributed at the shelter's holiday party in December.

Five Math Buddies continue to help at two elementary schools in Poughkeepsie.

Gwen Higgins noted that 23 girls participated in International Games in November for Extending Girls Horizons. Hammers, saws, and screwdrivers are needed for a Woodworking project on December 9.

Interest Groups Liaison –

Celia reported for **Linnea Masson**:

Interest Groups are running smoothly. The Cuisine Group is not meeting in December but members have agreed to contribute to the World Kitchen effort. The Soleil group will meet in December to plan additional trips.

Bonnie Auchincloss explained that the Movie Group will restart in January and be called the Movie Mavens. The group will have a slightly different format, with plans to have lunch and then see a movie each month.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Gwen Higgins stated that there have been monthly trainings by DEI National. Possible future topics for the Poughkeepsie group are discussing a difficult topic and reviewing books.

Public Relations

Betty Harrel stated that efforts are continuing to create a tabling kit, and perhaps have a radio spot. The Women's Professional Network may also provide opportunities for publicity.

Public Policy – Patricia DeLeo – No report

Nominating Committee Chair

Pat Luczai reported that the committee will be looking to fill the following 4 positions for the 2023-2025 term:

Two Program Co-VP's

One Membership Co-VP

Membership Treasurer.

Newsletter Editor

Cyd Averill reminded people that December 10 is the deadline for newsletter articles, and encouraged submissions, no matter how small. The article about updating Zoom software will be repeated.

Historian

Marge Barton and **Celia** were not able to archive materials last month, and will try again in January.

State/National Liaison

Celia reported for **Barbara Van Itallie**:

AAUW New York State dues will remain at \$7 for the 2023-24 membership year. AAUW-NYS continues to offer program grants. The grant form is on the state website.

Diane Jablonski noted that she had received the check for the Zoom grant that **Celia** had requested.

No Old Business

New Business

Celia announced that the January Board meeting is typically cancelled, but she will inform members closer to the time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth DeFiglio, Secretary