

AAUW Board Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2023
Zoom Meeting

Members present: Board – Bonnie Auchincloss, Cyd Averill, Marge Barton, Beth DeFiglio, Maria DeWald, Barbara Durniak, Betty Harrel, Marcine Humphrey, Diane Jablonski, Pat Luczai, Margaret Nijhuis, Celia Serotsky

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

Secretary **Beth DeFiglio** had distributed the February minutes. Treasurer **Diane Jablonski** questioned the gift of \$1890 to the Dutchess Community College Foundation under the President's Report. Upon investigation, Celia realized that the note she received was actually a solicitation letter for \$1890. The minutes were correct as distributed and the Board approved them. However, a note has been added for clarity.

President's Report

Celia Serotsky noted that the Woman of the Year Luncheon honoring Jewel Ratzlaff will be on Sunday, April 23, at Mill Creek Caterers from 12-3 PM.

Poughkeepsie AAUW will only attend the NGO/CSW virtually, beginning March 5 through March 16. She thanked **Diane Jablonski** for organizing our participation in this.

Treasurer's Report

Diane Jablonski discussed her submitted report:

It is budget time. Please submit your budget input to me by March 15 so I can prepare the budget to present to the board in April. You can find your budget amount in the Budget vs. Actuals report in the Treasurer's Report. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Key items to note are that national dues will rise so that will affect our dues expenses for the next budget cycle.

I am also asking the board to consider reviewing the Initiatives Accounts.

- Court Watch - \$25.00
- Diversity - \$1,088.93
- Expanding Girls Horizons - \$216.00
- Funds to be allocated - \$6,763.13
- Girls Conference - \$4,012.68
- Days For Girls - \$2,935
- Keyes Fund - \$2,923.06
- LAF Fund - \$100.00
- Leading to Reading - \$7,734.30
- Mothers Project - \$1,192.52
- Scholarship - \$962.69
- Soleil - \$100.42
- STEM - \$620.00

Only the initiative accounts colored blue have had any expenditures since 2020. I am attaching a separate report with more details.

I want the board to consider recommending at the annual meeting or at a subsequent board meeting that we close the following accounts: LAF Fund, Girls Conference, and Mothers Project and move those funds to Funds to be allocated which would put a total for \$12,068.33 in that account. As a non-profit, we have a responsibility to expend our assets on our stated mission. It would be prudent to consider additional opportunities to spend some of the funds we have accumulated to serve the community.

Program

Program VP **Marcine Humphrey** reported that the March program is The Art Effect (in-person).

Program VP **Maria DeWald** talked about the April program, The Family Partnership Center Approach (in-person).

Membership

Membership VP **Bonnie Auchincloss** reported:

1. She and Membership VP **Mary Scalise-Annis** have contacted all new members, and the responses were very positive and much appreciated.
2. Open House date: Thursday, September 14. Bonnie will sign the contract for the church next week.
3. Angie Cooper, from National, told Bonnie that our free memberships would begin on April 1, which National considers the beginning of the Membership year. Board members noted that this is in conflict with our branch's membership year, which begins July 1.
4. National dues will increase to \$72 for anyone renewing or joining on or after April 1.
5. Mary and Bonnie will send Poughkeepsie branch renewal reminders, and specifically opt out of National sending them.
6. We are entitled to nine free National memberships, although these members still have to pay state and local dues.

Celia suggested that we think about succession planning, and get new members involved. It was noted that skills can be reviewed from membership forms, a report from the database, or direct contact.

The Board discussed whether local dues should be raised, but there is no need at this time. The local dues have remained at \$16 for many years, and the state dues are \$7.

Barbara Durniak suggested that the membership form on the website be reviewed to determine if any updates are needed.

Membership Treasurer - Sue Doyle

Bonnie Auchincloss reported that there are no new members from last month.

Development Vice President - Mary Lou Davis - No report

Honors & Awards

Chair **Margaret Nijhuis** reported:

1. DC Science Fair is March 25. Judges will be **Bonnie Auchincloss, Claudette Hennessy, and Kay Saderholm**. A gift certificate to B&N of \$50 will be given to one 7th grader and one 8th grader.
2. Certificates for the honorees at the Annual Meeting are complete. The nominee for the Emerging Leader award (Darlene Yerdon) did not want any publicity, so the committee chose not to nominate anyone else and will not give this award this year. The article announcing the honorees will appear in the May and June newsletters. The Cornerstone gift is ready.

Communications VP

Barbara Durniak discussed her submitted report:

1. Over the last several months, Bonnie has been investigating various cloud storage solutions to replace the Amazon Cloud. After hitting several dead ends, we decided to look at Google Drive. Every Gmail account comes with a substantial amount of free storage, which was recently increased from 15GB to 1TB. We experimented using the Google Drive connected to the editor.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com account with some of the AAUW photo folders to see if it might be a viable replacement for Amazon Cloud, and the answer was yes. Margaret has already uploaded all the files that were being stored on the external hard drive to the Google Drive. Bonnie has written up login procedures and will share them with the other branch photographers so they can log in and upload new photos. Those branch members who had been involved with archiving/uploading documents to Amazon Cloud should be introduced to the new procedures as well.
2. Effective 2/25/23, our branch Zoom account has been renewed for another year at a cost of \$104 (30% discount). We have the Zoom One Pro plan, which has some added features (shared with the Zoom team) that can be used to make presentations more interactive or personalized.

The Board thanked Barbara Durniak, Margaret Nijhuis, and Bonnie Auchincloss for all their work to research and transition to a new solution.

Community Service Initiatives Liaison

Mary Ann Boylan submitted a report:

Court Watch and Days for Girls – No report submitted

Extending Girls Horizons - The next program is "New Cuisines" on Friday, March 10, at Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls.

Leading to Reading is continuing to meet and distribute books to some new places.

STEM - Nothing new in Math Buddies.

Interest Groups Liaison – Linnea Masson - No report.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Gwen Higgins – No report.

Public Relations

Betty Harrel stated that the team is looking into tabling opportunities.

Public Policy – Patricia DeLeo - No report

Nominating Committee Chair

Pat Luczai reported that the Committee has a list of candidates that they are approaching. The Membership Treasurer candidate has accepted. Other positions to be filled include Membership VP (to be Co-VP with Bonnie Auchincloss), Development VP, and one or two Program VPs.

Newsletter Editor

Cyd Averill reminded members of the March 10 deadline for the April newsletter. She is on Twitter, and she will continue to investigate Instagram.

Historian

Marge Barton is planning to archive material next week at Adriance Library. Marge announced that the article Marcine Humphrey wrote seeking applicants to NCCWSL appeared in the Southern Dutchess News, and she will include that in the archives.

State/National Liaison - Barbara Van Itallie – No report

No Old Business

No New Business

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth DeFiglio, Secretary