

AAUW Board Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2023
Zoom Meeting

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

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

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

President's Report - Celia Serotsky

- a. Celia attended the AAUW-NYS College and University program on Saturday, April 8, 2023 about female college presidents in New York state, and also fellowship awardees.
- b. Celia received a thank-you from Dutchess Community College Foundation recognizing our \$600 scholarship. We actually give two scholarships of \$600, but one is endowed.
- c. Celia reported on the Annual Meeting Planning Committee. Carol Griffith, the current AAUW NYS President, and Suzanne Young-Mercer, the President-elect, will be guests. Lynn Gore is NYS Secretary and a member of our branch and will also attend. The Committee has suggested that members of Interest Groups and Initiatives may want to attend together, and requested that Board members encourage members to attend.
- d. There has been mostly negative feedback about the AAUW Oral History Project coming from National AAUW. New York state leaders are upset and it appears to be mainly a fund-raiser. Participation is strictly voluntary.
- e. Celia reminded the Board that Annual Reports are due by May 18 and should be sent to Celia and Beth. Each initiative should submit a separate report. There is some confusion about the organizational structure of sub-committees such as Woman of the Year and the Irene Keyes Fund, but the Board agreed to follow whatever was done in the past. This issue should be revisited later. The past Annual Reports are on the website.
- f. There is a Lobby Day in Albany coming up concerning the issue of home care workers.

Treasurer's Report

Diane Jablonski discussed her distributed report. She noted:

- While donations are under budget, we are beginning to see donations come in with membership renewals.
- The money in the Scholarship fund has been depleted and we will have to replace that money. That can be done with contributions already received, and we usually do it at the end of the fiscal year when we allocate funds to initiatives.
- We still need to act on the defunct initiative funds.

Diane noted that she is trying to contact the leader of the Mothers Project, and recommended that money stay in the Girls Conference fund. She **moved** that the existing money (\$100) in the LAF fund be sent to the National LAF fund. **The motion was approved.**

The Board felt that we need to be careful not to request money for an initiative that doesn't need it so that funds don't get earmarked and become unusable. **Marcine Humphrey** noted that the funding for Expanding Girls Horizons was allocated for an emergency, but that each Girl Scout pays her own costs for attending an event.

Program

Program VP **Marcine Humphrey** reported for **Maria DeWald** that the format of program planning will change. The Program VPs will be more managers or coordinators of a committee and one or two persons will be responsible for each program. This was discussed with the Nominating Committee, and program nominees are expecting this new format. There is a program planning meeting on Zoom May 25.

Marcine noted that the May program is a dance program, special for the end of year, and for which a big turnout is hoped.

Membership

Membership VP **Mary Scalise-Annis** reported that renewals are in progress. Membership forms were updated. She and **Bonnie Auchincloss** are preparing in memoriam and longevity information for the Annual meeting. Planning will get underway over the summer for the Open House on September 14.

Membership Treasurer

Sue Doyle reported that 35 renewals have been received. She recognized Mary and Bonnie for their hard work to get new members, which has yielded three “free” national memberships each year.

Development Vice President

Mary Lou Davis reported that the Woman of the Year event went well. 85 people were registered, and several women wanted to join AAUW after the luncheon. Margaret Nijhuis added that she reconnected with the daughter of the 1981 honoree and there is an article about her on the website.

Honors & Awards - Margaret Nijhuis

Irene Keyes Memorial

Marcine Humphrey stated that two women will be attending NCCWSL. Maggie Gravano is a biochemistry major at Marist College, and Miyor Gerard is entering the nursing program at Dutchess Community College. The Board recommended that both women be invited to the Annual Meeting so that their accomplishments could be recognized, but not ask them to speak. NCCWSL takes place May 31 to June 3.

Communications VP

Barbara Durniak discussed her submitted report:

“1. We received an inquiry about (and compliments on) our online calendar from a member of the Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW branch. She was impressed with the features and functionality of our calendar, and she had some operational questions regarding its integration with our website, which **Margaret Nijhuis** answered.

2. There has been interest in exploring the use of QR codes for branch publicity. Mary Coiteux got the discussion started, and Celia Serotsky, using a free program called QRcode monkey (<https://www.qrcode-monkey.com/>) successfully generated 2 codes, one that leads to our website home page, and the other that leads to the Leading to Reading page.

These codes are ready to be used! Going forward, I recommend putting together a small task force to work on issues regarding the production and deployment of this new technology. A few key questions are: who could act as our branch QR code guru, what would be the procedure for requesting and then generating a code, who would be responsible for debugging problems if the code doesn't work for some reason? Also, whenever a website URL changes (not often, but it could happen) the corresponding QR code would need to be changed as well, so some oversight seems in order. “

AAUW Home Page



Leading to Reading Page



Community Service Initiatives Liaison

Mary Ann Boylan reported:

Court Watch (Ann Pinna) – Nothing new

Leading to Reading (Betty Harrel) is looking for a new home. The Staatsburg Firehouse is used by more community groups and they don't have room for our storage. We've been following up on a number of places.

Barbara Van Itallie plans to meet the other Math Buddies soon to see how it's going, and to discuss how to find more volunteers.

Days for Girls and Extending Girls Horizons – No report submitted

Interest Groups Liaison – Linnea Masson - No report.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Gwen Higgins – No report

Public Relations

Betty Harrel reported that she will be meeting with the Poughkeepsie City School District and will be part of their Community Day in May. She is going with the Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District and will share a table with them. **Sue Doyle** noted that members should "share" AAUW events on social media and Betty will include this in the newsletter.

Public Policy – Patricia DeLeo No report

Nominating Committee Chair

Pat Luczai reported:

The following slate of officers will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting for election to the AAUW Board:

Membership VP - Bonnie Auchincloss

Development VP - Betty Harrel

Programming Co-VP - Kay Saderholm
Programming Co-VP - Gail Sisti
Membership Treasurer - Kathy Friedman

We have also gotten agreement from Linda Eagleton to act as an assistant to the Membership VP in an off-board position. In addition, a committee is being formed to assist the Programming VP's with taking the lead for arranging speakers for monthly meetings.

Nominating Committee:
Pat Luczai, chair
Blanche Bergman
Mary Lou Davis
Maria DeWald
Mary Ann Williams

Newsletter Editor

Cyd Averill noted that she must publish the newsletter by May 18 in order to comply with the by-laws requiring 21 day notice of the slate of officers. The by-laws also require that anyone wanting to nominate someone from the floor must notify the Nominating Chair of their intent seven days in advance which would be June 5, 2023. Cyd will also include the new QR codes in the newsletter.

Historian - Marge Barton No report

State/National Liaison - Barbara Van Itallie No report

No Old Business

No New Business

ANNOUNCEMENT : AAUW NYS Annual Meeting via Zoom June 23 and 24 (June 23 Friday night social/ Saturday June 24 Business meeting). **Diane Jablonski, Marcine Humphrey, Sue Doyle, Beth DeFiglio, and Celia Serotsky** will be delegates, and we are allowed two more. Celia will put an announcement in The Branch and also send an e-blast.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth DeFiglio, Secretary