

AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch, Inc.  
Honors and Awards Annual Report  
June 2022 – June 2023

Committee Members: Margaret Nijhuis (Chair), Cyd Averill, Barbara Hespenheide and Barbara Van Itallie.

Barbara Hespenheide has agreed to serve as Chair of Honors and Awards for 2023 – 25.

The committee met in October and selected honorees, their names were submitted to the Board for approval. The name of the award was changed and no longer linked to the amount of money given to AAUW National. That correction made to the Working Rules. This removes the necessity of making sure the \$500 has been given to AAUW National for each honoree.

- 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.

The selected honorees for the AAUW Funds are JoAnne Abraskin, Susan Doyle, Elizabeth Harrel, Claudette Hennessy, Gwendolyn Higgins, and Marticia Madory. The Committee selected an Emerging Leader but it was refused by the recipient so it was decided not to give it this year. Paragraphs and pictures were solicited from each nominee, edited and submitted for the May newsletter. As the names honorees are no longer kept by AAUW-NYS nor National, certificates will be presented at the Annual Meeting in June.

The Cornerstone Award will be given to Pat Lucazi. This award was approved by the Executive Committee so that it is kept secret until the June Annual Meeting. A glass container was ordered from De's Jeweler in Poughkeepsie. They now have our logo which can be used another year. A flyer will be given out at the Annual Meeting when the award is announced. Flyers from the Cornerstone Awards are linked to the names of the recipients on the website

In January, members to judge at the DC Regional Science were sought. Bonnie Auchincloss, Claudette Hennessy and Kay Saderholm agreed to help select a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girl to receive the award from Poughkeepsie AAUW, the Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW STEM Award. They each received a \$50 dollar Barnes and Nobel gift certificate. Certificates were given to the winners so they would know the award came from Poughkeepsie AAUW.

The chair serves on the Woman of the Year Committee as part of the position as Honor & Awards chair. The committee selected Jewel Ratzlaff as the recipient. I did the flyer for publicity, the program for the event and name tags. It was a very successful event with over 80 attendees. Emphasis needs to be placed that the recipient be approved by the board before contact is made. The Executive Committee can do this if there is not time for the whole board.

Marcine Humphrey is chair of the Irene Keyes Fund which gives scholarships for students to attend NCCWSL. Two women have been selected – these were not submitted to the chair

ahead of their notification and received no board approval. We need to work on this for next year.

The Honor& Awards is in the budget as Awards and Grants. The budget line was increased to \$300 in the budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Expenses listed are: DC Science Fair - 100, Cornerstone 150, Printing 10, recognition at annual meeting.

In an effort to have a more consistent procedure for granting honor and awards, the following needs to be emphasized.

From the Working Rules:

*Under the direction of the Chair, subcommittees may be formed to oversee individual events. Subcommittee Chairs would report to the Honors and Awards Chair who would provide information to the Board. Honor and awards recommendations are presented to the Board for approval.*

From the February 2023 minutes:

*The Working Rules state: "The Honors and Awards Chair is responsible for selecting recipients for honors and awards presented by the branch. " Under Overall responsibilities: "Present to the Board for approval all selections made by the subcommittees"*

*Margaret also noted that the Chair should be an ex-officio member of all the Awards subcommittees, and all subcommittees report to the Chair (under the current Rules).*

*The Board agreed that we should follow the Working Rules, and clarified the process that each subcommittee should notify the Chair first of a selection, and then either the Chair or the subcommittee should bring it to the Board for approval before announcing the selection. If there is not time (or a need for secrecy), then the Executive Committee could approve the selection instead of the complete Board.*

Margaret Nijhuis  
Chair of Honors and Awards