

## AAUW Board Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2023

### Zoom Meeting

**Members present: Board** – Bonnie Auchincloss, Mary Ann Boylan, Mary Lou Davis, Beth DeFiglio, Maria DeWald, Sue Doyle, Barbara Durniak, Betty Harrel, Marcine Humphrey, Diane Jablonski, Pat Luczai, Linnea Masson, Margaret Nijhuis, Celia Serotsky. **Non-Voting members:** Barbara Van Itallie

President **Celia Serotsky** called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

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

#### President's Report

##### Celia Serotsky

- a. The Annual Meeting will be at the Poughkeepsie Grand on June 8. Planning Committee meetings are in progress, and Celia especially thanked **Barbara Van Itallie** for securing the Grand and working on the menu, and **Margaret Nijhuis** for the program. Celia also asked **Linnea Masson and Mary Ann Boylan** to check whether interest groups or service initiatives need anything that members could be asked to bring.
- b. Woman of the Year Luncheon is April 23.
- c. Several Board members attended various events at the NGOCSW 67 conference. **Jacqueline Vierno** has agreed to become chair of the International Committee, but with limited responsibilities.
- d. For future consideration: Review of Strategic Plan

#### Treasurer's Report

**Diane Jablonski** had distributed the treasurer's report, and commented that there was no significant activity.

**Budget discussion:** (proposed budget had been distributed earlier)

- 1) Diane noted we cannot balance the budget if we continue to purchase liability insurance from Hartford at a cost of \$1199. The cost of insurance purchased through AAUW is \$200 for 2023, and their policy runs on a calendar year. **Sue Doyle moved** that we go with the policy developed for AAUW Branches and State organizations by CNA Insurance Company. **The motion was approved.**
- 2) The proposed Program Budget raised the budget line from \$1550 to \$2100, which included increased site fees and honorariums. The Board discussed having a third meeting on Zoom, possibly in March or December, which would save money and might include more members. The specific Honorarium amount and number of Zoom meetings will be decided later.
- 3) Changing the directory to a digital format was discussed. **Bonnie Auchincloss** noted that over \$100 in postage was saved by hand-delivering directories. **Darlene Yerdon** made quite an effort to distribute them at many interest group and initiative meetings.

**Maria DeWald moved** that we adopt a balanced budget of \$31,670 for 2023-24 and give the Treasurer the authority to rework expenses to match this amount. **The motion was approved.**

Diane later distributed the final budget which will be published in The Branch.

#### Program

Program VP **Maria DeWald** noted that the April program is about how a local non-profit approaches social services and will include multiple speakers.

Program VP **Marcine Humphrey** reported that the May program includes a performance and a dancer talking about her life.

Maria and Marcine will have a program planning meeting on May 25 at 7pm. They are also suggesting a change to the structure of Program responsibilities – have a Committee rather than one or two VPs. A Committee member would take

on the responsibility of an individual meeting, and the VP would be more of an overall manager. The Board will discuss this again after a Program VP Nominee is found.

### **Membership**

Membership VP **Bonnie Auchincloss** noted that the Open House will be on September 14 and she will need help setting up that day. She asked that **Mary Ann Boylan and Linnea Masson** give the Initiatives and Interest groups a heads up about this.

### **Membership Treasurer**

**Sue Doyle** reported there is one new member, and two “free” membership applications were received. Sue explained that for each of the past three years, we have had enough new members to qualify for three “free” members, but have never received this benefit. A “free” member pays \$23 for state and local dues, but pays no National dues. National has acknowledged we are owed nine free memberships, and Sue is starting the process with National.

National dues are going up, and Membership is reworking the renewal form.

Celia noted that members of 50 years no longer have to pay National dues.

### **Development Vice President**

**Mary Lou Davis** reported on the Woman of the Year luncheon. The Committee tried to keep the same cost to attend, but next year it will have to increase. 73 people have signed up, with \$245 in donations for the Initiatives.

### **Honors & Awards**

**Margaret Nijhuis** reported that everything is ready for the Annual meeting. She thanked **Bonnie Auchincloss, Kay Saderholm, and Claudette Hennessy** for serving as judges for the Regional Science Fair. Participation was up and there were two winners. Information about the Annual meeting and the Science Fair are on the website.

Celia stated that **Barbara Van Itallie** had suggested that members could contribute to Literacy Connections because the organization has been so supportive of Math Buddies. Diane noted that a \$100 donation has been made in the past out of the STEM budget for this reason, and that Barbara has that discrepancy.

Irene Keyes Memorial – NCCWSL update

**Marcine Humphrey** reported that Maggie Gravano, a Marist student majoring in biochemistry, is the recipient of the Irene Keyes scholarship. Marcine thanked her contact at Marist College, Shaileen Kopec, and Jacqueline Geoff-McNish at Dutchess Community College, for helping to find applicants. An application from a Dutchess Community College student may be coming.

### **Communications VP**

**Barbara Durniak** discussed her submitted report:

We tend to think of our cloud storage as an historical archive, but as materials are increasingly being created in electronic formats, it should also be a repository for branch documentation. As we approach the election of new officers and the departure of some long-standing board members, this is a good time for out-going officers to go through their files and to make sure that any pertinent documentation is not only passed on to their successors but is also forwarded to Margaret or Barbara so it can be stored in Google drive. Every time an update is made to an e-document, a copy should be stored in the drive. As new materials are created, making sure a master copy is stored on Google drive should automatically be part of the process. This way, if the chain of command is lost as officers change, a version would still be available. Examples of important e-documents include but are not limited to publicity materials, forms, instructions, timelines, and images.

Barbara also noted that the website is typically reviewed over the summer, and suggested that outgoing officers review their area of the website with incoming officers.

## **Community Service Initiatives Liaison**

**Mary Ann Boylan** discussed her submitted report:

### Court Watch – Ann Pinna

**Liz Graham** and Ann continue to go to Family Court and monitor the judges there on a consistent basis.

No report from Days for Girls or Extending Girls Horizons.

Leading to Reading (Betty Harrel) will be taking part in a Poughkeepsie City School District Community Day in May and will give out free books and bookmarks. Deliveries of books have been made recently to Astor Poughkeepsie, Astor Red Hook, and the Vanderbilt homeless shelter. LTR received a donation of bags from Adams Fairacre Farms and a grant from Stewart's Holiday Match.

STEM (Barbara Van Itallie) - Nothing new from Math Buddies.

## **Interest Groups Liaison**

**Linnea Masson** reported that the interest groups are doing well, but participation is slightly off.

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

## **Public Relations**

**Betty Harrel** stated the Committee is concentrating on tabling, since the news releases she has sent in have not been published. The committee has a few tabling events available in the future.

**Public Policy – Patricia DeLeo** – No report

## **Nominating Committee Chair**

**Pat Luczai** reported that the committee has nominees for Membership Treasurer and Development VP, and a possible Membership Co-VP nominee. They are still looking at nominees for Programming VP(s). In general, Pat reported that people have been overwhelmed by the official job descriptions, which is something to be considered later.

**Newsletter Editor - Cyd Averill** - No report

## **Historian**

Celia reported that she and **Marge Barton** had archived material at Adriaance Library last week.

## **State/National Liaison**

**Barbara Van Itallie** noted that the state annual meeting will be in June on Zoom; there is no in-person convention this year. She also reported that several branches are opening up activities to other branches, as we have seen through Kingston inviting Poughkeepsie on trips.

Celia stated that several state officers may come to our Annual meeting.

## **No Old Business**

## **No New Business**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Beth DeFiglio**, Secretary