

## AAUW Board Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2023

### Zoom Meeting

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

President **Celia Serotsky** called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

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

#### President's Report

##### Celia Serotsky

- a. Celia announced that everything is in order for the Annual Meeting. The current count is 46 attendees, including five guests.
- b. At Celia's suggestion, the Board decided that a Task force should re-vamp the Strategic Plan beginning this summer. **Betty Harrel, Diane Jablonski, Pat Luczai, and Celia Serotsky** volunteered.
- c. The Executive Committee had earlier approved donating the funds in the defunct Mothers Project to Sun River Health. Diane has sent the check, and the issue is closed.
- d. The Board agreed that ideas about reviving the Girls Conference should be revisited in the fall.

#### Treasurer's Report

**Diane Jablonski** discussed the report she distributed. She also announced that she will use Bill Pay, a free service from the Credit Union, to pay bills in the future.

#### Program

Program VP **Marcine Humphrey** reported a Program Planning meeting was held via ZOOM on May 25 with 14 attendees, after collecting suggestions from about 20 members. A summary of the discussion will be sent out after edits by Gail Sisti and Kay Saderholm, incoming VPs. Transition between the old and new VPs is in progress. The new structure calls for Program tasks to be shared by the larger group with the VPs coordinating and managing.

Marcine reported that the contract for Program meetings with Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church has been signed through December, but has not been signed for 2024 due to the retirement of the church's custodian. Meeting there will not be a problem, though, and all the dates for the full year are on the church calendar.

Marcine thanked everyone for their assistance this year.

#### Membership

Membership VP **Mary Scalise-Annis** reported that renewals are in full swing. Save-the-Dates are planned for the September Open House. Membership VP **Bonnie Auchincloss** announced that Linda Eagleton will be her assistant/co-chair but will not be on the Board. Bonnie and Mary both thanked **Sue Doyle** for all her hard work and assistance.

#### Membership Treasurer

**Sue Doyle** stated that she has received 115 renewals so far. She noted that the National membership platform has improved greatly and is working much better. Sue recognized **Bonnie Auchincloss's and Mary Scalise-Annis's** great work in bringing in new members.

**Development Vice President - Mary Lou Davis** – No report

**Honors & Awards - Margaret Nijhuis** – No report

## **Communications VP –**

**Barbara Durniak** submitted the following report to Celia:

“A small task force has been convened to explore the production and use of QR codes for the branch. The group plans to meet in mid-June. If board members have any questions or suggestions, or would like to be part of the task force, please email me (Barbara) by June 9th. The task force consists of **Mary Coiteux, Anthula Natsoulas, Barbara Durniak, and Celia Serotsky** (in a limited capacity).”

Celia reported that Barbara wanted to recognize **Joanne Scolaro** for stepping up right away to seamlessly continue e-blasts and communications work for **Margaret Nijhuis** after Margaret was injured. The Board thanked **Joanne** for her work.

## **Community Service Initiatives Liaison**

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

Leading to Reading (Elizabeth Harrel) took part in the Community Family Day sponsored by the Poughkeepsie City School District and gave away free books and bookmarks. Leading to Reading is in the process of moving to its new home, the United Methodist Church of Hyde Park.

Court Watch, Days for Girls, Extending Girls Horizons – No report

Math Buddies - Nothing new to report.

## **Interest Groups Liaison**

**Linnea Masson** sent a detailed report to Celia when she could not attend. It will be sent to the Board. **Pat Luczai** noted that Pins and Needles is changing its name to Create ‘N Craft.

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

## **Public Relations**

**Betty Harrel** reported:

“Our branch took part in the May 20th Family Day Celebration sponsored by the Poughkeepsie City School District. We donated a basket of books for the raffle and had new books and bookmarks as giveaways.

Although attendance was low due to the weather, it was worthwhile in building AAUW visibility. Future plans may include having a hands-on children's activity, displaying the AAUW banner, purchasing a canopy, and tailoring the focus to the clientele attending each event.”

It was suggested that the Backpack Giveaway at Christ Episcopal Church might be another opportunity for tabling.

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

**Nominating Committee Chair - Pat Luczai** – Nothing new to report

## **Newsletter Editor**

**Cyd Averill** reminded members that August 10 is the deadline for the next issue of the Branch, in September. She noted that she has an assistant, **Philippa Goodman**, who updates the Calendar, but Interest groups have not submitted any summer dates.

## **Historian**

**Marge Barton** stated that she will wait for the June minutes to archive May and June together.

Marge explained that Margaret Nijhuis usually writes a history for the year, which Marge will have printed, and then keep in a binder with previous histories. This binder is displayed at the Open House.

**Bonnie Auchincloss** reminded the Board that the cloud is available for storage and Bonnie has access instructions available.

**State/National Liaison - Barbara Van Itallie** – No report

### **Old Business**

**Celia** reminded members that the Annual NYS meeting begins on Friday night, June 23, (optionally) with a social event and DEI presentation and the business meeting is Saturday morning, June 24. Celia Serotsky, Marcine Humphrey, Diane Jablonski, Sue Doyle, Beth DeFiglio, and Linnea Masson will attend as voting delegates. Celia will follow up to obtain a seventh delegate.

**The Board thanked all the outgoing Board members for their hard work, commitment, and the wonderful contributions they have brought to AAUW:**

**Marcine Humphrey and Maria DeWald (Program VPs), Mary Scalise-Annis (Membership VP), Sue Doyle (Membership Treasurer), Mary Lou Davis (Development VP), and Margaret Nijhuis (Honors and Awards).**

### **New Business**

**Marcine** reported that she still has the microphone, speakers, stand, and accompanying accessories. She will contact Barbara Durniak.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Beth DeFiglio**, Secretary