

AAUW Board Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2023
Zoom Meeting

Members present: Board – Bonnie Auchincloss, Cyd Averill, Marge Barton, Mary Ann Boylan, Beth DeFiglio, Barbara Durniak, Betty Harrel, Barbara Hespenheide, Gwendolyn Higgins, Diane Jablonski, Pat Luczai, Linnea Masson, Kay Saderholm, Gail Sisti, Celia Serotsky.

Non-Voting members: Mary Coiteux

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

Secretary **Beth DeFiglio** had distributed the October Board meeting minutes, generated by **Betty Harrel**. Beth thanked Betty for filling in as Secretary while Beth was gone. The Board approved the October minutes as distributed.

President's Report

Celia Serotsky reported that the Executive Committee approved unanimously **a motion to approve the choice of Woman of the Year from the Honors and Awards Committee**. Celia noted that there is a Zoom grant available from AAUW-NYS (for which we already apply) and there are grants for Program funding up to \$500. She also asked the Board to note that Paula Greenspan is now Assistant Secretary, so card requests should be sent to her and not to Kay Saderholm. Celia recognized **Diane Jablonski** for the tremendous amount of work she has done to apply to the Dyson Foundation for strategic planning funding.

Treasurer's Report

Diane Jablonski stated that there was nothing significant to note on the distributed Treasurer's reports. **Diane moved that we redeem our current CD (rate of return of 1.75%) and obtain a new CD with a 5% rate of return. It was unanimously approved.**

Pat Luczai informed the Board that the IRS dropped the matter under investigation.

Program

Program VPs **Kay Saderholm** and **Gail Sisti** reported that the November (Haiti project) and December (Festive Foods) program meetings are all set. They will send information to **Barbara Durniak** for the website.

Membership Treasurer

Celia reported for **Kathy Friedman**: 232 total members, 22 new, three rejoined, 39 non-renewals (seven of whom were new last year). There was much discussion about ways to make new members feel welcome, ways to retain members, and reasons why members do not renew.

Membership

Membership VP **Bonnie Auchincloss** reported that the deadline for the non-renewals is approaching and they will be purged from the member list. She and **Linda Eagleton** are in the process of e-mailing the 22 new members to keep in touch with them. Bonnie has teams of people lined up to proofread the 2023-24 directory, which will be distributed in December.

Development Vice President

Betty Harrel said that the Wine fundraiser was worthwhile, a good afternoon, and raised about \$1300-1400 (not a final tally).

Honors & Awards

Barbara Hespenheide stated that the committee will have its first meeting on November 8.

Communications VP - Barbara Durniak – nothing to report

Community Service Initiatives Liaison

Mary Ann Boylan summarized her written report:

Court Watch has one new member, and is revising its methods of collecting data.

The Barnes and Noble Holiday book drive this year will benefit Leading to Reading, and all members can take part in gift wrapping at the Hudson River lodging.

Math Buddies has one new Buddy.

Extending Girls Horizons will have a Woodworking workshop.

Interest Groups Liaison – Linnea Masson

Interest groups are going well, except for Canasta, which has shut down. **Barbara Durniak** will remove it from the website.

International Relations – Jackie Vierno – no report

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Gwen Higgins informed the Board about the DEI chair meetings she’s been attending. She will begin the 5-minute presentations at the December program meeting.

Public Policy – Patricia DeLeo – no report

Nominating Committee Chair - Pat Luczai – No report, the committee is starting up.

Newsletter Editor

Cyd Averill reminded the Board that articles are due by the 10th. She also asked that Interest groups post a date and/or a theme on the calendar. **Linnea Masson** will send a reminder to the group leaders.

Historian

Marge Barton is ready to archive materials.

No Old Business

New Business – There was discussion about collecting, archiving, and dating photos. **Mary Coiteux** said that photos get more response on FaceBook than plain text. **Linnea** will remind Interest Group leaders to send photos to **Mary Coiteux, Bonnie Auchincloss, and Barbara Durniak.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth DeFiglio, Secretary