

AAUW Annual Report

Community Service Initiatives

Mary Ann Boylan – Community Service Initiative Liaison

2023 – 2024

Court Watch – Ann Pinna, Chair

At the beginning of the year 2023-2024, Court Watch reorganized, began looking for new Court Monitors, updated the Observation forms and created a spreadsheet for data entry. Mary Lou Davis volunteered to do data input.

Two new monitors are in the process of training and becoming part of the Court Watch team.

Days for Girls – Sabashnee Govender/Judy Longacre

Days for Girls organization developed tools and guidelines to improve instructions to help teams do a better job of producing usable kits components. Recertification was required of every team. Twenty-five kits and twenty-five extra washcloths were sent off to Days for Girls International. Thirty large hybrid kits and twenty-seven regular hybrid kits were donated locally. The AAUW Days for Girls group has teamed up with members from MA and CT to reach the goal of 2000 kits. Days for Girls continue to meet monthly at the Zion Episcopal Church in Wappinger Falls on the second Saturday of the month.

Days for Girls is looking for someone to step-up to co-lead the group as Judy Longacre is hoping to lighten her commitments.

Extending Girls Horizons – Peggy Kelland

It has been a very busy year for Extending Girls Horizons.

Peggy Kelland and Gwen Higgins in partnership with the Dutchess County Girl Scouts, lead activities for troops from Poughkeepsie, Wappinger Falls, Fishkill, Pleasant Valley, East Fishkill and beyond. The programs are held on Friday evenings at Zion Episcopal Church in Wappinger Falls. The Girl Scouts worked on Woodworking, Samba Dancing, First Aid, New Cuisine and the Trees badges.

AAUW members Kathy Prisco, Lynda Byrne, Kathy Friedman, Sue Kinney, Norma Vasquez, Ann Pinna, Ginnia Hargins (Gwen Higgins daughter) and Pam Terwilliger volunteered to help make the events a success.

Leading to Reading – Betty Harrel, Chair

Leading to Reading program has been a huge success. 2024 is the 20th anniversary of Leading to Reading. The group, lead by Betty Harrel, distributed over 52,000 new books and countless used books during this time.

This year Leading to Reading participated in the Barnes and Noble holiday book drive. Holiday gift wrapping was held at Hudson River Lodging.

Leading to Reading received an AAUW-NYS program grant for \$550.00. The fund was used to purchase string bags and books with multi-ethnic characters for the Rural and Migrant Ministry camp.

Family reading kits were distributed to Astor Pre-school program.

Stewart Shop awarded Leading to Reading a Holiday Matching Grant.

Math Buddies – S.T.E.M – Barbara Van Itallie, Chair

At the beginning of 2023-2024 year, four members expressed interest in joining Math Buddies. One member started the process of becoming a Buddy. At the present time two volunteers are working in the schools, one Buddy is at Clinton Elementary school and another is a Buddy at Kreiger Elementary school.

Barbara continues to seek new volunteers and states that the program is moving along nicely.

As Community Service Liaison, I performed the following duties:

- Contacted Initiative Chairs before the monthly Board meeting to see if there were any updates/issues they needed to communicate to the Board
- Forward any communications from the Board to the initiative Chairs
- Forward new member information to the Interest Group Coordinators/Initiative Chairs
- Write an end of the year report