

AAUW Board Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2024
Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Mary Scalise-Annis, Bonnie Auchincloss, Cyd Averill, Mary Ann Boylan, Beth DeFiglio, Cindy Emmer, Kathy Friedman, Betty Harrel, Diane Jablonski, Pat Luczai, Kay Saderholm, Gail Sisti, Celia Serotsky, Jackie Vierno,

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

Secretary **Cindy Emmer** had distributed the June Business and Board meeting minutes. The Board approved them as distributed.

President's Report: **Celia Serotsky** welcomed new Board members and thanked other Board members who are taking on new roles this year.

She asked that all Board members check the calendar of events to assure there are no overlapping interest group meetings. The NYS AAUW is looking for members to serve on State Committees. Let Celia know if interested. Regarding inventory, we need a storage space where all AAUW owned equipment can be stored. If anyone has ideas for such a space, let Celia know. We are open to renting a space. Barbara Durniak is heading up this effort.

Strategic plan for 2024-2027: Items were prioritized at the July 17th meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee for what could be accomplished in the next 4-5 months. Celia would like to form a committee to review the governance structure (one of the priorities). Let her know if interested in participating on this.

Treasurer's Report: **Diane Jablonski** had distributed the Treasurer's report. There were no questions, except she explained that the Budget vs. Actuals report will be supplied next month. She also stated that she submitted the final financial report for the Dyson Grant to the Foundation. All actions have now been completed.

Program: **Kay Saderholm and Gail Sisti** presented plans so far for this year. On October 10th, Cindy Lanzetta will be presenting on the proposed NYS Equal Rights Amendment that will be on the NYS ballot in November. While other months are covered, Gail and Kay are looking for ideas for the November meeting.

Membership: VP for membership **Bonnie Auchincloss** reported that a new computer has been purchased for about \$700. Regarding the Open House on 9/12, invitations are out and there have been several responses.

There was much discussion about whether a free membership raffle for any new member who joins during the Open House should occur. **Bonnie Auchincloss** moved the following resolution: **AAUW will provide a free membership by raffle to a new member who joins during the September Open House.** Resolution passed.

Membership Treasurer: Kathy Friedman reported that 203 members have renewed, 10 new members have joined and another 13 whose dues are not yet due, leaving a current total of 226 members.

Development Vice President: Betty Harrel reported that \$3913 was raised as a result of the fund raising letter sent to members with renewal information. In regard to Dutchess Community College endowment, Betty discussed her report to Board members that was sent out with the September board packet. She then moved the following resolution. **The Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW shall establish an endowment which generates a \$1000 scholarship for an incoming STEM student at Dutchess Community College.** Motion passed. **Betty** also reminded us that women's panties size small or medium are to be collected at the October program meeting. They are being donated to Hope on a Mission, at their request. Cash will also be accepted.

Honors and Awards: Cindy announced for Chair **Barbara Hesperheide** that the Committee will be coordinating its activities with the Centennial Celebration Committee.

Communications Vice President: Pat Luczai led a discussion regarding zoom access for members who host AAUW activities. It was recommended that the password be periodically changed for security purposes. When the password is changed, the Secretary will verbally notify the users. Zoom access forms are required to be completed for any new person who requires access. Those who currently have access will not need to complete a new form. **Pat** will review the Working Rules to see if they require updating for this process. **Pat** also reported that AAUW is looking to locate local newsletters /papers, that we could advertise the organization. Please let her know of any possibilities.

Community Service Initiatives Liaison: Mary Ann Boylan reported the following:

Ann Pinna - Court Watch
No report submitted

Sabashnee Govender/Judy Longacre – Days for Girls

The National Days for Girls Organization put out a request for teams and clubs to donate carry pouches (which we make) and underwear to Collection Points from July to September 30th. To make up kits these items are needed now and to ensure complete kits can be distributed in the coming year. We have spent our last two workshops and will spend our September one making carry pouches to meet their demands. In early August, Darlene Yerdon hand delivered 92 carry pouches, 142 panties, and 247 washcloths (we wanted to save the expense of mailing these at a later date). We will mail the remaining pouches before the September deadline. Our Team produces a very well made pouch and we are happy to help fill the Pittsburgh Collection Point's inventory for their future needs. In October we will again return to rotating our workshops to produce the liners, drawstring bags, and then return to carry pouches. The sewing of one of our items is done at home by four of our members

Our participation has been regularly in the mid-teens with 18 at our July meeting, 17 at the August one. Our total team numbers 25 with members participating as their time allows. Judy

Peggy Kelland – Expanding Girls Horizons
No report submitted

Betty Harrel – Leading to Reading

This summer, reading kits in string bags were delivered to the Rural and Migrant Ministry camp for their summer reading program. Leading to Reading members staffed an AAUW table at the Clinton Community Day at the end of August and distributed AAUW information, free books, and bookmarks.

Barbara Van Itallie – STEM (Math Buddies) nothing new at this time.

Centennial Committee: Co-Chairs **Cyd Averill and Barbara Durniak.** Cyd reported that each committee member is responsible for the research of a specific decade. The research will drive the content of materials. The Committee is also working with the **Honors and Awards Committee.**

Cyd moved The Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW approves the use of the 100 year logo developed by Mary Coiteux for all Centennial related activities. Motion passed.

Cyd thanked and praised **Mary** for all of her hard work and great idea for the logo. She also welcomes everyone's ideas for the celebration.

Interest Group Liaison: Beth DeFiglio reported that interest group leaders have reviewed their respective web sites. They will have tables and be available at the Open House. Distribution lists for each group need to be reviewed and updated.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Gwen Higgins-no report.

International Relations: Jackie Vierno-no report

Public Policy: Patricia DeLeo: no report. Would like to work with other non-partisan organizations to help get out the vote.

Nominating Committee: Mary Scalise-Annis-no report

Newsletter Editor: Cyd Averill reminded us that September 10th is the deadline for the October newsletter. She will assure that those few members who don't use email will receive the newsletter by mail.

Historian-Marge Barton: no report

Old Business-None

New Business

Cindy Emmer thanked Board members for submitting their annual Conflict of Interest form. To date, there are 6 forms yet to be submitted. Submission is requested by 9/30/24.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:04 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Cindy Emmer, Secretary

