

AAUW Board Meeting Minutes

9/30/24

Zoom Meeting

Members present: Board: Mary Scalise-Annis, Cyd Averill, Marge Barton,, Beth DeFiglio,, Cindy Emmer, Kathy Friedman, Betty Harrel,, Gwendolyn Higgins, Diane Jablonski, Pat Luczai, Kay Saderholm, Gail Sisti, Celia Serotsky
Guest: Mary Coiteux

President **Celia Serotsky** called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Secretary **Cindy Emmer** had distributed the September Board meeting minutes. The Board approved them as distributed.

President's Report: **Celia Serotsky** reported that the October 3rd meeting had to be rescheduled to tonight because the 3rd was the first night of Rosh Hashanah. Tonight was the only available night that most Board members could attend. **Please note that this meeting is considered the October Board meeting.** Celia discussed the importance of scheduling AAUW events that do not intervene with important religious holidays. She asked that folks check the calendar when planning events. General discussion of this topic occurred with other members.

Treasurer's Report: **Diane Jablonski** had distributed the Treasurer's report. She noted that she submitted an amended budget for the Board to review and approve. She proposed adding \$2500 to the contributions line to reflect recent donations, \$100 for development expenses and \$1000 to equipment to reflect the purchase of a new computer. has b This budget does not reflect any donation to National AAUW. Motion made by Diane to **"Accept the revised budget with the understanding that a donation to National be considered for next year's budget"**. **Passed unanimously.**

Program

Program VPs **Gail Sisti and Kay Saderholm** reported that the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity will be the November guest speaker. They are considering April's meeting to be the Woman of the Year event. February is Black History month. Gwen Higgins suggested using 5 minute videos that discuss the issue of social justice as part of the February program.

Membership: **Bonnie Auchincloss** was not able to attend, but sent the following report. Everything is on schedule with membership. Margaret will send out an email blast soon for any remaining non renewals followed by phone calls from membership committee members. The committee will meet in November to put together this year's directory to be emailed as well as a 3 or 4 page summary of names, phone #s and email addresses that can be easily printed. Cyd Averill questioned the format of the proposed summary. She wants to be sure that those members who are currently mailed the newsletter are also mailed the summary. She will follow up with Darlene Yerdon.

Membership Treasurer : **Kathy Friedman** reported that 5 new members signed up at the Open House with 2 others through the mail. There are 23 members whose dues are now due that have not renewed. There are currently 234 members. Kathy indicated membership is on track. Pat Luczai expressed concern that it does not appear that the number of members in the directory coincide with the current membership numbers. After a lengthy discussion, Pat will discuss this issue further with Kathy.

Gwen Higgins will provide the committee with a list of possible organizations that might allow AAUW to table at their events as a way to recruit new members.

Development Vice President: **Betty Harrel** reminded everyone to please bring packages of women's panties to the October meeting for Hope on a Mission. Cash or check would also be accepted.

Discussion ensued about the DCC endowment. It was felt that it's very important to get 100% board participation, no matter the size of the contribution. If the full board has contributed, it is hoped that this will be an impetus for our members to also contribute.

Betty moved the following resolution: **"All Board members will be requested to make a contribution to the AAUW DCC endowment fund so as to have 100% board participation, Passed unanimously.**

The Secretary will send an email to all Board and Off-Board members with this request.

Honors & Awards: Barbara Hespenheide could not attend but reported that the Honors and Awards Committee will be holding a Zoom meeting in October.

Communications VP: Pat Luczai made recommendations for amending the Working Rules for Zoom access. After discussion, it was decided Pat would revise her proposal and bring back to the Board in November for consideration.

Community Service Initiatives Liaison: Mary Ann Boylan could not attend but provided a written report that was given to the Board. Of note, there is consideration of discontinuing Math Buddies as a community initiative.

Interest Groups Liaison – Beth DeFiglio reported that all interest groups were represented at the Open House. She thanked Mary Scalise-Annis for representing the Hikers group on such short notice. Linnea Mason is considering moving Movie Mavens to the first Friday of the month.

There was also discussion about the need for Interest Group Leaders to assure their meetings are not scheduled on religious holidays. It was suggested that Beth contact the Chairman of the Interfaith Council to get the dates of major religious holidays.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Gwen Higgins reported that in 2025 she wants to establish DEI groups which will meet on the 5th Thursday of the month. These groups would be planning for a big event in 2026. The 2026 event would be open to all and would celebrate our cultures.

Gwen will start contacting people soon about this initiative.

International Relations – Jackie Vierno no report

Public Policy: Patricia DeLeo did not attend. Celia reported that Pat DeLeo and Mary Coiteux are working on issues and on a Facebook presence.

Nominating Committee: Mary Scalise-Annis no report

Newsletter Editor: Cyd Averill requested that Beth write an article for the newsletter to request that members do their best not to schedule activities on a day another event is scheduled.

Historian: Marge Barton reported that she is working on archiving as much as possible. She has met with the a librarian from Adriance Library and expects to meet with other people as well.

Old Business – None

New Business: Celia Serotsky reported that she is working on a survey for National.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm. The Executive Committee will meet immediately after to discuss the Woman of the Year award.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Emmer, Secretary