

AAUW Board Meeting Minutes

11/7/24

Zoom Meeting

Members present: Board - Bonnie Auchincloss, Mary Ann Boylan, Beth DeFiglio, Cindy Emmer, Kathy Friedman, Betty Harrel, Barbara Hesperheide, Diane Jablonski, Pat Luczai, Kay Saderholm, Mary Scalise Annis, Celia Serotsky, Gail Sisti
Guests: Marcine Humphrey and Barbara Durniak

President **Celia Serotsky** called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

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

President's Report: Celia Serotsky President Serotsky invited Marcine Humphrey to discuss the current issue of National AAUW no longer funding NCCSWL. Marcine stated that there is another organization that may fund the leadership conference, but there is some trepidation about this. The Irene Keyes Memorial Fund has been used in the past to support women attending NCCWSL. If these funds are not used for a girls leadership conference, then the funds will need to go back to the donors. The Board decided to wait and see how things develop in the next few weeks. Deadline for proposals for the conference is in December.

Celia asked that if there is a death of a member to please inform her, Margaret Nijhuis, and Joanne Scolaro.

Mary Ann Boylan brought up the issue of the status of Math Buddies. It was reported at October's meeting that the interest group was having difficulty in finding teachers to assist with the program. The Board agreed to honor and respect the interest group leader Barbara Van Itallie's decision to not continue this program.

Regarding the strategic plan, Celia reported that a committee composed of her, Betty Harrel, Diane Jablonski, and Pat Luczai has been formed to review and make recommendations regarding governance. This is one of the goals of the first year of our Strategic Plan.

Treasurer's Report: Diane Jablonski previously submitted the Treasurer's Report. Diane stated that financially the organization is in good shape. She received a check in the amount of \$550 from the Bridge groups in the memory of Patty Cerniglia. It has been deposited in the Irene Keyes Fund.

Program

Program VPs **Gail Sisti and Kay Saderholm** reported that the programs are set through March. Celia noted that there will be a brief Business Meeting at the beginning of the November program meeting to approve the membership of the Nominating Committee.

Membership: Bonnie Auchincloss reported that many emails were sent to members who have not renewed their memberships. Those who don't respond will be removed from the directory. The directory will be emailed by the end of November. It was recommended that an email blast be sent to let members know the directory will be distributed soon.

Membership Treasurer: Kathy Friedman reported that one new member has joined recently. So far there are 14 new memberships, with a total of 232 as of now.

Development Vice President: Betty Harrel stated that there is almost 100% participation of the Board contributing to the DCC endowment fund. Currently \$3000 has been raised.

Honors & Awards: Barbara Hesperheide held a zoom meeting of her committee. It is reviewing the membership lists and proposes to honor the 25 and 40 year members at the June annual meeting.

Centennial Committee: Barbara Durniak previously submitted a detailed report to the board regarding the committee's activities. See attachment for details. Barb also said the sub-committees will meet again in January. She requested that another 6 month subscription to Poughkeepsie Journal archives be purchased to help with the Committee's work. The treasurer will obtain this.

Communications VP: Pat Luczai Regarding the Zoom Access policy in the Working Rules, Pat moved and Kathy seconded **that the Working Rules as it pertains to Zoom Access be amended as presented.** Note: actual wording are attached to minutes. Passed unanimously. Per the new policy the Secretary will be changing the zoom password in the near future. She will also be updating the Working Rules for the changes.

Community Service Initiatives Liaison: Mary Ann Boylan previously submitted her report to the Board which will be attached to the minutes.

Interest Groups Liaison: Beth DeFiglio Gourmet Out and About would like to plan brunches rather than dinners during the winter months. The dates would be: December 8th January 5th, and February 9th.

Regarding scheduling around religious holidays, Beth is proposing the following religious holidays be added to the AAUW calendar: Holy Thursday-Easter, Christmas Eve and Day, Rosh Hashanah(2 days), Yom Kippur, first night of Passover, Eid (end of Ramadan), and Diwali.

Discussion ensued as to how to coordinate notification to the membership. Cyd will do an article for the newsletter and Beth suggested giving these dates to Phillipa for the calendar. Should Phillipa be responsible for finding the dates for the calendar? In addition, before the start of the 2025-2026 program year, Beth and Mary Ann Boylan will remind interest group leaders to check the calendar so as not to schedule events during those holidays.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Gwen Higgins No report, currently unavailable.

International Relations – Jackie Vierno is traveling but reported that she will begin submitting articles to the Branch about the UN conference in January.

Public Policy: Patricia DeLeo was not present but reported that AAUW will continue with its mission.

Nominating Committee: Mary Scalise-Annis reported that the committee has been formed and will meet in either November or December. Positions to be voted on in 2025: 1 or 2 program VPs, 1 or 2 Membership VPs, one Development VP, one membership treasurer.

Newsletter Editor: Cyd Averill Celia reminded everyone that articles for The Branch need to be submitted by the 10th of each month.

Historian: Marge Barton – No report

Old Business – None

New Business None

Announcements None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Emmer, Secretary

Attachments:

Approved Working Rules for Zoom Access

Community Service Initiatives report

Centennial Committee report

Zoom – Policies

- Overview – Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW Zoom Meeting account is for use by the Board, committees, interest groups and initiatives. The account is for AAUW purposes only and is not for personal use. The account has a maximum of 100 attendees and no time limit on the length of the meeting. Please note that Zoom also has a webinar product. The branch does not have a Zoom Webinar account.
- Password Management - the secretary will be in charge of changing the password and maintaining the user id. The password should be changed with each new term of the secretary's office at a minimum, more often as needed.

When a change occurs, the secretary will inform the board and notify the interest group and initiative coordinators that a change has been made. In turn, they will notify those utilizing Zoom that they will need to contact the secretary via phone or in person to get the new password.

Requesting Password Access - Download the Zoom Access Request form from the Mission, Policy & Procedures page of the website. (Appendix C) Sign and return to Secretary. Those who have already completed a form do not need to reapply when the password changes. The secretary should maintain a list of all those currently authorized to use Zoom and share it when needed. For security purposes, the password will not be shared in writing. Users of the account agree to educate themselves on how to use the account for their needs. Links to basic operating functions are included in these guidelines. Zoom provides extensive training material online as well.

Approved 11/5/24

AAUW Board Meeting – November 7, 2024

Ann Pinna – Court Watch

The Court Watch Team met at Ann Pinna's house last week, Wednesday, Oct. 30th, for an over 2-hour long discussion of Court Watch, past and present. The purpose of the meeting was to take a strong look at the Observation Forms which monitors filled out while observing court proceedings over a 6 year period,--- before,--- during, and ---after COVID. Ann provided an analysis of over 380 Observation Forms from 2019 to 2024, citing items which included "favorable actions" on the part of Family Court judges and personnel as well as "issues of concern" and areas where some improvements might be considered. At a future date, when more information is gathered and more monitors are involved, a detailed and more definitive report will be shared with judges and court personnel. At the meeting were 2 new monitors, Cindy Emmer and Nancy Marrine who will be monitoring along with Ann Pinna, Liz Graham, Flo Mondanaro, and her buddy Leslie Leventhal. Mary Lou Davis is no longer monitoring, but, instead, is currently in charge of data entry. Scheduling of monitors was also discussed as monitors are required to attend court at least once a month for a full morning or afternoon session. Monitors felt the meeting was very informative as it was time to evaluate past concerns to determine if anything had changed or if they remained the same. The team also discussed Court Watch's direction and movement forward into the future.

Sabashnee Grovender/Judy Longacre – Days for Girls

No report submitted.

Peggy Kelland – Extending Girls Horizons

Peggy Kelland will hold an organizational meeting in December to plan activities. The first program of the year will begin in January.

Betty Harrel – Leading to Reading

Leading to Reading is preparing to do the gift wrapping at Hudson River Lodging in December. We will be the recipients of the Barnes and Noble Holiday Book Drive held from November 1 – December 29. Any books that customers donate will go to our book project

Barbara Van Itallie – STEN (Math Buddies)

No updated since I last wrote.

I am sorry I was unable to attend the board meeting last month. Barbara Van Itallie would like your opinion/response to her October report.

Reprint - October STEM (Math Buddies) report

Mary Ann and Board,

I am seriously considering ending Math Buddies as an AAUW initiative.

The existing Buddies can certainly continue being a Math Buddy on their own. I plan to continue with my teacher at Krieger School, although when my teacher retires at the end of the year, I probably will too.

My thinking:

There are only five of us and one subs for me, so only 4 placements.

No one came forward to volunteer at Open House; this is typical in past years. Several people who I talked to at the table were afraid of the word "math", even though I try to explain the low level. Those who don't shrink away from that word are already too busy with their many other volunteer activities, work during the day, or do not want to commit to something on a regular basis. My attempts through articles in the newsletter, speaking at meetings, or checking the interest sheets bring no results.

On the other side, I'm not having luck in finding placements for Buddies. I had hoped that the person who runs Book Buddies at Literacy Connections would look out for a teacher who would like a Math Buddy, but this does not seem to be happening, or there is no interest. Even if we were to locate some teachers who would like a Buddy, I have only one to offer, an existing Buddy who wants a second placement and no one new.

So "catch 22" - if I had Buddies, no placements to offer them. If I had teachers interested, no Buddies to offer them.

Tutoring has been shown to be very helpful for struggling students, so this is a disappointment for me.

I've asked the existing Math Buddies if any of them would like to take on this initiative and see if they can perk it up, but so far no takers.

**AAUW Centennial Committee
Board Report
Nov. 7, 2024**

The committee reviewed an extensive list of research compiled by committee members since work began in June. This list will serve as a springboard for activities and events throughout the centennial year, which will commence in May of 2025 and end in April of 2026.

The committee discussed adoption of an over-arching theme for our centennial. Celia suggested it be one that acknowledges the past and the future, such as: Where have we been? Where are we going? Our centennial logo mentions our mission statement: Advancing Equity for Women and Girls.

Sub-committees were formed to plan and execute various celebration activities/events. Chairs will seek to recruit additional branch members to broaden participation and enthusiasm. The group will also brainstorm ways in which interest groups might coordinate activities related to the Centennial. The sub-committees will reconvene in January to report on their various assignments and determine which ideas are viable.

Programs/Events

May 2025: Branch Program meeting-Official start of Centennial Celebration

- Birthday party (with cake!) -this would mainly be a social event
- Brief overview of branch's origins and brief bios of a few of our founding members

June 2025: Annual meeting

- Explore possible tie-in with Centennial

Oct 2025 or Nov 2025: Special event-in collaboration with the PPLD?

- Screening (off-site location?) of "City on the Hudson," the film our branch produced

Dec 2025: Program meeting-DCC & Poughkeepsie Branch; culmination of fundraiser

- History of our branch's role in founding the college; and ongoing support
- Speaker from DCC?
- Presentation of AAUW Endowment check.

Spring 2026: Program meeting-Vassar & Poughkeepsie Branch

- *Possible speaker:* Dr. Ron Patkus, (*Adjunct Associate Professor of History on the Frederick Weyerhaeuser Chair/Associate Director of the Libraries for Special Collections/Vassar Historian*)
 - Topic: the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), which was closely connected to both the AAUW and Vassar. In 1958, the IFUW held its annual conference on campus (only the second time in the U.S.), with the aid and support of branch members, and much touring of the Hudson Valley.
- *Possible speaker:* Wendy Maragh Taylor, Associate Dean of the College for Student Growth and Engagement

Date TBD : Program meeting-Spotlight on Initiatives?

- Overview of branch community involvement and celebration of current initiatives with presentations by each of the current leaders:

Work product ideas

- Articles in the newsletter from May 2025-April 2026
- Slideshow/Powerpoint (using archival materials)
- Create a commemorative photo book (using archival materials) of Poughkeepsie AAUW history on Shutterfly as a wrap-up to the centennial. This could be sold above cost as a fundraiser
- Merchandise (T-shirts, totes, etc.)

Next steps

- The committee requests a 6 month continuation of the Poughkeepsie Journal archives subscription, which is due to expire at the end of Nov.
- Sub-committee chairs will develop timeline and preliminary plans for their respective programs/activities; report to Committee by Mid-January. At that time, we will also solidify wording for a theme.
- If board members have suggestions for any of the above, please submit them, in writing, to us for consideration by the committee.

Cyd Averill and Barbara Durniak

Centennial Co-Chairs