

AAUW General Membership Business Meeting

June 11, 2025

Villa Borghese, Dinner meeting

Celia Serotsky, President, called the meeting to order at 6:50pm.

Celia stated that the quorum of 10% was satisfied. She announced that six delegates will attend the NYS Annual Meeting virtually on June 14, 2025. The delegates are **Bonnie Auchincloss, Cyd Averill, Marcine Humphrey, Diane Jablonski, Margaret Nijhuis, and Celia Serotsky**. Celia urged everyone to attend Open House on Thursday, September 11, at Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church. Celia recognized and thanked the Annual Meeting Planning Committee: **Barbara Van Itallie, Chair, Michelle Miller, Barbara Hespenheide, Lea Bishop, and Sue Colao**. She also thanked **Margaret Nijhuis** who did the publicity flyer and the program, **Bonnie Auchincloss** who created the slide show and other tech work, and **Marcine Humphrey** who did the centerpieces on the tables.

Celia introduced **Suzanne Young-Mercer**, AAUW-NYS President, who congratulated the branch on their achievements and leadership.

Nominations

Mary Scalise-Annis announced that the Nominating Committee consisted of **Mary Coiteux, Diane Jablonski, Gail Sisti and Barbara Van Itallie**, and herself as chair. The following slate of officers have agreed to serve for the coming 2025-2027 term:

Program VP: Barbara Van Itallie

Membership VPs: Kathy Prisco and Maureen Tremblay

Development VP: Sandra Rankin

Membership Treasurer: Kathy Friedman (2nd term)

Celia noted that this was a committee report and needed no second. She asked the Nominating Chair if there were any nominations submitted a week before the vote as per the Working Rules. Chair **Mary Scalise-Annis** replied there were none. The President asked the Secretary to cast one vote for the slate, which substitute Secretary **Beth DeFiglio** did. Celia asked members to vote by saying aye/nay/abstain. The slate was elected unanimously.

AAUW-NYS President **Suzanne Young-Mercer** installed the new and continuing officers.

Celia Serotsky then recognized the outgoing Board members:

Gail Sisti and Kay Saderholm – Program VPs

Bonnie Auchincloss – Membership VP

Betty Harrel – Development VP

Barbara Hespenheide – Honors and Awards Chair

Celia noted that Barbara is moving to California and Betty will continue on the Board as the appointed Honors and Awards chair.

Celia presented each incoming and outgoing Board member with a rose.

President's Report

Celia Serotsky gave her annual report, concluding with the following remarks:

"Thank you for everything you do to keep our branch vibrant and active through your support of our initiatives, your participation in the interest groups, and by volunteering to be on a committee or take on a leadership role on the Board. You are the backbone and the heart of AAUW Poughkeepsie, and that's why we are 100 years strong!"

Minutes

Beth DeFiglio, substituting for **Cindy Emmer**, Secretary, explained that the previous general business meeting was held on November 14, 2024, and the minutes, which were approved at the December board meeting, are on the AAUW Poughkeepsie website under Leadership/Minutes. As stipulated in the bylaws, the minutes from this meeting will be presented to the board for approval at the September meeting and subsequently posted on the website.

Bylaws

Beth DeFiglio, again substituting for Cindy Emmer, noted that the proposed Bylaws changes have been published in The Branch, sent out by e-mail, and are also in the meeting program. **She moved to add the words “Executive Vice President” to Article IX, Sections 1B and 2D, and Article XIV, section 1, as proposed and documented in the Annual meeting program.** **Darlene Yeardon** seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and **the motion passed unanimously.** Beth noted that the updated By-Laws will be posted on the AAUW Poughkeepsie website under About Us/Mission, Policies and Procedures.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer **Diane Jablonski** noted a major change to the dues process: that dues are now paid directly to National AAUW, and the branch portion of the dues comes back monthly. Diane reported that the Centennial endowment fund has reached \$7900, and there is a \$87,641 balance in Investments and Checking. The Budget for the upcoming year is complete, was approved by the Board and published in the May issue of The Branch.

The meeting then paused for dinner.

In Memoriam

Membership VP **Bonnie Auchincloss** presented a brief memoriam for AAUW members **Patricia Jean (Patty) Smith Holbrook Cerniglia** who passed in 2024, and **Claudette Hennessy, Raina Maissel, and Jewel S.G. Ratzlaff**, who passed in 2025.

Membership Honors

Bonnie presented the longevity awards that are based on the number of years a member has been part of our local AAUW branch:

10 Years:

Carol Barmann, Barbara Durniak, Mia Henry, Sally A. Kemink, Deborah Lee, Susan Levine, Joanne P. Long, Barbara O'Brien, Margaret H. Ouart, Patricia Reilly, Mary Scalise-Annis, Roberta Tracy

15 Years:

Geraldine Allan, Elizabeth Devine, Maria L. DeWald, Rochelle (Shelley) Friedman, Sandy Goldberg, Mary Anne Hogarty, Diane Jablonski, Judy Killmer, Jacqueline L. Klein, Ann Carmen Pinna, Sharon Ann Rizzo, Kay Saderholm, Diana R. Salsberg

20 Years:

Patricia Aglietti, Susan B. Fink, Carol R. Mastropietro, Barbara Mindel, Florence Mondanaro

Honors and Awards

Barbara Hesperheide, Honors and Awards Chair, presented the following awards:

2024 Emerging Leader Award: Cindy Emmer (Cindy was not able to attend the meeting.)

Centennial Legacy Honorees:

62 Years: Lillian DePasquale

61 Years: Mary King
59 Years: Elizabeth (Betty) Harrel, Pamela Sadlier
57 Years: Margaret Nijhuis
53 Years: Erin Teichman
51 Years: Ellen Edgar, Peggy Kelland
49 Years: Stephanie King, Beverly Nathan
48 Years: Barbara Hespenheide
47 Years: Mariellen Pangia
41 Years: Helen Buhler, Catherine A. Lane, Barbara B. Markell
40 Years: Cynthia Averill
39 Years: Gloria Ghedini, Cathleen Kinn
36 Years: Linda Freisitzer
35 Years: Kathleen Martin
34 Years: Cynthia Smith
33 Years: Laura Graceffa, Roz Werner
32 Years: Diane Closs, Shaileen Kopec, Meg Ronsheim
30 Years: Mary Lou Davis
28 Years: Karleen Dorn
26 Years: Dorothy Evangelista
25 Years: Mary Jane Von Allmen

Celia Serotsky thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth DeFiglio, substituting for Cindy Emmer, Secretary