

## **AAUW Board Meeting Minutes**

**10/9/25**

### **Zoom Meeting**

**Members present:** Cyd Averill, Beth DeFiglio, Cindy Emmer, Betty Harrel, Diane Jablonski, Pat Luczai, Sandy Rankin, Mary Scalise-Annis, Celia Serotsky, Maureen Tremblay, Barbara Van Itallie,, Jackie Vierno

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

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

**President's Report:** **Celia Serotsky** reminded everyone that there will be a Business Meeting on the night of the November program. Main purpose is to appoint the Nominating Committee. Nominees will be needed for the following officers: President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Communications Vice President. Please give your recommendations to Mary Scalise-Annis, Nominating Committee Chair.

National AAUW is encouraging all members to attend the local No Kings Day event on October 18<sup>th</sup>. This event supports AAUW's concerns regarding civil rights for women and others.

**Treasurer's Report:** **Diane Jablonski** had previously distributed the Treasurer's report. She reported that dues from National AAUW are being received. The Branch will have to determine next month what amount it will give to National for 2025.

**Program:** **Barbara Van Itallie** reported on programs scheduled for the next few months. She also indicated that the Days for Girls interest group would like donations of girls' underwear brought to the 10/16 meeting. Cash or check is also acceptable. Barbara would also like to find a volunteer who could promote each program presentation to community members who might have a special interest in a particular program.

**Membership:** **Maureen Tremblay** brought up the need for coordination of membership applications at the Open House as it pertains to the collection of and distribution of the profile forms. There was general discussion about this issue and other data coordination.

**Membership Treasurer:** **Kathy Friedman** no report.

**Development Vice President:** **Sandy Rankin** is holding a meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss data needs and coordination for the organization. She wants to improve communication and institutional memory in terms of data. She also plans to reach out to interest group leaders and craft a simple fundraising message.

Betty Harrel added that the current total raised for the Endowment is \$11,000. **Betty Harrel moved the following resolution: AAUW Branch purchase a presentation check for the cost of \$64 to be presented to Dutchess Community College at the December program meeting. Passed unanimously.**

**Honors & Awards:** **Betty Harrel** No report.

**Communications VP:** **Pat Luczai** reported that the communications team has put together a description for a volunteer to help with graphic design.

**Centennial Committee:** **Cyd Averill** stated there was nothing new to report.

**Community Service Initiatives Liaison:** **Mary Ann Boylan** was not able to attend tonight's meeting. Refer to her report previously sent.

**Interest Groups Liaison:** **Beth DeFiglio** reported that an interest group leader is still needed for Gourmet Out and About. Beth added that follow-up is required on renewed members. Now that dues are paid to National,

she needs to know from the Membership Treasurer who has not renewed their membership so that she can alert Interest Group leaders. The Board needs to decide on the length of a grace period for members to renew beyond the membership renewal date before they are no longer members. A board policy needs to be developed. There was general discussion of this issue. Diane Jablonski will develop a proposal for the next meeting.

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

**International Relations – Jackie Vierno** stated that there will be special acknowledgment for International Women’s Day at the March program meeting. She is looking for volunteers to help with this event.

**Public Policy: Patricia DeLeo** No report.

**Nominating Committee: Mary Scalise-Annis** reported that the first meeting will be on 10/16.

**Newsletter Editor: Cyd Averill** will be putting the names of the Nominating Committee in the December Branch.

**Historian: Marge Barton** No report.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business: Betty Harrel** reported that Leading to Reading group will be wrapping children’s holiday gifts for Hudson River Lodging.. The LaGrange Lions club is conducting a toy drive and Betty asked if Leading to Reading could assist in this drive. It was suggested that the entire membership be asked to contribute to the toy drive. **Betty Harrel moved the following resolution: Our Branch will partner with the LaGrange Lions Club in their holiday drive for Hudson River Lodging and publicize this through an article in The Branch. Unanimously approved.**

**Announcements:** Celia reminded everyone of the Atlantic Conference 9/25-9/27 2026. A block of rooms has been set aside at the Marriott Hotel.. Let her know if you are interested in attending.

Cyd said she was pleased to see an article in the Southern Dutchess News regarding the resolution from the Dutchess County Legislature celebrating the branch’s 100 year anniversary.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Cindy Emmer**, Secretary

## **AAUW October 2025 Board Meeting**

### **Community Service Report**

#### **Court Watch – Ann Pinna**

I really do not have anything new to report regarding Court Watch other than we monitors are continuing to monitor Family Court as all schedules permit. We hope to have a meeting of monitors in late fall to analyze results from our Observation Forms and to share our experiences in court.

#### **Days for Girls – Sabashnee Govender/Judy Longacre**

No report submitted

### Extending Girls Horizons – Peggy Kelland

The program “International Games”, for girls in grades 6 -12, will be held on Friday, October 17 from 6:30 to 8:00PM in the R.C. Ketcham H.S. AAUW members are always welcome to volunteer or just observe.

### Leading to Reading – Betty Harrel

Leading to Reading was selected to be the recipient of the Barnes and Noble holiday book drive again. Customers will be asked between November 1st - December 15th if they'd like to purchase an extra book to go to our project. I'll try to advertise it as much as I can.

