

ha AAUW Board Meeting Minutes

11/6/2025

Zoom Meeting

Members present: Board - Cyd Averill, Mary Ann Boylan, Beth DeFiglio, Cindy Emmer, Kathy Friedman, Diane Jablonski, Pat Luczai, Sandy Rankin, Mary Scalise-Annis, Celia Serotsky, Maureen Tremblay, Barbara Van Itallie.

President **Celia Serotsky** called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

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

President's Report: **Celia Serotsky** reported she received positive comments regarding State AAUW financial security member meeting. She also requested that interest group leaders poll their members as to interest in offering a few program meetings on a Saturday as a way to accommodate potential members who are unable to attend Thursday evening meetings.

The Nominating Committee Chair, Mary Scalise-Annis will present the proposed nominating committee members for Board approval at the 11/13 Business meeting. Vice President for Program, Barbara Van Itallie, will chair the meeting as the President must be out of town that date.

Treasurer's Report: **Diane Jablonski** had previously distributed the Treasurer's report. Diane reported that at the December Board meeting, we will have to make a decision on the amount of the Branch's 2025 contribution to National. The Board may wish to increase its contribution. Diane will also investigate if we can donate to National's public policy fund.

Program: **Barbara Van Itallie** would like to invite other AAUW-NYS branches to attend the February Zoom meeting featuring a representative from National. If there is a big response, then our Zoom account may have to be upgraded for the evening. There will be a fee for the upgrade. **Barbara Van Itallie moved that the Branch invite NYS Branches to the February Zoom meeting with National. The Poughkeepsie Branch will pay the fee to upgrade Zoom for that event, if needed. Preregistration is required.** Passed unanimously.

Membership: **Maureen Tremblay** reported that she and Kathy Prisco have been reaching out to members whose dues have expired and have not renewed as yet. So far there are 23 new members this year and 36 have not renewed. Discussion continued as to what role Interest Group and Initiatives leaders should take in reminding members whose dues have expired to pay dues. The time frame for when members can no longer attend these groups if dues are not current was also discussed. Membership Treasurer Kathy Friedman stated that at the beginning of each month, she will forward a list of overdue memberships to the Interest Group Liaison Beth Defiglio and Initiative Liaison Mary Ann Boylan. They will pass on the information to their respective leaders.

Memberships Treasurer: **Kathy Friedman** See above.

Development Vice President: **Sandy Rankin** reported that a meeting was held on October 30th to discuss membership data. A sub-committee has been formed to discuss the membership profile. At a future meeting, the full group will continue to review data collection and dissemination.

Honors & Awards: **Betty Harrel** was not able to attend the meeting but provided the following information: the Branch has raised \$12,564 for the DCC endowment fund. With the match, at least \$25,128 will be presented to DCC in December. The Board will have to decide in December how it wants to designate the funds. A minimum of \$ 20,000 is required for a \$1000 scholarship and we can either add to that or to our current scholarship.

Honors and Awards Committee is waiting to see if there are any further nominations from the Board or membership. If not, the Committee will present its recommendations to the Board.

Communications VP: Pat Luczai stated that an AI policy needs to be developed. She will present a proposal at the December meeting.

Centennial Committee: Barbara Durniak/Cyd Averill no report

Community Service Initiatives Liaison: Mary Ann Boylan presented her report. See attached for details.

Interest Groups Liaison: Beth DeFiglio gave many thanks to Tori Smith who is stepping down as the Trekkers interest group leader. The group is moving its meeting to the second Wednesday of the month. Beth will be following up with Out and About Gourmet regarding the status of its leadership.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Gwen Higgins No report

International Relations – Jackie Vierno was unable to attend the meeting but reported that plans continue for the celebration of International Women's Day at the March meeting. This year's IWD theme is # GivetoGain. She is preparing an article about this for the December Branch. Volunteers are needed to help with the March event.

Public Policy: Patricia DeLeo No report

Nominating Committee: Mary Scalise-Annis is recommending the following slate for the 2025 Nominating Committee: Kathy Friedman, Cindy Emmer(Board members), Mary Coiteux, Gail Sisti, and Maria DeWald. Slate to be voted on at the 11/13 Business meeting.

Newsletter Editor: Cyd Averill -Articles for the December newsletter are due November 10th.

Historian – Marge Barton: No report

Old Business: None

New Business: Maureen Tremblay stated that there will be a reception for new members just prior to the December meeting.

Announcements: Pat Luczai reported that Judy Longacre, leader of the Days for Girls initiative, was nominated for the 2025 Days for Girls USA volunteer award. Congratulations, Judy!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Emmer, Secretary

AAUW November 2025 Board Meeting

Community Service Report

Court Watch – Ann Pinna

Regarding Court Watch, monitors continue to monitor every month as Judges' schedules and monitors' schedules permit.

Days for Girls – Sabashnee Govender/Judy Longacre

Sabashnee Govender - Our October meeting was small but we accomplished a lot in making the bags for the kits. We met at a volunteer's house and 2 other volunteers loaned us tables and chairs.

Our next 3 meetings will be at Poughkeepsie Methodist church but not on our usual Saturday. We are being flexible because we don't have a place currently for running our work sessions. We are still looking for venues for Feb to May 2026

Judy Longacre - The Days for Girls Underwear and Washcloth drive, which occurred at the October showing of "A City on the Hudson", netted our Initiative 36 washcloths, 45 panties, and \$30. It was a nice collection, although I have a feeling it was mostly supported by the leadership of AAUW. We chose October because October 11 was declared "International Day of the Girl" by the United Nations in 2012. The audience was not particularly an AAUW audience and we may have done better at another time. However, we are most appreciative of the donations we did receive, and they will make our next contribution of kits possible.

Extending Girls Horizons – Peggy Kelland

The International Games program, held on October 17, was a huge success. Extending Girls Horizons will meet on November 14th to create Crafts.

Leading to Reading – Betty Harrel

Leading to Reading will be one of the organizations honored at the Hudson River Housing gala on November 6th. We'll be recognized for our long history of support for the residents at Hudson River Lodging. We recently received a donation from the Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers.