

**Board Meeting of the Westchester Chapter of AAUW
June 17, 2015 Minutes**

Attendance: Roli Wendorf, Melanie Rostoker, Sue Lambert, Ann Sheridan, Adelaide DiGiorgi, Linda Motelson, Diona Koerner, Jane Pendergast, Linda Swann, Barbara Sarver, Natasha Rose, Adie Shore, Stephanie Lemnios

Roli opened the meeting at 10:10am at the home of Sue Lambert.

Part 1 Outgoing Board

1. Minutes of the previous board meeting were approved with two minor changes – in Section 3(a), Eileen Harman was changed to Eileen Hartmann and in Section 2(a)(i), the number of members was changed from 185 to 194. Branch minutes were approved as written.
2. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. Linda Motelson reviewed the financial statement and thanked Adie Shore for a \$2,500 contribution from Key Bank for special projects. Linda explained the negative figure for Net Income in the last column of the financial statement.
3. **Committee/Action Group Reports**
 - a. **Membership** – Adelaide DiGiorgi reported that there have now been 119 renewals out of a total of 197 members. A check dated from last year was returned by the bank and no replacement check has yet been received.
 - b. **Programs** – Stephanie Lemnios went over the programs for 2015-2016. All the programs, besides the holiday luncheon, will be held at the Greenburgh Public Library.
The Spring Fling made \$233 from the raffle and \$100 from Diona and Roli.
 - c. **Start Smart** – The funding check of \$2,500 from Key Bank has been received.
 - d. **Insurance Update** – the branch does not have Directors and Officers Insurance or Errors and Omissions insurance. Adelaide said she would investigate what insurance was purchased by the League of Women's Voters. Adelaide, Jane and Carol will get quotes from insurance companies before the next board meeting.
4. **NY Branch House funding request** – Roli explained, for the new members, the background to the funding request. The Manhattan Chapter owned a house which was sold for \$5 million when the branch disbanded. The resulting funds are supposed to be used for AAUW branches within a certain radius of NYC which includes Westchester. Roli asked about the funds at the State Convention. Questions: (i) Which branches are eligible for funds - an attorney answered giving a list of the branches; (ii) Is there a process for allocating funds – no. (iii) Who is the contact person – Eileen Hartmann. Roli was asked to send a letter detailing the amount of funds she is requesting and for what purposes. This she has done.
Roli would like a task force to deal with the \$5 million which includes members from all the eligible branches.

Stephanie enquired about the interest on the money and Linda Swann asked whether there was a separate accounting for the funds.

5. **College of Westchester visit** – Roli reported on her visit, along with Jane and Mary, to the College of Westchester located on Central Avenue in White Plains. The college would like to become institutional partners with AAUW and start an AAUW group in the college. At one time, AAUW volunteers tutored at the college and the college would like to restart that program. This project would be handled by the Equity in Education Group. Tutoring will be coordinated by Marlene Cartaina. Linda Motelson, Melanie Rostoker and Sue Lambert offered to work on this.

Part 2 Incoming Board

1. **WizGirls funding** –

Diona reported on WizGirls, a conference modeled on EYO run by Sheila Narayanan, a new AAUW member. The conference will take place on November 7th at Ardsley Middle school which has six science labs. The conference will have workshops in the morning for two age groups - 4th & 5th grades and 6th and 7th grades. At present, Diona has recruited 10 workshop leaders. There is a school teacher to help the presenters make their workshop age appropriate. After lunch, there will be a presentation to teach the children about engineering, hopefully presented by women engineers. Then there will be competitions for each age group consisting of teams of four who design and build a structure. 4th/5th – spaghetti towers – who can build the highest? 6th/7th – build a bridge using popsicle sticks and other materials – what weight can it support? Afterwards, there will be time for each age group to view the structures created by the other age group.

Sheila has received promises of funding from two companies - \$5,000 from Cognizant and \$10,000 from MasterCard. She made up two budgets and has already received pledges for greater than the amount of the smaller budget of \$10,000.

Curious on Hudson, Manhattan Engineers and Cognizant are interested in participating in the workshops. Tappan Zee Bridge will send a speaker. There will be volunteers from high schools to assist with the workshops.

Stephanie expressed concern that the organizing committee was made up of too many non-AAUW women. Roli pointed out that there was no requirement of membership in AAUW. Diona counted the number of AAUW members on the organizing committee and thought there were sufficient. In addition, more members would participate now that the conference was a reality.

Jane was concerned about fundraising before getting board approval. Linda Swann did not want to dampen Sheila's initiative with bureaucracy and thought the most important issue was for AAUW to have control over the way the funds are spent. It was noted that the person in charge of the WizGirls' funds will be the AAUW treasurer.

The board decided that the information they need to know about WizGirls at the August Board meeting is: who is on the planning committee; the process for spending funds; the budget.

2. **Nominating Committee** – Roli proposed Diona for the committee and Diona proposed Adelaide. Initially, people new to AAUW were considered but it was thought that they would not have enough familiarity with other members. Adelaide thought someone from the membership committee should be on the nominating committee.
3. **AAUW-NYS Summer Conference** –
 - a. Only Roli and Jane are attending.
 - b. The branch has been asked to participate in a roundtable discussion on leadership models. This will fall to Roli and Jane.
4. **Locations of Board Meetings** on Aug 19, Sept 16 and June 15 – Roli will check if the Greenburgh Public Library is available. If not, then the meetings will take place in members' homes.
5. **Yearbook update**
 - a. **Historian** – Roli will ask Jean Havens. It was suggested that there be a committee because it is a large job. An email will be sent out to see who is interested.
 - b. **Summer activities chair** – Nancy Vincent and Terry VanDeCarr were suggested.
 - c. **Toys for Tots** – Adie Shore volunteered.
 - d. **Hospitality** – the person doing this for the 2014-2015 year has decided to continue. There was a discussion about how much food is needed at branch meetings. Roli thought there were three possible levels: just tea and coffee; tea, coffee, fruit and cookies; people bringing food. Diona thought just tea and coffee was sufficient. People being assigned to bring different items was also suggested. This issue will be decided at a later date.
 - e. **New member coffees** – the dates of Oct 17th at Marie's and May 14th at Selena's were approved.
 - f. **60th Anniversary celebration** – Jane proposed a program at a branch meeting. Roli suggested getting someone from National or State to come. It was decided to celebrate the anniversary at the Spring Fling and possibly also have something at a branch meeting. Some suggestions for the celebration: videotape the celebration and show it at the State Convention and/or put it on our website; slideshow of activities over the last 60 years; champagne toast at the Spring Fling. The organization was thought to be a big job needing a committee. After the meeting had ended, Barbara Sarver, Sue Lambert and Stephanie Lemnios volunteered to be on the 60th Anniversary Planning Committee.
6. **Next Board Meeting on August 19th**
 - a. Policy and Strategy Documents – the bylaws will be affected by the national convention.
 - b. Newsletter article assignment – Diona and Roli for September Chips.

Submitted by Linda Swann