

AAUW Board Meeting Minutes for August 19, 2015

Attendance: Diona Koerner, Roli Wendorf, Natasha Rose, Sheila Narayanan, Barbara Sarver, Adelaide DiGiorgi, Adie Shore, Stephanie Lemnios, Selena Barron, Marie McKellar, Linda Swann, Marilee Scheuneman, Jane Pendergast, Ann Sheridan.

The meeting was called to order by Diona Koerner at 10:00 a.m.

1. The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the June, 2015 meeting. Roli Wendorf moved to amend the minutes to indicate that the \$2,500.00 grant for StartSmart which was arranged by Adie Shore came from Key Bank.

A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Natasha Rose and seconded by Stephanie Lemnios. The motion was passed by unanimous consent.

2. Sheila Narayanan gave a presentation on the current status of the WizGirls event scheduled for November 7. She stated that this is an event for girls from 4th-7th grades to introduce them to engineering and technology and the event is built on what has been done with EYO for older girls. There will be workshops in the morning, some for girls in 4th and 5th grades and others for 6th and 7th graders and in the afternoon there will be projects for the girls to build. The younger girls will be building spaghetti towers and the older ones will either do a build a bridge project or may do spaghetti towers as well. The planning committee is hoping that approximately 200 girls will attend and the cost to them will be \$15.00. Flyers have been sent out to several school districts and the committee will follow up once schools are in session.

Sheila has managed to attract major financial contributions from Mastercard, Cognizant and ICL which will not only cover the cost of the event but will leave money in the account for the following year.

At the June Board meeting there was some discussion as to whether there was too much involvement from the Ardsley School District and not enough from AAUW, but looking at the planning committee it is obvious that AAUW holds the vast majority of positions.

Jane Pendergast asked if there would be money for scholarships for those who cannot afford to attend. Barbara Sarver said that to have different classes of attendees would make registration very difficult and Diona Koerner indicated that we should concentrate on getting the event off the ground this year and think about scholarships for the following year.

The WizGirls logo was shown to the Board and Sheila and her committee were asked to have AAUW indicated at some place on the logo.

A motion was made by Roli Wendorf to approve the WizGirls project on November 7 as described and was seconded by Linda Swann. The vote to approve was unanimous. Linda Swann then asked if the motion could be amended to remove the date of November 7 in case the event date needed to be

changed. The Board then voted unanimously to approve the event as described without the date attached.

3. Jane Pendergast then discussed the issue of Branch insurance. We currently only have a liability policy at a cost of \$175.00. A committee was formed to investigate other insurance needs and came up with a recommendation for both crime insurance in case funds are stolen or a crime is committed against the Branch at a cost of \$200.00 for three years as well as directors and officer's insurance which protects the Branch against wrongful acts committed by a covered party and costs \$332. That would be an additional \$400.00 per year but without it Board members could be personally liable if the Branch was sued and found to be at fault.

Several Board members stated that they believed the amounts for the insurance were reasonable and Jane Pendergast said that they were dealing with an AAUW approved insurance provider who was giving us an AAUW group rate.

Jane Pendergast made a motion to adopt the crime and directors liability insurance as described which was seconded by Roli Wendorf. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Jane Pendergast then gave the treasurer's report. The Board reviewed the financial statement as of August 2 as well as the statement of receipts and expenditures from 7/1/14-6/30/15. The grants for WizGirls were not indicated in the budget since it has not been received yet, nor was the \$250.00 to be paid to the Branch attorney to review the contract from Mastercard for WizGirls. Roli Wendorf said that as we get further grants we need to account for it and have a separate page for each grant or each program.

5. Marilee Scheuneman spoke about the potluck dinner scheduled for September 9 which was very successful last year. It will be held at the Greenburgh Library and will have 7 tables seating nine people, for a total of 63. There will be two tables for food, with traffic on both sides, one table for desserts and beverages and a membership check in table in the front where there will also be yearbook distribution. Adelaide DiGiorgi asked for either a wider table for membership or two separate tables, one for check in and another for yearbook distribution. There will also be a table for interest group and committee sign ups and a podium with a screen for Diona's talk. The table centerpieces will be made up of books and apples and the Board members were asked to bring books for that. Adie Shore volunteered to bring the apples. The set up will begin at 5:00 p.m. and Board members were asked to come then with their book donations to help with the set up. Selena Barron said that if the books were not taken home they could be donated to the Library for their book sale. Adelaide DiGiorgi said she needed volunteers to help as greeters and at the yearbook distribution table.

Diona Koerner's talk at 7:00 will be open to non-members and we may have extra chairs put at the back of the room for people who come for the talk.

6. Jane Pendergast spoke about the possibility of our Branch co-sponsoring a Common Core roundtable event in conjunction with High Achievement NY and the Pace University School of Education. In 2014 national AAUW added support for Common Core to its mission statement. It would be a small event,

with 11 to 15 people at the roundtable. High Achievement NY has done several of these events and would provide a moderator, questions and focus for the event. All of the roundtable members would be supporters of Common core. They would be teachers, parents or local business people. Pace University would provide the room. We may have to provide some food (Pace charges \$9-10 for a full breakfast) or High Achievement NY may cover the cost of the food. Jane Pendergast recommends going ahead with such an event, which would be held in November. AAUW would be responsible, along with the Pace School of Education for providing the roundtable participants, and High Achievement NY will be responsible for publicity. Jane will inquire whether or not an audience of AAUW members will be permitted.

Jane Pendergast made a motion to cohost a Common core roundtable event in the fall along with High Achievement NY and Pace University. The motion was seconded by Roli Wendorf and passed by unanimous consent.

7. Jane Pendergast spoke about the League of Women Voters voter registration drive scheduled for September 22. She is looking for volunteers to man the registration tables at locations in Northern Westchester. Selena Barron is also looking for voter registration volunteers for locations in the Greenburgh Library and at Club Fit.

8. Adelaide DiGiorgi gave the membership report. We currently have 177 members paid up for the coming year, but she and the membership committee had to make 45 phone calls to people who had not paid. Adelaide indicated that some people said no because the \$85.00 cost is a significant amount to them. She also indicated that mailing the yearbooks is a significant cost to the Branch so if you know of someone who is not going to be at the pot luck dinner you should take their yearbook for them. Diona Koerner said that it would be a good idea to give yearbooks to the interest group leaders to distribute as well.

Adelaide DiGiorgi indicated that this is the last year of service for her and her Membership committee so it is important to think about who can take over for her. Roli Wendorf proposed congratulations to Adelaide and her committee for a job well done.

7. Stephanie Lemnios described some of the programs for the upcoming year. The October 7 program will feature a filmmaker whose film is opening on October 9. It was suggested that Pam Margand be asked to promote a trip to the film with the Chasing Culture interest group.

Stephanie also talked about the March program which will feature a panel of new AAUW members speaking about their journeys and asked that the Board look out for people that they believe would make good panelists for that discussion.

8. Yearbooks were distributed and it was noted that the date for the Spring Fling was incorrectly listed in the yearbook. The Spring Fling will actually be held on June 1, 2016 and not on June 8 as indicated in the yearbook.

9. Jane Pendergast then spoke about the proceeds from the sale of the New York City branch, which was the only AAUW branch ever dissolved. The house was sold and there was approximately \$4.5 million profit. The goal is to use the money for furthering the mission of AAUW and discussion was held as to what criteria will apply for grants from that money. Further information will be forthcoming about this.

10. Marilee Scheuneman spoke about our relationship with the Greenburgh Library. We had hoped to use their new scanner for our Branch archives project but the cost of the scanner is more than the Library anticipated and they may not be purchasing it. The Library may also start charging us for the use of the conference room. Typical fees are \$50.00 for a 4 hour period.

11. Selena Barron and Marie McKellar agreed to take on co-chairmanship of the 60th anniversary committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

Submitted by: Natasha Rose