

AAUW Westchester Board Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2015

Attendance: Diona Koerner, Roli Wendorf, Adelaide DiGiorgi, Ann Sheridan, Marie McKellar, Stephanie Lemnios, Wilma Gitchel, Natasha Rose, Jane Pendergast

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Roli Wendorf at 10:10 a.m.

1. The minutes of the August 19, 2015 meeting were approved as written. A motion to approve them was made by Adelaide DiGiorgi and seconded by Ann Sheridan. The vote to approve was unanimous.

2. Treasurer's Report – Jane Pendergast.

The financial status of the Branch is proceeding as planned. We have dues monies in hand as well as a grant for WizGirls from ICL in the amount of \$1,000.00. The insurance policies which were approved at the last Board meeting have been paid.

A discussion was had concerning the use of PayPal. It is currently being used as a means of registration for WizGirls. PayPal takes a 2% fee of each transaction for its use. Discussion was had as to whether we should continue to use PayPal for other functions. It was decided that we would use WizGirls as a pilot project and review the situation after we see how it has worked with WizGirls before deciding whether or not to continue with it.

We also discussed the Amazon advertising link that was on the EYO website and whether or not we should continue to use that now that EYO is part of the Branch website. Wilma reported that EYO has received approximately \$500.00 from the Amazon link. A question was raised as to whether or not we could continue to have advertising on the website now that we are a 501(c)(3) organization. Jane Pendergast will contact our attorney and ask him if this is a permissible action.

3. Membership Report- Adelaide DiGiorgi

We now have 178 members. The new member coffee will be held on October 17 at the home of Marie McKellar. Adelaide and Ann Sheridan are in their last year as Membership Chairs and Adelaide stressed the need for a new Membership Committee to be formed. It was suggested by Marie that the Committee could begin with those who had signed up for hospitality.

Diona noted that in the past Chips has had a short biography of each of the new members and this is something that it would be nice to do again.

Stephanie spoke about the March program which hopes to feature a panel of new members speaking about their past experiences and said everyone at the new member coffee should be on the lookout for people who would be interesting to have on that panel.

Roli spoke about the College of Westchester becoming a C/U partner of AAUW. We will see what involvement we will have with them in the future.

Jane spoke about the Common Core event which will take place on Wednesday, October 28. It will be a round table discussion featuring approximately 30 people who are in favor of Common Core.

Some spectators will be permitted and Jane will send out an email asking those interested in attending to contact her.

Program Report – Stephanie Lemnios.

Stephanie said that the programs for October and November are exciting. The November program featuring Wilma Gitchel will start at 10:00 a.m. and a notice of the early starting time will be put in Chips.

Roli then added that the trip to see the movie Duktar, which is an outgrowth of the October program, will take place on Sunday, October 11 at the 3:05 showing. Those interested in attending should buy their tickets individually on the theater website.

4. Board Handbook and Policy –Marie McKellar

The Board Handbook, which describes the roles and responsibilities of Board members, is on the Branch website and all Board members should review it once a year.

Some changes to the Policy Sheet were discussed – at Number 15 the date should be 4/15 (not 4/14).

At number 18- the words standing committees should be deleted. Acting upon advice from our attorney we no longer have any standing committees, they have all been changed to branch projects.

At number 21- it should be deleted and replaced with language in Chips reminding members that the minutes are available on the Branch website.

At number 15- discussion was had with regard to student affiliate dues. National and state do not charge any dues to graduating seniors for their first year of membership. We agreed that we would waive Branch dues for that year as well. Exact wording of the new policy will be worked out and presented to the Board at a later date.

Changes in bylaws due to national convention and to our change to a non-profit organization will be discussed at a future meeting.

5. 60th anniversary planning-

Marie McKellar and Selena Barron have agreed to be co-chairs of the event. Twelve members have signed up to serve on the committee and an organizational meeting will be planned. Marie brought some of the souvenirs from the 50th anniversary celebration to show what had been done.

6. Library conference room cost- Roli Wendorf

Roli said that the Greenburgh Library will charge \$50.00 for the use of its conference room for a 4 hour period. We are attempting to get them to agree to a \$25 fee for a two hour period for our Board meetings. The \$50 fee for the 7 Board meetings we hold there would come to \$350.00 and

since we already give the Library a \$300.00 donation for using it, the Board agreed to continue doing so.

7. New projects for NYC branch house funds-

We will schedule a brainstorming session to discuss what types of projects we can put forward to apply for these funds. The meeting will be held on October 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Natasha Rose.

8. Nominating committee-

The Board nominees for the committee are Diona Koerner and Adelaide DiGiorgi. The nominees from the general membership are Marie McKellar, Jane Pendergast and Barbara Gochman. Marie McKellar volunteered to chair the committee.

9. District V Conference – Roli Wendorf

The conference will be held on Saturday, October 3 from 2-5 p.m. Information about the conference can be found in Chips and on the Branch website. The cost is \$30.00 for members and each member can bring a female student for free.

10. Upcoming messages in Chips.

In November Sheila Narayanan will report on WizGirls, in November Mary Logan will write about AAUW funds and in January Wilma Gitchel will write on EYO.

11. The next Board meeting will be held on October 7, 2015 at 4:30 at the Greenburgh Library.

12. Miscellaneous-

The question of food for the Branch meeting was raised and reported that it is sometimes sparse. A notice will be placed in Chips asking those attending to bring a food donation.

The question was raised as to whether or not we need to get our attorney's approval before signing the contract for WizGirls for the donation from Mastercard. We also need to find out who needs to sign the contract on behalf of AAUW. Jane Pendergast volunteered to contact the attorney and discuss it with him.

13. Announcement: Roli Wendorf reported that she has nominated to be the next President of the New York State AAUW. All in attendance congratulated her and said it was an honor well deserved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Submitted by: Natasha Rose