

January 4, 2017 AAUW Westchester Board Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Pam Margand, Marilee Scheuneman, Phyllis Hirth, Mary Logan, Marie McKellar, Roli Wendorf, Stephanie Lemnios, Diona Koerner, Natasha Rose, Jane Pendergast, Wilma Gitchel, Linda Swann

The meeting was called to order by Diona Koerner at 12:10 p.m.

1. Approval of the Board Minutes of November 2, 2016.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Diona Koerner, seconded by Jane Pendergast and unanimously approved.

Approval of the Branch Minutes of November 2, 2016.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Stephanie Lemnios, seconded by Natasha Rose and unanimously approved.

2. Treasurer's Report – Jane Pendergast

Jane said we have received the check from the Beverly Jordan bequest which is listed on the treasurer's report under "other contributions" and will stay there until the scholarship is finalized.

Jane said we are on budget and doing well with receiving Branch dues.

Roli Wendorf contributed that there is \$650 for Start Smart from a previous Key Bank grant which can be used for workshops this Spring. Also, that the Start Smart team can apply to Metro Area Funds for funding for Fall workshops.

Diona added that the February meeting will be devoted to the budget for the upcoming year and any requests for program funds should be submitted to Carol MacMillan prior to that meeting.

A question was raised concerning our 501(c)(3) status since it was not listed by National in a list of all branches with 501(c)(3) status. National had to submit some paperwork on this. Carol MacMillan spoke with the IRS about this and has taken care of the issue.

3. Membership – Phyllis Hirth

Phyllis said the membership check of one of our new members was lost in the mail and asked for guidance as to what to do. It was decided to ask the member to prepare a new check and that we would pay any check cancellation fees she incurred.

Phyllis also said she has spoken with her contact at ATRIA and would consider doing a presentation there. She was told by the Director of Recreation that she does not think many of their residents would be interested in AAUW membership but that they might be volunteers for us. She also spoke with someone at Heritage Hills about setting up a meeting there.

There was some discussion about contacting Hillary Clinton to invite her to one of our programs since she was offered a lifetime AAUW national, state and local membership but it was decided to wait on that.

4. Programs

Holiday luncheon survey report – that will be given by Sandy Flank at the next meeting. It was a success in that it focused discussion and interesting conversation.

Nominating Committee – The Committee consisted of Jane Pendergast, Diona Koerner, Selena Barron, Stephanie Lemnios and Adelaide DiGiorgio. There was discussion as to the Treasurer position and it was decided that since Carol MacMillan has served three years in the position it will be reported in the Yearbook that Jane Pendergast will be the Treasurer and Carol will be Assistant Treasurer. Jane will be in charge of the membership renewals in the spring.

EYO – Wilma Gitchel

Wilma said that since we had to turn away people last year and the cafeteria was exceptionally crowded because school was in session, EYO will be held in the new gym and dance studio this year. We will be charged an additional \$5,000 for extra staff because of the move but we have \$24,000 in the bank and with funds from New York Area Metro (which we should be able to get each year) we should be able to do that.

Start Smart – Roli Wendorf

Roli reported that she met with representatives from Westchester County who showed interest in the program. There has also been interest from New York City in the idea. Roli met with representatives from Vermillion Talent, an organization helping women who are re-entering the workforce and they are interested in partnering with AAUW in some way.

Jane Pendergast reported that she is meeting with some representatives from trade union women who may be interested in the program.

Running and Winning – Mary Logan

The program will be held on April 27 and at this time there are sufficient volunteers. Mary asked about the \$200 donation to the program that was given in the past and received assurance it will be forthcoming again this year.

Branch internship – Mary Logan

Mary reported that our new intern will be Breann McKeon, a journalism student at SUNY Purchase.

Branch funds – Mary Logan

Mary reported receiving just under \$6,000 in contributions, which was \$500 less than the previous year. She said 47 members contributed as opposed to 61 the previous year. It was suggested that members contributed to other AAUW national program instead and it was noted that Branch donations to those programs get credited to the Branch for recognition.

It was suggested that new members do not know enough about the funds and what they do and it was suggested that we have a speaker who has received funds from AAUW to make members aware of the good that the funds do.

WizGirls – Diona Koerner

Diona reported that Sheila will no longer be in charge of the program, but it is a very worthwhile program, we have an additional two years of funding, and we need volunteers to keep it going. The primary concern is that many of the Ardsley mothers who helped out will no longer be available and we will need people to take over their positions. There will be a meeting with the

Ardsley School Superintendent to confirm location availability and to investigate contact information for recruitment of workshop assistants from Ardsley.

5. Agenda items 4-6 were added at the suggestion of Barbara Sarver who was not available to attend today's meeting and they will be tabled for a future meeting.
6. Branch by-laws update – Linda Swann, Marie McKellar, Selena Barron and Diona Koerner worked on the by laws update. The changes only involved wording, were not substantive and were mandated by National. They will be sent to Loreen Ginetti.
7. Metro Area funds – Linda Swann said she would like to see a copy of the actual agreement, to know where the funds were being held and how they are disbursed. Roli Wendorf said she has a copy of the agreement and will send it to Linda.

8. AAUW convention – Roli Wendorf

The convention will be in East Syracuse on April 21-23 and Roli urged all Board members to consider attending. We need to nominate an emerging leader award recipient. Diona nominated Colleen Fay and in a motion made by Natasha Rose and seconded by Linda Swann Colleen was named our nominee.

We also need to nominate a program award winner and Diona suggested that we nominate WizGirls because it was such a successful program and we want to encourage it to continue. Linda Swann made a motion to nominate WizGirls which was seconded by Phyllis Hirth and unanimously approved.

Roli Wendorf asked if the Branch is considering placing an ad in the convention journal as it has in the past. That will be discussed at the budget meeting in February.

Roli also noted that the State gives program grants of \$500 and said we could apply for one for our educational awards program. Diona will contact those involved.

9. Beverly Jordan bequest- Stephanie Lemnios

Stephanie reported that we received the check which was just shy of \$37,000 and have to raise an amount so that we have \$45,000 for the scholarship. Westchester Community College contacted Stephanie and said they have a bequest of \$10,000 from Phyllis Taffet which we could add to the Beverly Jordan bequest but it was decided not to do so, but to raise the funds from our membership. Marie McKellar, Jane Pendergast and Stephanie Lemnios generously volunteered to provide the necessary funds.

10. Voting Reform Conference Sponsorship – Jane Pendergast

Jane reported that our Branch has been asked to co-sponsor a roundtable discussion on the electoral college and the popular vote which is being organized by Assemblywomen Sandra Galef and Amy Paulin on January 12 and being held at the Croton on Hudson Library at 6:30 p.m. Co-sponsorship will only involve the use of our name.

Jane made a motion to co-sponsor the event which was seconded by Diona Koerner. The motion was approved. Linda Swann abstained.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Natasha Rose