

## **AAUW Westchester Branch Board Meeting**

**November 4, 2020**

**12:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Ellen Leuner, Lorrin Johnson, Marge Kingsley, Judy Walsh, Susan Gardner, Rene Parmar, Elaine Weiss, Mary Logan, Susan Perko, Cynthia Plater, Marie McKellar, Susan Appel

Ellen Leuner, Co-President, called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

**Minutes of October 7, 2020:** The minutes, submitted by Elaine Weiss, co-recording secretary, were previously approved by the board via email.

**Membership - Marge Kingsley and Judy Walsh, co-Membership VPs:** We now have 155 members.

**Treasurer - Susan Gardner Co-Treasurer:** The Chase account is now open. Lorrin and Ellen's names have been added to the new Chase account, and will be receiving Chase debit cards. Susan G. will coordinate with Carol McMillan to ensure that all runs smoothly. Also, Carol will send a check from the old EYO account to Susan G., who will deposit it in the new Chase account.

**Fundraising - Mary Logan:** We have received approximately 30 checks in the past few weeks, totaling about \$4,000.00. Fundraising information was on the first page of the November Chips. Another article will be placed in the December issue. Also, a notice will be sent to Sue Lambert to remind members to send their yearly donations before December 31.

One of our members, who has a grant/foundation will donate \$500 to AAUW for the next five years, and credit will be given to the branch.

**Website - Cynthia Plater, Co-Treasurer:** Cynthia created a separate tab "Speaker Presentation" under "About Us" and added Diana Lennon's presentation. Each month Cynthia will add that month's presentation. Ellen will continue to record the presentations and Cynthia will download it and put it on the website. <https://westchester-ny.aauw.net/about/speaker-presentations/>

**Zoom Account - Cynthia Plater:** We are waiting for NYS AAUW to send Westchester AAUW an email address to comply with their request for verification of our use of Zoom to carry out Branch business. Since we have gotten the \$100.00 reimbursement check from NYS AAUW, we no longer need to do anything more concerning the Zoom account.

**New Business - Lorrin Johnson, Co-President:** Lorrin praised Raven Waterman, who has set up our Holiday gift giving for children of the Bedford Correctional Facility for Women. Below are excerpts from the letter that has been sent to all branch members.

Due to contact precautions donations will not be made in-person. Instead, please email the AAUW Toy Drive Coordinator Raven Waterman at [ravenswingsllc@gmail.com](mailto:ravenswingsllc@gmail.com) to inform her of what you will be donating, including the donation or gift card amount, and/ or items you are purchasing and forward gifts and donations directly to:

Hour Children/Deb Rigano  
180 E. Prospect Avenue #229  
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Here's what you can donate:

1. Provide \$20 gift cards to any of the following stores; Target, Happy (with child or teen theme), Walmart, Visa, or Mastercard. We are hopeful that each child will receive \$20 in gift cards.
2. Send a check donation – please make checks out to: THE HOUR CHILDREN PARENTING CENTER
3. Use the list of allowable gifts found in the letter and make a purchase from Amazon by clicking or copying and pasting this link in your browser: <https://a.co/0BhSFoD> all gifts must be NEW and UNWRAPPED Items.

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Lorrin stated that Reverend Dorothy Muller, who was a volunteer at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, will speak at our Holiday Branch meeting on December 3, at 12:30 p.m.

**Public Policy: Advocacy: Jane Pendergast**

Jane sent the following information about the Sister to Sister group in Westchester:

-Sister to Sister Zoom educational workshops. Sister to Sister group in Westchester, and we have discussed their beginning a program involving workshops over a period of time. Several of their members will train as facilitators, and they plan to present workshops for young women and experienced workers. The organization is having an event on November 11<sup>th</sup> and will be talking

about the effort we are planning. They would like to list AAUW Westchester as a partner and use our logo. I am writing to ask the organization's permission. We have done this in the past when we worked with other organizations.

Sister to Sister website: <https://www.facebook.com/sistertosisterinternational>

After board members read the notice above, a motion was made to add our logo to their program for this particular workshop. The motion was passed.

**Fundraising: Marie McKellar:** Marie attended an AAUW Webinar on Fundraising. The following notes were submitted by Marie:

I did participate in the 5:00 AAUW Zoom on programs and fundraising. I will list a few points below. Members described what their branches were doing in this COVID period for programs and fundraising. As expected, all speakers' branches were using Zoom for meetings. Some specifics are listed below.

- 1) One branch invited members from other branches to join their Zoom meetings.
- 2) One Branch had a theme: "Change for the Changemakers" and stressed Facebook, Twitter, and Zoom. They had a session on "How to Tweet Your Representatives"—a session teaching members how to use Twitter.
- 3) You can get films and use the Share Screen function to have movies for meetings.
- 4) One branch used [thirtytwoauctions.com](http://thirtytwoauctions.com)—to host a virtual silent auction and they got \$4000. However, they had prizes such as a weekend at a vacation spot.
- 5) For their holiday party, one branch is using classical music, but also suggested an "ugly Sweater Contest", on Zoom, of course.
- 6) Have members describe their hobbies or fun things during the COVID period. Actually, we did this for one of our early Current Issues meetings.
- 7) One branch does online fundraising with a donate button via PayPal. They also do what we have done in the past and had a meeting with the scholarship winners speaking. We can do this next June via Zoom.
- 8) One branch had a fun meeting with a woman bartender (they paid her an honorarium) and she made non-alcoholic drinks on Zoom. Drink recipes were then emailed to participants.

**EYO:Explore Your Opportunities - The Sky's the Limit! Lorrin Johnson**

EYO will be held virtually this year, on April 17. The next Zoom meeting of the planning committee will be held on Saturday, November 14. Although we have a few people who have agreed to do workshops, we are still looking for additional dynamic leaders who can present virtual STEM - related workshops. We also need a keynote speaker. The event will take two hours, which includes a 15-minute keynote address for the whole group, and two 50-minute workshops, which will be held in breakout rooms.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Submitted by

Susan Appel  
Co-Recording Secretary

**Minutes of a Branch Meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020**

Ellen Leuner called the meeting to order at 10:33 m.

Lorrin Johnson welcomed everyone.

She reminded the members that they can see our finances on our website.

Marge Kingsley announced that we have 155 members. We welcome new member, Jude Ferraro, to Westchester AAUW.

Our December speaker will be the Reverend Dorothy Muller who has previously served as a chaplain at the Bedford Hills correctional Facility, a maximum-security women's prison.

We will do our traditional gift giving for the children of the inmates. The donations will go directly to The Hour Children Parenting Center, either as a check or gift certificate. Raven Waterman, one of our new members has worked diligently to set this up. The details will be in our December CHIPS.

Marie McKellar introduced our speaker, Robin Larkins, Chairperson of Spring Community Partners and the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry.

Robin Larkins presented: "In Our Backyard: Suburban Food Insecurity: Coming out of Hiding".

After the talk Ellen selected the people who asked questions on the *chat* during the talk to address them directly to Ms. Larkin. The whole talk will be on our website for those who missed it.

The meeting ended with a reminder that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Elaine Weiss, Co-Recording Secretary.