

## Minutes of AAUW Westchester Branch Meeting

May 5, 2021 - 5:30 pm

**Welcome:** Lorrin Johnson

The approved April Board and Branch minutes, as well as our treasurer's report, are posted on our website.

Thank you all for voting last month to elect our Board of Directors, passing the budget and dues.

There is one more election still open for you to cast your Ballot. Our AAUW National Election **voting deadline is May 17th**. Please **help AAUW be a leader in equity by voting to open our membership to all!**

**EYO Wrap up: Lorrin** - The seventeenth annual Explore Your Opportunities (EYO) STEM event for seventh grade girls took place virtually on Saturday, April 17th. This successful event was sponsored by the Westchester and NYC Empire branches of AAUW, and hosted by the College of Mount St. Vincent. The girls were able to choose among seven workshops, ranging from assembling and using a paper microscope to tracking a Zombie Apocalypse. One of the most exciting parts of the conference was that we had a girl in attendance from India.

**Running & Winning:** Mary Logan: This will be held on **May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** via Zoom in partnership with the League of Women Voters.

**Virtual Spring Fling:** This will be held on **Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30** Please join us. Our **New York State President, Janice Brown**, will honor us by inducting our 2021-2022 AAUW Board of Directors.

We also hope that we will meet & Learn about the **4 (four) Westchester Community College scholarship winners**. Thank you all for being so generous with your donations that we were able to increase our scholarships from 3 to 4 scholarships this year. Quite an accomplishment.

**Introduction of Speaker:** Susan Perko introduced our speaker, Evelyn Stock, Past President of the League of Women Voters, Scarsdale, Westchester, and NYS. Her topic is *The Role of Women in the USA - 100 Years After the 19th Amendment Gave Women the Right to Vote*.

Evelyn Stock presented an overview of the history of women's rights, starting with the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848, and moving to the present. The major goals have been to give women equal rights, including the right to vote.

Even before the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution was passed by Congress in 1919, and ratified by the states in 2020, the major goal was that there should be an

equality of rights under the law, and that sex should not determine the rights of males and females.

Between 1943 and 1972, the Equal Rights Amendment was introduced in every session of Congress. In 1972, it was passed by both houses, by 93.4% in the House of Representatives, and 91.3% in the Senate. In order for this amendment to pass, it had to be ratified by 38 states. This has not happened yet. This year, it has been approved by the House, but has not yet reached the Senate.

Ms. Stock spoke about the problems still faced by women, including the fact that 68% of the jobs eliminated by the Covid pandemic were held by women. There is some cause for optimism, however, including the fact that 56% of the current college graduates are women, and 10 million more women than men are registered to vote. Also, our Vice President and Speaker of the House are women, and more women have been elected to local and statewide positions in recent years.

After the presentation, there was a lively question and answer session. The presentation was well received by the membership.

The meeting was adjourned by Ellen Leuner at 6:30 pm.

Submitted by

Susan Appel

Co-Recording Secretary