

AAUW Westchester Branch: Meeting on November 12th at 4: 00 PM
Greenburgh Public Library

Present: Laurie Austin, Abby Hirsch, Lorrin Johnson, Marcia Keizs, Diana Lennon, Teresa Neal, Joni Sims, Judy Walsh.

Absent: Amber Cheng, Susan Gardner, Mary Logan, Sandra Yorn

1. Call to Order: Abby Hirsch: The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm

2. Minutes of the Board: The Minutes of the October meeting were not available but will be available at the next meeting.

3. Treasurer's Report: Susan Gardner was absent, but the following was decided:

- a. There was agreement that the fees for the upcoming Holiday Party will be held at \$55 and the organization will bridge the gap.
- b. Discussion ensued re securing a Zelle or Venmo account to provide options other than checks for paying for events etc. Abby Hirsch will research this in consultation with Treasurer Susan Gardner.

4. Membership: Joni Sims

- a. A matter was raised from Ellen Leuner that indicated an incorrect address for her in the Yearbook. Following discussion, it was determined that this will be corrected digitally and a note will be placed in CHIPS re changes of address with deadline to be executed. Sue Lambert will execute.
- b. Joni raised the matter of Public Service Offerings. National sent a request to us from someone seeking mentoring help. Two ideas were floated: mentoring to include resume preparation, mock interviews, and salary negotiation. Abby noted that Mercy University gives us an opportunity to participate in their session on Feb 27th of 2026 where we may have a community table.

5. Old Business

- a. The Holiday Party is set for December 11th at Half Moon in Dobbs Ferry .
- b. Nominating Committee: No Report at this time.
- c. A New Brochure: A meeting will take place to include Joni, Judy, Abby and Susan
- d. State Financial Conference. Abby reported there will be an online state financial conference in the Spring of 2026. The purpose is to educate women to better understand and handle financial issues and decisions. Often women face uncertainty if a partner or spouse dies or the relationship ends in divorce. Women often also worry about running out of money as they get older. This conference will delve into many of these issues.
- e. Girls For Stem: Lorrin reports we are actively recruiting girls from Westchester County to attend the annual event. Plans are moving well as the College of Mount Saint Vincent continues to be excited to host this event. She has also included Sister to Sister International Inc. in her invitations.
- f. By laws: Judy, Abby, Susan and Joni will meet.

6. New Business

a. Press Release: A review of draft prepared by Marcia was undertaken. The decision going forward is to focus on getting something out for the early 2026 months. Please identify outlets.

b. State News: Abby indicated for those present to use judicious wording of the reporting on No Kings Day that will be included in CHIPS.

c. Abby now holds a position on the State Board of Managers and serves on the State Public Policy Committee. She reported that the state would like a representative from Westchester to join the state level nominating committee

d.. Reaching Out to Interest Groups. As noted often, we have a robust program but continue to lack a vibrant presence at Branch Meetings. It is suggested that the Holiday Party be used as an opportunity to invite interest groups to speak, and to use this as an opportunity as well, to engage interest group participants in re-engaging by attending the monthly meetings where our VPs for Program continue to bring us great speakers. We do need to boost in-person audience participation.

Meeting was adjourned at: 5:05 P.M.

Minutes submitted by Marcia V. Keizs