

## MINUTES OF THE JULY 5, 2017 BOARD MEETING JOHNSTOWN BRANCH AAUW

Present: President Patricia Grzybicki, Program VP Paulette Solomon, Membership VP Georgia Yeager, Fund raising VP and Communications Chair Deanna Haddle, Treasures Barbara Zaborowski, Secretary Kathy Howanek, AAUW Funds Chair Ann Furlong, Education/Scholarship Chair Nancy Miller. Public Policy Chair Paula Tomko was absent.

President Pat Grzybicki called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. The minutes of the January 19, 2017 Board Meeting were approved following a motion by Barb Zaborowski and second by Ann Furlong.

President's Report: Pat announced that the Summer Retreat will be held July 22, 2017 in Williamsport and our branch will be represented by Paula Tomko, Paulette Solomon, Georgia Yeager with Barb Zaborowski attending as the State Convention Chair. The 2018 State Convention will be held April 13-17 at Seven Springs. The Johnstown Branch will host. Barb Zaborowski reported on discussions at the state level regarding the topic of the convention which tentatively will be "Women in Politics" with an emphasis on instructing women on how to run for office. The format would be all general as opposed to concurrent sessions which would offer choice to attendees. The Johnstown Board is generally of the opinion that this topic is being addressed by other organizations and will not be a draw. We suggested a Branch best practices format. Our Branch would volunteer to present on Membership, STEM and possibly a member to speak on Women in Politics.

Treasurer's Report: Barb Zaborowski distributed 2017-18 Budget Overview (attached). Deanna clarified that while she will schedule and arrange for PR, the funds will come from each program chair's budget.

Barb also demonstrated how to use Amazon Smile to benefit our branch. The easiest way is to go on through our homepage which has a link to Amazon Smile. If you are on the Amazon website though, we are listed as AAUW Johnstown Branch under Amazon Smile. The branch receives quarterly, .5% of the total purchases credited to us via Smile.

Barb has set up a budget page on our website so that Board members may monitor the expenses charged to their budget and plan accordingly.

Program Report: Paulette Solomon

distributed a tentative schedule of meetings and programs(attached). She is still waiting to hear from some of the speakers regarding availability. Hostesses are scheduled. Paulette has been contacted by a group asking if we would underwrite the cost of showing a movie on the plight of underpaid personal care workers, by the Community

Foundation for the Alleghenies requesting to address the group and Marlene Singer from Conemaugh offering to do another program on a health issue of interest to the group. The Board felt that the current program offering that Paulette has put together for this year should stand and the others be considered if we have speaker cancellations or for next year. The Community Foundation may be considered for a special Board meeting. Paulette also asked if there was any interest in a chartered trip to the Nationality Rooms at Pitt this December. Deanna will put the idea out to the membership to gauge interest.

Membership Report: Georgia Yeager reported that Doris Lseydy will serve as her assistant with membership.

Of the 25 members who had not paid dues as of mid-June, eight have said that they will renew, five definitely will not. Georgia believes that we should have greeters at every meeting and take steps to insure that all members feel welcome. Many ideas were discussed and referred to the membership committee.

The directory is scheduled to go to press at the beginning of September.

Georgia is recruiting for membership committee and will bring membership tags to our events.

Meet and Greet will be held the week of October 16.

The Goodwill GoodGuides Tea will not be repeated in the same format as it was too expensive for the number of girls who were served (eight). Georgia suggests that if we want to explore other options that the event be held in the fall on alternate years with STEM.

Fund raising Report:

Deanna Haddle reminded the Board that the deadline to sign up for the Shenandoah Trip has been extended to August 3, 2017. Thus far we have earned \$300.

Other opportunities for fund raising were discussed. Nothing definite was decided except to ask Epic Journeys to work with us to plan another trip.

AAUW Funds: no report

Book Sale report: Pat Grzybicki distributed a Book Sale Summary Sheet (attached). We do have enough funds to award three scholarships this year. The committee is considering adding West Hill Rec and East Hills Rec as collection sites. The committee is exploring other sites for storing and sorting. We discussed the pros and cons of owning a place ourselves, possibly running a book store in the future. At least 400 square feet is needed. The problem at Ace Hardware is that we are the "hole" in their security. The owner denied that he refused the use of the loading dock. The committee is also discussing the possibility of moving the date to the week that ends with Fathers Day. The committee felt that the publicity the sale received this year was a factor in the larger than usual turnout.

By Laws committee: no report

Communication: Deanna Haddle will continue to send out email lists for all members for our use in contacting members. She will also include a list of members who do not use email. Please use this especially if you need a response from members. If Deanna sends out a request from a committee chair who needs a response, often members respond to Deanna rather than the person who needs the response

Education/Scholarship: Nancy Miller suggested April 8, 2018 for the next Awards Banquet and after much discussion this was agreed to. Additional discussion ensued regarding the rotation of schools. A glitch occurred when Johnstown Christian did not have a female senior the year that they were supposed to get a scholarship and their position was changed. They have been returned to their original position after Forest Hills. Blacklick Valley and Central Cambria were added. The 2018 schools will be Windber, Johnstown High and Ferndale.

Historian: Jo Romani had asked that we discuss storage for our files. She will weed the current information over the next few months and then we can decide whether we need additional space. The state organization has offered to put some of our information on disc.

Public Policy: No report

Special Project Reports

Second Tuesday Book Group: No report

Dining Group: No report

STEM: Deanna gave a program update and presented the estimated budget for 2017. We received our 501 (c)3 status too late to apply for many grants, so we have no grant as yet. Deanna and committee are sending out letters requesting donations from local businesses. Barb suggested adding a pre-printed form to fill out and a self addressed stamped envelope for return. Deanna asked if the \$300 from the fund raising trip could be applied to the STEM program. No action was taken. There was discussion about the profits from selling some of our books on line. Barb is

Deanna is now on the UPJ STEM Board. They are interested in more partnering with us. Deanna will attend the first meeting and report back to the Board

Voter Education: No report

Write-Read-Write: Paulette will approach Forest Hills to offer to do the program with their fourth grades. Paulette reported that she would like to have the letters to distribute at our October meeting, returned in December and have the books distributed in January or early February. Marie and Paulette will do a guideline sheet for members to help with book selection. Pat suggested that a committee be formed to help write letters and wrap books if needed when we have a particularly large group. This would be good

involvement for new members. Barb questioned whether we should list committees on the website, with the names of the chair and the number of members needed. We should also distinguish between social and service groups and not call everything a committee. There was also a suggestion to give coupons for our book sale in the books donated to fourth graders.

## OLD BUSINESS

Tax exempt status: nothing new.

High School Outreach: Barb is still trying to get a contact at Johnstown High.

## NEW BUSINESS

Review the pros and cons of having our own space. This discussion should continue.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 pm after a motion by Paulette Solomon and second by Nancy Miller.