

MINUTES OF THE MAY 22, 2017 MEETING JOHNSTOWN BRANCH AAUW

PROGRAM

Prior to the meeting, the membership heard a program by Ryan Kieta on Vision 2025.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:29 pm. There were 29 members present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Barb Zaborowski made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 2017 business meeting as submitted. Eloise Romano seconded and the motion passed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Pat Grzybicki announced that the branch has officially been granted 501C-3 status as a non profit organization. The status is retroactive to December 12, 2016. She thanked Barb Zaborowski for her hard work on the application.

The state convention was held April 21-23 but no branch members attended as participants. Barb Zaborowski was there working as coordinator. Barb reported that the 2018 State Convention will be held at Seven Springs Resort and our chapter will host. Barb will put together a planning committee sometime after the July Branch Board Meeting. The convention will run from Friday night April 13 through Sunday April 15.

The AAUW National Convention will be held June 14-17 in Washington, DC. No members have expressed an interest in attending.

The 2017 PA Summer Retreat will be held Saturday, July 22 at Genetti Hotel and Suites in Williamsport, PA. The theme is Programming. Many members who have attended in the past spoke up to say that this is a particularly informative and enjoyable conference as branches have the opportunity to learn the best practices of other branches. The first two members who sign up to attend do so at no cost. The branch will pick up the expenses of other members who wish to attend..Registration is online and also in the Keystoner newsletter. Anyone interested in attending should contact Pat Grzybicki or Paulette Solomon for purposes of carpooling.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In Doris Leidy's absence, Pat Grzybicki reported that the balance as printed in the last newsletter was accurate. The 2017-2018 budget was presented at the February meeting. The format looks different to comply with 501C-3 standards. Projected totals were based on past expenditures. Cynthia Watters made a motion to accept the proposed budget, Paulette Solomon seconded and the motion passed.

Pat also will be accepting payment for 2017-18 dues tonight.

Barb Zaborowski also reported that the letter of determination for our 501C-3 status, as well as our EIN number are on the branch website under the heading "Branch Documents." Donors may be asked for a copy of the determination letter. Discussion ensued on the tax deductible status of dues. \$46 of a member's annual dues are tax deductible. Some of the nation dues money goes to political efforts and is not tax deductible.

PROGRAM REPORT

Paulette Solomon passed around a **tentative** schedule of dates and places for next years meetings. Members were asked to sign up for hospitality duty for those meetings. Although the committee tried to continue scheduling meetings for the fourth Monday of the month, President Grzybicki pointed out that there are many conflicts this year and the final schedule of meetings will be decided at the July board meeting. Program committee meeting will be held Tuesday June 6 at 6pm at Perkins. If anyone is interested in serving on the committee, please contact Paulette. Paulette also distributed information from the Penn DOT Yellow Dot program which was discussed at the March meeting. She can order more if more members are interested.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Linda Messer reported that our active membership is 73. We have eight lifetime members. 13 new members joined this year. Since they joined at a Shape the Future event, we earned five free memberships which will be drawn at the end of the meeting. Linda thanked the membership for their outstanding recruiting efforts.

FUNDRAISING REPORT

Barb Zaborowski reported that she is currently looking for funding for our STEM event. She also reminded members about the Shenandoah Trip (September 21-22, 2017). There is still room on the trip and for every member or member referral, the branch receives \$25. So far 12 members have signed up. The play that will be seen is an all female cast performing The Tempest.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pat requested that for future meetings, if a committee person is not able to attend a written report be submitted.

By-laws: No report

Communication: Deanna Haddle brought posters advertising the book sale and letters to ask for donations of gift cards for the gift card tree raffle. Both documents are also available in an email from Deanna.

Public Policy: The Mapping Matters event was well attended and went very well. The Fair Practices Day in Harrisburg was not well organized in the western part of Pennsylvania so information was not received in a timely enough manner to allow participation. Another such event may be organized.. This would give members a chance to speak directly to legislators about Gerrymandering which is a bi-partisan issue. Deanna has been receiving information from AAUW regarding pay-equity. Paula Tomko will take over Public Policy.

Education/Scholarship: Nancy Miller reported that the Awards Luncheon was a success. High school scholarship attendees were Laura Bivens from Conemaugh Township, Claudia Schrefler from Forest Hills and Mikayla Beck from Richland. The UPJ endowment scholarships went to Bailyn Yost and Linsey Geiser. The Penn Highlands endowment scholarship went to Holly Hostetler. Nancy circulated the thank you notes that she has received thus far. Others honored at the luncheon were: Francine Cashaw (in absentia): Gateway to Equity Award, Paulette Solomon: Outstanding Woman, Judy Petrusic: Member Making a Difference and Barb Zaborowski: Named Gift Award. Dr. Florence Warfel was presented with her 50 year pin and lifetime membership. The three high schools in line for scholarships next year will be announced at the September meeting.

Historian: Jo Romani reminded the membership that we are out of space for our collection. The Board will address this at the July meeting.

Book Sale: Pat Grzybicki reported that she has been asked how this years collection compares with years past. In 2015 we had 674 boxes, in 2016, 576 boxes and to date this year we have packed 693 boxes. Three storage units are in use now. There are also 30 boxes at the South Fork Clubhouse that will be delivered to us by the Park Service. These were books collected for a sale that did not happen and we were invited to go through and pack up what we wanted. It is becoming a little more difficult dealing with our current storage facility and we continue to explore other possibilities. Oakridge Storage was suggested. Pat and Deanna will tape a segment for the Ralph DeMarco radio program. Other PR suggestions were made such as a radio program that Jessica Taylor has, and discussion ensued around book sale logistics.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Second Tuesday Book Group: The list of the books that the group will be reading in the upcoming year was circulated. Interest in an evening book group was explored, but so far only four have expressed interest. Jo Romani may put something in the next newsletter to recruit further. At this point no decision as to whether to move ahead with an evening group.

Dining Group: The group meets the last Friday of the month. This month is The Strip Steakhouse and next month is Neccos.

Voter Education Campaign: No report

Write-Read-Write: Thank you letters were distributed and lengthy discussion ensued about what to do with larger schools. Next years scheduled school has 147 fourth graders and even with members taking several letters, it may be difficult to fill the requests. The Board will address this at the July meeting.

Books for Babies: New books are being ordered.

STEM: This years STEM event will be held on October 21 at the Allegheny Portage Railroad and is titled "STEM in the 19th Century."

Goodwill Tea: Georgia Yeager gave some history on the origin of the event, an attempt to partner with Goodwill Good Guides to provide positive programming for disadvantaged or challenged young women. A committee was formed, members volunteered generously of time and talent to provide a tea, lunch and a program was offered to the Good Guides. When the idea was conceived, it was expected that 20 Good Guides would attend, but only five Good Guides attended and three other girls. Georgia believes that it was a lot of money to serve only five girls and that if we want to continue to provide a service to underprivileged girls or women we should look at another activity. She also recommends that it not be held in the spring. There was some discussion as to carrying out this kind of activity on alternate years to our STEM activity.

OLD BUSINESS

Pat Grzybicki presented a letter that she received from a student at Johnstown High School asking for a donation to help her attend a People-to-People International trip. Pat contacted the guidance counselor at the high school who said that the girl is a good student but she knew nothing about the People-to-People program. Miriam Daisley spoke about her experience with People-to-People. There was discussion about the viability of the request. Barb Zaborowski move to not fund the request and Linda Drusak seconded. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Deanna Haddle updated the membership about the basket raffle for the book sale and asked if we might want to do a 50/50 drawing in addition to the Pittsburgh Basket, the Lottery Tree and the Gift Card Tree. The consensus was positive and Deanna will purchase the tickets.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The nominating committee presented their slate of officers: Vice-President Membership: Georgia Yeager; Vice-President Fund-raising: Deanna Haddle; Treasurer: Barbara Zaborowski. It was mentioned that we seem to re-cycle the officers and an effort should be made to recruit new faces. This should start by committee chairs involving more members in their committees. Nominations from the floor were requested. None were received. Paulette Solomon moved and Jo Romani seconded that nominations be closed. The motion passed. Paulette Solomon moved and Betty Dugan seconded that the slate presented by the nominating committee be approved by acclamation and the motion passed. Pat then thanked the outgoing officers for their fine work. Barb Zaborowski as Fund-raising VP, Linda Messer as Membership VP and Doris Leidy as Treasurer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next business meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 25, 2017, 6:30 pm at PHCC.
The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday July 5 at 1:00 at the PHCC Board Room.

Dottie Glass drew the names for the free memberships. Georgia Yeager, Doris Leidy, Berenice Adams, Ann Furlong and Mary Hays Carney will receive the memberships.

Georgia Yeager announced that PASERS (Pennsylvania State Employees Retirement System) Somerset Branch is sponsoring trips to Jennerstown Playhouse and are inviting our members. If 10 or more are in the group, the tickets are \$30 apiece, if there are less than 10 in the group, tickets are \$38. The majority of them are Wednesday afternoons, but the first play is Thursday June 29, The Church Basement Ladies. If interested email Georgia and she will send you the list.

ADJOURNMENT

Paulette Solomon moved and Paula Tomko seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Howanek
Branch Secretary