

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 MEETING
JOHNSTOWN BRANCH AAUW

Prior to the meeting, member Deanna Haddle presented a short program on “Fair Districts PA.”

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm by President Pat Grzybicki. There were 24 members present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes of the May 2019 meeting were presented. Following the correction that the Membership Report was mis-identified as the Program Report. There was no Program Report in May, Deanna Haddle moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected. The motion carried following a second by Ann Furlong.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Grzybicki began by welcoming all new members and encouraging their participation and ideas. She next announced that a thank you card had been sent to Brad and Jen Hindman for their donation of \$1,500 to fund a scholarship. Six members attended the bi-annual Summer Retreat in Lewisburg in July and a summary can be found in the newsletter. Pat reminded members to consider taking the AAUW Work Smart online course which teaches women how to efficiently negotiate salary. Even though our negotiating days may be behind us, it is worthwhile to be familiar with the program. Knowing about the program is being an advocate for the program and an advocate for women coming into the workforce so they don't have to be economically insecure or be paid less than they are worth. A link to register for this no-cost course can be found on the National website.

The Central District Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2019 in State College PA. Pat is looking for volunteers to attend.

A reminder that the PA AAUW Convention will be held April 24-26, 2020 in Harrisburg. The branch will reimburse members registration costs. The Conference title is Purple Sashes and Persistent Women and celebrates the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. The branch newsletter has a link to register for the convention.

AAUW National in-person conventions are eliminated and being replaced with a series of virtual events.

A Strategic Planning Meeting was held on September 9, 2019 for the purpose of creating a five year strategic plan and reorganization of committees. 13 members met for over six hours. This activity will carry over to a second meeting to be held on October 14, 2019 at 5:30 pm in the Johnstown Library Community Room and is open to all members. Members were also reminded that branch Board Meetings are open to all members as well.

There was some discussion on ordering AAUW tee shirts.

The branch received thank you letters from Kirstyn Jeffries and Samantha Yarnick who received our UPJ scholarships.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Balance sheets were submitted for July, August and September of 2019. As of October 1, 2019 our Balance on Deposit is \$55,064.22 . Budget comparisons for the 2019-2020 year were also submitted. As of September 30, 2019 our yearly budget status is: Budgeted-\$18,860.00; Spent-\$4,825.35; Balance remaining-\$14,034.65. Following a motion by Diane Lopez and a second by Doris Leidy, the Treasurer's Report was accepted as submitted. There was some discussion on local dues. No action was taken.

PROGRAM VP REPORT: Doris Leidy reminded members that Membership meetings are held in September, February and May while Program meetings are October, December, March and April. The

next Thirsty Thursday will be held October 10 at Applebee's. Valerie Grash reported that she is having no luck contacting national about our UPJ affiliate application. The check sent from UPJ has not yet been cashed.

MEMBERSHIP VP REPORT: Georgia Yeager submitted the following membership numbers: 2018-19 membership stood at 81; 2019-2020 membership stands at 80 with 70 paid branch members and 10 life members, the 70 paid members include ten who joined through Shape the Future; nine members did not renew for a net membership loss of one for 2019-2020.

An informal meet and greet between the new members and the Board was held on August 27. A recruiting and Meet and Greet for new members has been moved from the fall to the spring and will occur in March, 2020.

The eight new members for 2019-2020 are: Nicole Kirsch, Linda Leffler, Karen Rizzo, Madeline Gyure, Francine Keifer, Lynn McCormick, Mary Lou Susko and Lori Hutchison. Welcome!

FUNDRAISING VP REPORT: Approximately \$270.17 in profit was made from the Beads for Life sale at Ethnic Fest. There are a few pieces of jewelry left. If we do this next year the committee may consider a different product from another women's group. The Trivia Event earned \$1688.36 profit. 11 teams participated and thank you notes have been sent to all donors and a survey will be sent to team captains.

Applebee's Dining to Donate event will be the site of October's thirsty Thursday on October 10.

COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORTS

Book Sale: Ann Furlong submitted the book sale update. Fall collection started today. The sorters have been working on the books brought in over the summer and have put in three days of work already. If you are signed up to sort, please try to make that commitment. If you are signed up to pick up books at the collection sites please make that commitment. We appreciate the businesses that let us clutter their locations with old books! Sorting is the big issue now. Any time that you can give is greatly needed. New sorters are most welcome. It is hard work, but not rocket science.

By-Laws: No report

Communication: The ad for the book collection will be placed in the Tribune on September 28. All articles for the November-December newsletter are due on October 15th.

Education/Scholarship: No report

Historian: No report

Public Policy: No report

Books for Babies: Some discussion around possible changes. No action

STEM: Deanna is looking for volunteers to work at two events to be held at FWA gym on October 5th and 12th. Volunteers would register participants, move girls through three activities and as an aide to presenters.

Write-Read-Write: thank you notes from students were distributed. Windber student letters will be delivered in October.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

The next program meeting will be held Monday, October 28th and the next membership meeting will be held Saturday February 22, 2020 at 12:30pm in the Johnstown Public Library Community Room

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm. Following a motion Eloise Romano and a second by Rita King/

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Howanek, Branch Secretary

Notes taken by Claire Montoya