

MINUTES OF THE JULY 14, 2020 BOARD MEETING

JOHNSTOWN BRANCH AAUW

Date: July 14, 2020

Place: Homes of each participant via Zoom

Participants: Kathy Howanek, Georgia Yeager, Pat Grzybicki, Doris Leidy, Shellby Custer, Valerie Grash, Deanna Haddle, Sandra Pagano, Claire Montoya, Ann Furlong, Nancy Miller, Paula Tomko and Laryssa Duncan.

Kathy Howanek called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Minutes of the May 6, 2020 were emailed by Kathy Howanek to all members prior to this evening's meeting. The minutes were amended to include Laryssa Duncan as present for the May 6th meeting.

A motion to approve the Minutes as amended was made by Ann Furlong, seconded by Claire Montoya and passed.

Past President's Report: Pat Grzybicki presented the official results of our mail in vote. 63 of 84 members participated (75%). All ballot issues passed with no negative votes. Therefore, the newly elected officers are: Georgia Yeager and Kathy Howanek, Co-presidents and Sandra Pagano, Secretary. With Georgia moving to the Co-president position, Shellby Custer graciously accepted appointment to the Membership VP position to complete Georgia's term.

President's Report: Kathy Howanek, Georgia Yeager

Kathy presented the following:

If you are lucky, the right person steps up to lead at the right time in your organization. Our branch was incredibly lucky four years ago when Pat Grzybicki stepped up to take on the duties of President. At the time she had been a member a relatively short four years and took on the presidency for what probably seemed like an interminably long four years. Her administration was characterized by coordination, clarification and organization. Her dedication and attention to detail saw us through some tough issues and the hard work necessary to develop a strategic plan.

Therefore, I ask that the Board move by unanimous consent to commend Pat Grzybicki for her outstanding contribution during her term as Branch President.

Kathy welcomed new Board Members:

Pat Grzybicki , in new position as Past President

Shellby Custer, Membership Vice President

Sandra Pagano, Secretary

Treasurer's Report: Claire Montoya reported that the Balance on Deposit July 1, 2019 was \$53,159.92. For the Fiscal year 2019-2020 income was \$14,235.38 while expenses were \$20,564.83. leaving a balance as of July 1, 2020 of \$46,830.47.

Program VP Report: Doris Leidy reported that there are no plans to schedule in person programs due to Covid restrictions. The branch will be co-sponsoring a virtual book talk with Cambria County Library on August 11, 2020 featuring author Paul D. Newman and his mother Margaret Lucile Magruder Newman. They are the co-authors of Making Do In World War II, Margaret's memoir of growing up during WWII. As co-sponsors of the event, our branch will donate 10 copies of the book to the library. Additional program partnerships with the library will be explored.

Paula Tomko suggested signing into the National AAUW Webinars

Membership VP Report: Shellby Custer reported that currently there are 75 members in good standing with six other members indicating that they will rejoin and four who will not.

Fund Raising VP Report: Valerie Grash reports that she is working with online fund raising company "Snowball" for a "text to donate" fundraiser. Research confirms this outfit to be a very reputable organization. Snowball will handle all aspects of donation fund raising. An online portal will be set up for donations. Snowball will collect the donations and forward the proceeds to Johnstown AAUW. Their fee is 30 Cents per transaction, plus 2.9% of the total amount of donation.

There was a discussion regarding moving most of the money currently in the Branch debit card account into a separate saving accounts to avoid any loss of funds. Members of the Finance Committee and the presidents will investigate the best way to safeguard our funds.

Trivia Night 2020 has been canceled.

The 2020 book sale is canceled. It was noted that the Galleria is up for sheriff's sale on September 14.

Committee Reports

AAUW Funds: Ann Furlong reports that this year's named gift award will be presented to Pat Grzybicki.

Public Policy: Paula Tomko reports that the Central Park August 15 event is on hold pending Covid 19 restrictions on public gatherings. The possibility of a voter registration event will also be explored. There will be no physical presentation by the Johnstown Symphony Choir

The Public Policy Committee will be meeting this month to consider options and finalize plans.

Historian: Laryssa Duncan reports that she continues to sort through our archives housed in the Pennsylvania Room of the Cambria County Library. She will have to do some weeding as we are running out of space.

Education Committee: Nancy Miller reports that the 2020-21 scholarship rotation includes: Windber, Ferndale and Johnstown High Schools.

By-Laws: Paula Tomko reports that 75% of membership responded to the vote and approved the change in Branch By-laws.

Communication Committee: Deanna Haddle stated that all minutes are to be posted on the Branch Website by Barb Zaborowski via the Secretary. Deanna also asked that committee chairs let her know planned committee meetings so that she can include them on the newsletter's calendar. We are currently using Flickr as the means for members to view and download pictures from events. Flickr annual cost is \$50. Judy Petrusic is looking into free sites.

Social media coordinator, Jessica Clifford presented 20 ways to increase AAUW exposure on Facebook at our last business meeting. She is planning to compose a monthly calendar on Facebook to include important branch dates, fun items, quotes, etc. The committee is looking for another member to help with information for this calendar. Deanna reminded everyone to “like” and “follow” the Branch Facebook page.

Deanna sent letters and a copy of an article of appreciation to all businesses who have contributed to our fundraisers. She also sent an article announcing our new officers to the Tribune Democrat and Our Town newspapers.

Old Business:

Kathy Howanek has asked all Board members to review the Strategic Plans in view of virus restrictions.

New Business:

Paula Tomko has been named AAUW Western Coordinator-congratulations Paula.

Responding to the issues of branch diversity and inclusion, Branch presidents have asked Ann Furlong and Mary Hayes Carney to discuss the feasibility of partnering with the Greater Johnstown Minority Scholars Club to award an AAUW scholarship via that group.

STEM-financial review was given by Deanna Haddle for all STEM Programs since 2011. Currently there is a balance of \$2.64. STEMS Kits will be given to Cambria County Library. The Draw the Lines event that had been schedule for Feb 27, 2020 was canceled and not rescheduled due COVID 19. PA-AAUW had awarded a \$500 grant for this event. \$239.20, not used, was returned to PA-AAUW.

The Meeting was adjourned by Kathy Howanek at 8:44 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Pagano

Secretary, Johnstown Branch AAUW