

AAUW Business Meeting
Tuesday, October 17, 2011
Penn Highlands Community College

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Zaborowski at 6:40PM.

President Zaborowski reported that she had presented a brief overview of the AAUW website to new members prior to the meeting. She informed the membership that STEM will continue as a focus for AAUW until 2013. A 2012 nationwide issue will be increasing women involvement in politics, especially at the local level. The idea of creating an AAUW campus affiliate was presented. Barbara suggested creation of a county wide college affiliate with Penn Highlands and other local colleges, such as St. Francis and Mount Aloysius. She reminded us that anyone can attend the Western Regional Meeting which will be held at Butler County Community College (Cranberry Center) on October 29, 2011 from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

Loretta Ciupak, Vice President-Program, explained the process previously used for selection of speakers and hostesses for meetings. An appointment committee met once a year to select presentation topics and to appoint members to take care of hospitality for each meeting. This process will be altered at the March meeting. Loretta plans to get member suggestions for topics and to enlist volunteers to host each meeting. At the May meeting, topics will be narrowed and Loretta will then attempt to get appropriate speakers. A discussion was held concerning who would provide specific items for the May covered dish dinner. This will be determined at the March meeting. Loretta also reported that some members expressed a preference for a speaker at each meeting. A discussion about the amount of time needed to conduct AAUW business followed. Presently, the meeting schedule will not be changed. Members may now make reservations for the December luncheon at Sunnehanna (December 10). The cost is \$17.00. Please make checks payable to the Johnstown Branch of AAUW.

Kathy Howanek, Vice President-Membership, introduced three new members who were in attendance: Marie Olsheski, Sarah Kurcherer, and Elaine Sojak. With the Shape the Future Campaign's membership discount, six women have become new members. Based on the number of new members, our branch has earned two free memberships. One suggestion was to use these free memberships to provide a free continuance of membership for any member residing in a nursing home. Another Shape the Future Campaign will be held in February. Anyone who joins at our February meeting will only pay \$30.50 for the first year of membership. Also, current graduate students may join this year for \$18.81 national dues. This rate applies to new members and is celebrating AAUW's 130th year anniversary.

Paulette Solomon, Secretary, reminded members that the AAUW board minutes (September 22, 2011) are posted on the website. We received thank you's from the Cambria County Literacy Council, the Cambria County Library, and the Penn Highlands Community College acknowledging our monetary gifts.

Linda Drusak presented her treasurer's report. The operating fund (including STEM grant) is \$11,869.13. The book sale account is \$8,136.38. The CD's are \$2,764.06 at Northwest and \$19,638.35 at First Summit for a total of \$22,402.41. Since they no longer draw interest, the Northwest CD's will be closed as each comes due. This money will still go towards the scholarships. Five hundred dollars from the book sale was put in the sustaining fund which had been created to offset future dues increases for members. The total in this fund currently is \$2000.00. If one paid her dues on-line, the Johnstown chapter of AAUW would reimburse the member for the amount of the dues increase. No money has been used since there has not been an increase in dues. As the number of new members is increasing;

the fund would probably never have enough money to cover all future increases in membership dues. Implementing a grandfather date was discussed. Members who joined prior to this date will have their dues increases paid by the sustaining fund. Maryann Minahan made a motion: Any person who becomes a member after October 17, 2011 will have to personally pay any increase in AAUW dues. The motion was seconded by Deanna Haddle. The motion passed.

The Audit Committee, Ann Fattman and Maryann Minahan, reported the audit is completed and the treasurer's books are in good order. Wanda Keller was commended for the fine job she did as our former treasurer.

Jo Romani expressed the book committee's thanks to all who picked up and/or sorted books. There is still a need to rent the 2 storage containers at Ace's, but the committee was directed to inquiry about rental discounts. Appreciation was expressed for a local man, Bob, who has helped the women with the sorting and packing of books. The first week in November, Deanna Haddle will collect all the book containers.

Barbara Zaborowski provided information from *A Survey of Used Book Buyers* and *A Survey of Charity Groups Who Run Used Book Sales* to the group:

Spring and fall are the most common seasons for book sales, with sales peaking in October. Pennsylvania ranks third in the number of book sales per year. The average number of books at a sale was 11,000 while the median was 5,000. Sales increases were reported by 35% of groups; 51% had sales similar to the previous 2 years. Twenty-seven per cent of organizations also sell donated books on line (median-50, average 388 books). Read a lot is the reason 63% of people attend used books sales while 24% attend to collect a specific type of book. Bargain prices were the main attraction; additional activities, like a bake sale were not important. People who attend used books sales do so regularly with half attending at least 6 sales per year. Hardbacks were preferred by 81% of the buyers; 64% preferred paperbacks. Fiction was the primary genre of interest with reference, cooking, and children's books a close second. Over 60% of people re-donate their books to a used book sale when done reading them.

After the presentation and a discussion, this information was sent to the book sale committee for further discussion. A suggestion was made to post our sale on BookSale-Finder.com.

Deanna Haddle, Communications Chairperson, requested that articles for the next newsletter be sent to her by the fifteenth of the month. The newsletter will shortly follow with the majority receiving the newsletter via email and the few without email access will continue to receive theirs by mail. If any committee needs publicity, please contact Deanna with your specific request.

Georgia Yeager, Education Chairperson, and Linda Drusak will serve as the Scholarship Committee. Maryann Minahan was thanked for her prior service on this committee. Deanna Haddle made a motion: The school district of an active member will be added to the scholarship rotation upon the member's request. The motion was seconded by Jo Romani. The motion passed. Currently, these schools are included: Bishop McCort, Conemaugh Township, Conemaugh Valley, Ferndale, Forest Hills, Greater Johnstown, Johnstown Christian, Richland, Westmont, and Windber. For scholarship selection, we will continue working with the school guidance counselors, the same timeline, and the scholarship presentation in May at our own dinner. Dottie Glass made a motion: The money indicated by the scholarship will be given directly to the named recipient upon receipt by the organization of an official transcript showing the successful completion of one semester of work by the named recipient. The motion was seconded by Linda Drusak. The motion passed.

Ann Furlong, Educational Foundation Chairperson, informed the group that Cindy Bennett is the Johnstown AAUW's 2011 Education Foundation awardee. Ann explained that her group handles any memorial gifts or donations (\$1.00 per member) to the national education foundation.

Jo Romani, Historian, gave an overview of items contained in the yearbook. Some of these items are newspaper clippings, branch minutes, copy of the budget, and honorariums. The book is kept at the Cambria County Library with other AAUW memorabilia.

Mary Lou Wyandt, Public Policy Chairperson, reported that information on the elections will be forthcoming at the March meeting.

While not in attendance, Vera Leidy invited all new members to join the Second Tuesday Study Group. A change of meeting place was made for May. The group will meet May 8, 2011 at the home of Nanci Gaborek (600 Hershberger Road in Johnstown) at 1:00 PM.

The next meeting of The Ethnic Dining group will be the last Thursday in January at the Phoenix Restaurant.

STEM Project Chairperson Deanna Haddle stated that currently 113 girls from grades 5-8 are registered for the November 5 "Girls Tech Over" program. There is a total of 15 presenters. Deanna requested member help with the various activities on November 5.

Barbara Zaborowski had no news concerning the Voter Education Campaign.

Kathy Howanek reported that a fourth grade class at Jackson Township Elementary (Central Cambria School District) has been selected as our partner in the Write-Read-Write project. She will have the student letters for the March meeting.

Maryann Minahan explained the Review Committee and the Area Representative (AR) Committee membership and duties. The Review Committee consists of Ann Furlong, our Treasurer, the Used Book Sale Chairperson, and one additional member to be named. This new member must chair the committee. The Review Committee reviews, every three years, the percentage of funds donated to established activities. The Area Representative Committee consists of the Treasurer, the chair of the Review Committee, and another member at large. This committee oversees the distribution of book sale monies. The committee receives all requests for funds and makes recommendations to the general membership. The membership then votes to grant/not grant the funding request.

A need for some new committees was expressed. A fundraising committee to research other fundraising methods in addition to the annual used book sale was created. Deanna Haddle, Kathy Howanek and Eileen Tweed will serve on this committee. A committee to select nominations for a future election for the positions of President and Vice President-Program is needed.

The next meeting is Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 12:00 PM at Sunnehanna Country Club.

The meeting ended at 8:29 PM.

