

MONTANA TREASURE STATER

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President's Message

Mary Gernaat

Summer is about over and it is time to get AAUW back into full swing. There is some exciting news about Start Smart (note-the \$\$ has been changed) and our C/U members.

Start Smart is becoming in reality in Montana. Thanks to a group of dedicated members, mainly in Bozeman, we have definite plans for implementing Start Smart into all the campuses in the Montana University System. Because of these workshops, we are gaining many new members at the college level and increasing our visibility in Montana.

Diane Ehernberger is having some health issues and is no longer able to fulfill the many positions she held with AAUW-MT. She is recovering from 2 major surgeries in Billings and has returned to her home in Bozeman. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope that she will be able to resume as least some of her duties. In the interim, Debbie Blackburn, Bozeman Branch Finance, has agreed to be our Finance Chair. Susan Lee, Great Falls Branch, is now the Web Manager along with editing the *Treasure Stater*. Their addresses, e-mails and phone numbers are listed with the Board of Directors.

CALENDAR

October 8	Start Smart—Helena
October 13	Start Smart—Dillon
October 17	Start Smart—Bozeman
October 19	Start Smart—Great Falls
November 21	Start Smart—Billings
May 14 & 15	AAUW-MT Convention in Great Falls

If you wish to send Diane a get well message her home address is -1008 Flanders Creek Ave, Bozeman MT 59718-6362.

I am still interested in visiting the Montana Branches during my term as your president. My schedule is pretty flexible, but I would rather not travel when the weather could be a problem.

Please contact me if I may be of assistance in any way.

Mary Gernaat

Membership Payment Program

This spring, Great Falls became the first branch in the state to participate in the Membership payment Program.

[The Membership Payment Program \(MPP\)](#) is a secure, online dues-processing alternative to the regular print version Branch Dues Report remittance process for AAUW branches and states. This free tool is located within AAUW's [Member Services Database \(MSD\)](#). The MPP provides an easy and convenient way for members to pay their dues online. It can also generate dues renewal notices to e-mail directly to members or the notices can be printed and mailed to members. Branches can complete an opt-in application in the Members Services Database. It's quick and easy.

A portion of your National AAUW membership dues are tax deductible. If you paid \$49 in dues last year, you can deduct \$46.

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AAUW Website

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START SMART UPDATE

The AAUW-MT is in its second year of bringing free salary negotiation workshops to eight campuses of the Montana University System (MUS). This project, funded for another year by a second grant from the Women's Foundation of Montana (WFM) provided workshops during the last academic year (2014-15) and will also be providing workshops during the current 2015-16 academic year. Additional project funding was also received from the Montana Governor's Commissioner of Higher Education (OSHE), the Presidents' Offices at MSU and UM, and the MSU Women's Center.

This AAUW-MT Salary Negotiation Project is providing workshops at the following campuses. They will be in Helena, Dillon, Bozeman, Great Falls and Billings this Fall.

In the 2015 spring semester the AAUW-MT Start Smart Grant Project provided salary negotiation workshops and facilitator training sessions at three campuses (UM, UMW, and MSU). During these sessions 27 Montana facilitators were trained.

The 2015-16 project will provide workshops at most of the 8 MUS campuses during fall 2015 and also in spring 2016. A spring 2016 Kalispell workshop is also currently being planned.

If you are interested in attending a Start Smart and/or Work Smart workshop or becoming a workshop facilitator, please check the list of workshop locations under the [START SMART/WORK SMART WORKSHOPS](#) tab on the top homepage menu bar of the AAUW-MT website.

For further information or inquiries, please contact the AAUW-MT Start Smart Executive Committee by email at: startsmartmt@gmail.com

IN MEMORIAM

On June 22, long time AAUW member Clarice Walters passed away. Clarice and her husband started teaching at Montana Western College (now UMW) in 1968 and retired to Bozeman in 1989 where she became active in AAUW. Clarice was branch president in the early 2000s and was AAUW state president for 2 years in the late 1990s. She was a *Life* member and served in many ways. The Bozeman branch contributed to the Betsy McDowell national fund in Clarice's name and has also started a "Living Memorial" branch fund which has provided 2 graduate student memberships.

BRANCH NEWS

AAUW - BILLINGS

Our general meetings were very well attended by both members and guests throughout the past year, thanks to excellent programming. Our branch participated in Relay for Life this spring again, to raise funds for cancer research. The Membership Committee held a social gathering open to the public, Bites 'n Beverages, this past April at a member's home. We had our first Bites 'n Beverages last October and plan to continue them this next year. Our Literature Group continues to attract many participants, both members and nonmembers.

AAUW - BOZEMAN

Earlier this year the Bozeman Branch adopted a 3-year cycle for the presidency and now has a President-elect, current President, and Past-President. Cheryl Juergens is the current President effective July 1st and Barbara Brown is now Past-President. The President-elect is Cassiday Medicine Horse, an MSU doctoral candidate in Native American Studies.

On January 20 we hosted a public wine, sparkling cider, cheese & cracker social and held our annual spring brunch meeting on May 16 with 2 guests in attendance. On July 16 we hosted a "summer salad social" and offered memberships in Clarice Walters' name to the 2 graduate students who came as guests. On Thursday and Friday August 20-21 our branch had a table at the annual MSU Catapoolooza welcome event. There were over 300 tables representing campus clubs, organizations and offices, and community businesses and organizations such as AAUW. During the 2 days 65 undergraduate students signed-up for *e-membership* through the MSU CU (College/University) Partnership with AAUW, and 12 new members are expected to join in one form: as Shape-the-Future (STF), recent college grad, and/or graduate student member.

AAUW - GLENDIVE

In April, the Glendive Branch hosted an informal gathering of women's groups in the area. Members of Zonta, PEO, Homemakers, Cowbelles, and Women Who Wine joined us for an evening of wine, hors d'oeuvres, and conversation. The evening was well received and the branch hopes to make it an annual event.

The branch's booksale in March was very successful this year. Printed books are still obviously used and the community appreciates the opportunity to clean out what they've read and replace with something they haven't!

Glendive Branch member Suela Cela was honored by being chosen as one of the **25 Under 25** by the Forward Montana Foundation. The 25 Under 25 project chooses 25 Montanans under the age of 25 who are shaping Montana through their work. Cela is a staff member at Dawson Community College.

AAUW - GREAT FALLS

In May the Great Falls Branch was able to honor four women from our community. We awarded four \$2,000 college

scholarships to them at our May branch meeting. These traditional scholarships go to Juniors, Seniors or Graduate students. In December at our holiday luncheon, we will award two \$1,000 associate degree scholarships for nontraditional students. Our members have been working since June getting ready for our annual October Book Sale at the Great Falls Library. We receive community donations during this time and we are very thankful for all of the support from our Great Falls neighbors.

Upcoming programs include our superintendent of Great Falls Public Schools, Tammy Lacey, discussing school district changes, Brett Doney sharing about economic development in Great Falls, a field trip with Dave Snugg at the business "My Neighbor in Need", Adrian Ehrke from the Great Falls Police Academy, Janine Giordano-Drake with the University of Great Falls History Department discussing "Women in the Early 20th Century Labor Movement", and Kerry Callahan sharing about her trip to Cuba. We are excited about our programs for this next year and would like to extend a warm welcome for you to come to our meetings and be with some wonderful AAUW friends.

AAUW - KALISPELL

The Kalispell branch has continued to be a vibrant bunch! The spring was full of activity, with the annual Honors Symposium at Flathead Valley Community College and another successful book sale chaired again by Vicki Gockenbach. Our summer held several fun-filled activities including a cruise on The Far West Boat, a private tour of the Women Artists of Glacier Park exhibit at the Hockaday Museum of Art, and a back-stage tour and of the Whitefish Theater Company where members Lonnie Porro and Linda Harris shared the complexities of costume design and creation.

Fall is looking to be just as promising with an introduction of the Start Smart program to our branch, in efforts to bring the program to the Flathead Valley in 2016. We will have a brewery social in October, a presentation on Montana Common Core Standards by Edgerton Elementary School Assistant Principal and Branch Education Chair Jen Stein, and our annual (and very lively) book exchange in December.

In addition to our business meetings and socials, the branch currently has two very successful study groups. Great Decisions, an international policy discussion group, is currently in its second year and has expanded to two groups. Lunch Bunch is a nonfiction book club that meets twice a month. The group will celebrate 35 years of existence this fall, with founding members Jane Lopp and Mary Gibson still very involved.

BRANCH NEWS

AAUW MILES CITY

We remain few in numbers, but still manage to support numerous local organizations and causes. In the spring, we awarded three \$1,000 scholarships; two to graduating high school seniors and the third to a nursing student at Miles Community College. We also made \$100 contributions to each of the following: Wake Up and Lace Up (assists individuals with cancer or other catastrophic medical conditions), ROCKS (summer & after school program), Range Riders Museum, and a restoration project of the Wibaux Park (antique) fountain. An additional \$200 was donated to CNADA, the Custer Network against Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault.

After seventeen years of sponsoring a local residency of the Missoula Children's Theatre, we retired from that role after last year's week-long residency. As we were unable to find another organization to take on the sponsorship, we are donating the \$1300 in proceeds from the final play to the Barn Players, Miles City's theater group which now produces an annual children's play.

In July, we sponsored Shakespeare in the Parks production of *Cyrano de Bergerac* for the Miles City community. We are now gearing up for the annual AAUW Christmas Market, held Thanksgiving weekend at the Miles Community College Centra. This is our major event of the year and provides the funds for the causes we support.

AAUW - MISSOULA

During fall 2015 and spring 2016, the Missoula Branch will focus on the issues of sexual assault in Montana, and will monitor and provide input into the work of the legislative Interim Study on Sexual Assault. Missoula Branch member and state Senator Diane Sands serves on the committee conducting this interim study, and will use AAUW materials and commitment to safe campuses and communities in Montana to direct and inform her work.

AAUW - PARK COUNTY

Park Branch begins its new year with a wine and cheese social on Monday, September 13 to attract prospective members. 2014 - 2015 was a very successful membership year for us. We presently have 47 members. Our monthly meetings begin on Saturday, September 20. We will continue having interesting and informative programs, featuring our members and their passions, as well as other speakers. The Park Branch sponsored another successful candidates forum in August - this one was for the upcoming city commission election. This is our year for our New to You Arts and Antiques fundraiser, which will be held in March. The sale funds both our operational expenses as well as our scholarship fund.

Convention Update

Seven members of AAUW-MT attended the convention in San Diego in June, 3 from Bozeman, 2 from Great Falls and 2 from Kalispell. It was an inspiring several days with many great workshop and speakers.

The vote to allow open membership failed to pass, so the requirements remain the same. There were 2 Montana members on the ballot for National Board of Directors—Martha Joh Reeder, Bozeman, and Ellie Hill, Missoula. Ellie was elected. Our thanks to both of these ladies for their interest and continued support of AAUW.

Cheryl Juergens, AAUW-MT Committee Co-Chair of Start Smart, participated in a round table exhibit of our Start Smart program. Montana is unique in that we have a license to hold workshops on all the campuses of the Montana University System. Other licenses are issued only for individual universities.