

Empowering women since 1881

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President's Letter



I can't believe that it is time to get busy with AAUW-

MT for the next year.

As some of you may know, our past president, Diane Ehernberger was diagnosed with uterine cancer last spring. Since then, she has had chemotherapy, surgery in Boston, and is back home in Bozeman. The treatment has been successful and she is on the road to recovery. Please keep her in your prayers and I am sure she would appreciate a card from you.

We have a new look with

the Treasure Stater this year. Association has given us a new logo along with a different color scheme. The turquoise is gone, in favor of blue and green. We also have a new publisher. Susan Lee, Great Falls' web master, has agreed to take over the job from Diane Ehernberger. Diane has had the job for many years and was ready to retire from being editor. I would like to thank Diane and Corky Bush for the wonderful job of keeping us informed. I only hope that Susan and I can do as good of a job.

Thank you for allowing me to attend the AAUW National Convention in

New Orleans. It was a wonderful experience. There is a summary of the convention printed separately in the newsletter. The accommodations were wonderful, but the weather was very hot and humid.

So far, I have been able to attend Branch meetings in Glendive, Livingston, and Billings. The hospitality was wonderful and it gave me a chance to meet members from each group. I would like to visit other Branches if we can find a date that will work.

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

Mary Gernaat

CALENDAR

September 8

Board Conference Call

October

Great Falls Branch
Book Sale

April 26

Great Falls Branch
Centennial Celebration

April 27-28

AAUW-MT Convention
Hampton Inn
Great Falls

Please send items for calendar to Susan Lee
suelee000@msn.com

New Logos



AAUW has a new logo. The AAUW Branding Tool Kit tool kit has

been prepared to assist members, branches, and states in presenting a consistent brand identity for AAUW. In addition to the National logo, AAUW has also

prepared logos for each state and branch.

The logos are available for download from the AAUW Branding Tool Kit at www.aauw.org



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2013 AAUW Association Convention

On June 7, Jane Hashley, Great Falls Branch President, and I flew to New Orleans. Barbara Brown from Bozeman was the only other Montana AAUW member attending.

The Convention was so well organized and the workshops, speakers, venue, and meals were wonderful.

There are currently 165,000 members in AAUW. The big emphasis is on increasing our presence on college and university campuses and there was a gain of 700% in that area.

AAUW awarded the first fellowship in 1881. 125 years later and \$100 million later our grants and fellowships have helped more than 1200 women reach their educational goals.

I actually talked with Lilly Ledbetter, one of our speakers. I wanted her autograph on one of her books. I invited her to Montana, but so far no word on travel plans! Something to work on in the future.

The voting was interesting. Only 5.7 percent of the association members vote for the officers. Some voted electronically, but many waited until the convention, hoping to have a chance to talk to the candidates. There was an opportunity to do this, but the area was very crowded and congested so that it was difficult to talk to anyone. Only 19 of Montana's 396 members voted. 18 electronically and 1 by mail. That seems like such a small number, but had we voted the "old fashioned way" Montana would have had only 3 votes. They will work to improve the procedure for the next election.

AAUW is partnering with the Clinton Global Initiative and the Clinton Global University as a way to further our mission. I attended a conference for state presidents. It was an opportunity for networking and skill building. I think the most informative workshop I attended related to our archives. We learned how to manage papers and materials and how and where to archive, what to keep and what to discard. They are interested in the location of Montana's archives and where each branch keeps theirs. For your information, AAUW-MT's archives are in Helena at the Historical Museum.

The next Association Convention will be in San Diego, CA June 18-21 2015.

Mary Gernaat

AAUW Great Falls is looking for the names of recipients who have received AAUW Grants or Scholarships. If you are aware of someone that has been a recipient, please let us know. Contact Mary Gernaat, 452-8769 or Lynn Allison 761-3212.



BRANCH NOTES

AAUW—Billings has celebrated several women in our community in the past few months. At our May meeting, we honored outgoing president, Pam Ellis, with the Named Gift Award. We also presented our two college scholarship winners for 2013-14: Korilynn Kessler from MSU-B and Maryrose Milkovich from RMC. And we celebrate fifty year branch member, Diane Fossen, who has received an Honorary Life Membership.

For the second year, the AAUW Billings “Relay for Life” team has raised over \$1000 for the American Cancer Society. At the annual event in July, which draws thousands to the West High School track, our seven member team proudly wore their AAUW polo shirts and carried the branch banner during the team lap around the track. With two cancer survivors on our team, we are honored to be a part of this event.

We’re looking forward to a year of excellent programming at our monthly Saturday meetings beginning in September with Dr. Margaret Breeson discussing Naturopathic Medicine. In October new MSU-B athletic director, Krista Montague, will speak at our membership social on the Rise of Women in Athletics’ Leadership Roles.

AAUW-Great Falls Thanks to all our Branch members, other members and Branches across the state, and with some final help from the national convention, we have completed our #4302 Great Falls Centennial Grant endowment fund two years early! It will be available to be used this coming year and will carry on in perpetuity within the AAUW Fellowships & Grants program.

It is particularly exciting for us since this is our 100th Branch anniversary. We have a great committee working on a large display at the History Museum in Great Falls along with a display of the anniversary of Women’s suffrage in Montana. It will be ready in March-April for State Convention.

We have been gearing up for our annual Book Sale, October 16-27. (Wednesdays thru Sundays). Mark it on your calendar for a trip to Great Falls. If you know anyone who’s interested in cookbooks, we have over a thousand thanks to a donation from a collector. We also have auction books, collectibles, games, videos, a large collection of biographies, and an exceptional collection of good children’s books.

We are currently accepting applications for our Associate Degree scholarships for nontraditional female students from Cas-

cade County. This year we will be giving two \$1,000 awards for the January semester. If you know anyone who would be interested, eligibility requirements and applications are available on our website at: greatfalls-mt.aauw.net.

AAUW-Kalispell In April we sponsored a public showing of “The Invisible War” at Flathead Valley Community College followed by a panel discussion. The Abbie Shelter and Violence Free Crisis Line and the Flathead County Library were co-sponsors of the event. Panel members included the director of the Abbie Shelter, a mental health professional from the military, a representative from Jon Tester’s office and the president of Soroptimists International of Kalispell.

We held our annual used book sale in April. It continues to be a successful event for our branch. Our long-time chairpersons resigned after eight years but thanks to their efforts and the enthusiasm of new members, we are well positioned to continue on.

The Kalispell Branch is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. A special celebration is planned for November 10th at the Central School Museum in Kalispell.

Other upcoming events that our branch is supporting include a showing of the film “A Place at the Table”, a film dealing with the problem of hunger in our country.

We will also help sponsor a symposium to be held in October at FVCC by “Disability Rights Montana”. The two-day event is titled “Special Education / Kids, Families, Schools and the Law: Working Together for Success”.

AAUW-Glendive showed active support for a successful campaign to pass the public school mill levies in the spring of 2013. Members served on the Citizens for Quality Education Committee, gathered signatures and donations for a signature ad, wrote letters to the editor, distributed and displayed yard signs, and reminded friends and neighbors to join them in voting yes! The hard work paid off when the voters DID pass the school levies.

BRANCH NOTES cont'd

AAUW Missoula Lucy France, University of Montana Legal Counsel and new branch member, was the featured speaker at our Sept. 5th program on campus. She spoke about the history of Title IX and the implication for the University of Montana. UM was under investigation by the Department of Justice, Title IX and the NCAA last year and has entered into an agreement to address the failures of the system to address violence against women. UM professor and former state AAUW President, G.G. Weix hosted the event, which was widely covered by the media.

Governor Steve Bullock has appointed Missoulian Fran Albrecht to the Board of Regents, replacing Pat Williams. I have sent a note of congratulations to Fran and informed her of AAUW's interest in the Regent's work, especially in the areas of Title IX, accessibility and affordability, and implementation of Indian Education for All. It is my intention to host a small meeting with Fran in the near future to discuss our agenda and her representation on the Regents.

The Missoula Branch hasn't determined further programming yet but will be holding an informal kick-off supper on Sept. 30, where Amanda Cotyla will have the opportunity to meet the membership.

AAUW STATE ORGANIZER

We applied for an AAUW national grant to work with us against the 2 voter suppression ballot measures that we will face on the ballot in 2014. We were successful and Amanda Cotyla was hired to work for the AAUW Association, assigned to MT, ND and WY, for 10 months beginning now! She will be based out of Missoula and arriving next week.

She is available to us to assist in building the MT AAUW organization, through membership recruitment, especially on campuses, communications, and other activities.

I hope to put together a meeting or call later in the month to develop a state plan that works for all of us and will need your input about the opportunities you might have for Amanda's work.

Heads up: she will probably be coming with me to Kalispell, Billings and Bozeman this fall, as I have already scheduled programs with your branches about the women's history program (*Taking Action: A political history of women in Montana*). (Any of the rest of you who would like a visit, contact me or go to the Humanities Montana website for the Speakers Bureau listing.)

Diane Sands

Amanda Cotylo – Area 5 (Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming)

Amanda is a rare native of Los Angeles and graduate of UCLA where she studied both Anthropology and English. She's had a very adventurous and colorful job history, having done everything from working for archaeologists, bartending/waitressing in London, to working as the National Marketing and Sales Coordinator for KTLA (Channel 5) in Los Angeles.

After a lot of soul-searching following the Citizens United v. FEC Supreme Court decision, Amanda decided that working for a television station (with programming that included Gossip Girl and America's Next Top Model) would never be remotely as rewarding as working for issues that she cared about with campaigns and nonprofits, so she did a career reboot which began with a lot of volunteering. Quickly she advanced to making a livelihood working in politics. Some of her experiences include managing offices both in California and Oregon for progressive ballot initiatives, working with GOTV efforts in Cleveland, Ohio for the 2012 presidential election, and being the Regional Field Director for Hollywood, CA on a city council campaign.

A self-professed political junkie, Amanda takes great pleasure in activism and affectionately irritating her local congressman.

Economic Justice

In September, AAUW published [The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap](#). Here are some of the high points.

- The pay gap hasn't budged in a decade.
- Women in [every state](#) experience the pay gap, but some states are worse than others.
- The pay gap is worse for women of color.
- Women face a pay gap in [nearly every occupation](#).
- The pay gap grows with age.
- While more education is an effective tool for increasing earnings, it is not an effective tool against the gender pay gap.
- The pay gap also exists among women without children.

The complete report, as well as, state-by-state rankings, power-point presentation, and other information on this report can be found at:

<http://www.aauw.org/research/the-simple-truth-about-the-gender-pay-gap/>

AAUW National



In 2014, AAUW will expand our STEM-focused (science, technology, engineering, and math) summer camp program to three new college and university campuses in New Mexico, Oregon, and Alabama. New Mexico State University, Las Cruces; Tillamook Bay Community College; and the University of Alabama, Huntsville, will join universities in Florida, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Washington to host the camp in 2014 for local girls.

Tech Trek is a one-week science, technology, engineering, and math camp for rising eighth-grade girls. The program got its start 15 years ago, when AAUW of California member Marie Wolbach applied for an AAUW Community Action Grant to open a science camp for girls on the Stanford University campus. Wolbach and AAUW of California have since expanded the program to 10 camps in California alone.

After seeing how effective the program is — alumnae are more likely than their peers to take advanced science and math classes and eventually to go to college — AAUW decided to expand the program nationwide. In 2013, Tech Trek was expanded to four states, across the country and is already changing the lives of the girls who attended.

“I had always been worried about going into a male-dominated field,” said one camper in Washington. “Tech Trek has made me feel more confident about my abilities in STEM and has made me want to follow my dreams of becoming a medical engineer.”

The program puts AAUW’s *Why So Few?* research report into action. Tech Trek’s formula follows the report’s recommendations, introducing girls to role models and career choices and giving campers the opportunity to reside on a college campus.

AAUW wants you to get involved with TechTrek. You can contact the National organization to volunteer at a camp or give to the Tech Trek program.

AAUW National’s Branch Resources Program Committee has several helpful tools for programming including *Prototype Year of Programming* for Small, Medium and Large Branches. *Programs in a Box*, provide everything the Program Chair needs for a successful program. This information can be found under the **Resources** section at www.aauw.org.



New logos mean new stationary, business cards, banners and note cards. At the AAUW Shop, you can even buy AAUW butter mints to give out during programs.

All things AAUW are available at Shop AAUW at: aauw.source4.com



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