



MONTANA TREASURE STATER

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AAUW-MONTANA NEWSLETTER

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✓ IT OVER ✓ IT OUT

Waves of Change

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Calendar

Nov. 23, 2010—State Board Meeting, by telephone
Nov. 15, 2010—IRS deadline for filing branch and state 990N (e-postcard)
Dec. 2010—AAUW 2011 Convention registration opens
Jan. 2, 2011—Deadline for next newsletter articles
Feb. 2011—Legislative Day, Helena. Dates TBD
June 16-19, 2011—AAUW National Convention, Washington, DC

In the past 10 years, AAUW has changed its identifier, opened its membership requirements, and revised its Board structure. But the most important change has not been much discussed. Indeed, many members may not even know about it.

At the 2009 Convention in St. Louis, delegates voted themselves out of a job and voted in **direct member governance** of the corporation. This change appropriately recognizes that AAUW's membership is increasingly composed of people who are not branch members. It means that branches no longer govern AAUW through the election of delegates to conventions. Instead, members conduct the business of the corporation through direct election and ballot issue voting. In other words, AAUW's new governing structure is a direct, not a representative, democracy. That is the good news. It's also the bad.

Everybody who owns shares in a publically traded corporation gets ballots from those companies. Most of us throw these out as soon as we get them. If not, the ballots join that never-decreasing file of "things to read later" (TTRL)—which rarely happens or happens long after the mail-in deadline. Many of us receive these corporate communications electronically—but the results are no different. Few of us have the time to sort through the complexity of the issues—so we don't. Few of us understand the nature of the issue or the background of the person we are supposed to be voting for—so we don't vote.

Unless we take care, things may not be any different for us as AAUW members. We are a bit like the illustration above: standing on the shore, watching a tide roll in, unprepared—although very fashionably dressed—for the sea change in governance that is upon us.

We are used to government that is characterized by the twin concepts of "representation" and "deliberation," achieved, in AAUW's case, [Continued on page 5]



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President's Letter

Welcome to another AAUW year!

I've been thinking about good intentions and how they're just not enough for a lot of us. In my own case, I intended to diet, but nothing really worked until I added some specific motivators—many dollars paid out to NutriSystem and boxes of food sitting in my kitchen. Then it worked and I lost the weight. More recently, with the intent to do some serious walking, I bought a treadmill, but spending the money wasn't enough to keep me using it as much as I need to. A week ago, I added the ultimate motivator, a dog named Moekie. Now I have to go on walks (or spend my days cleaning up my floors).

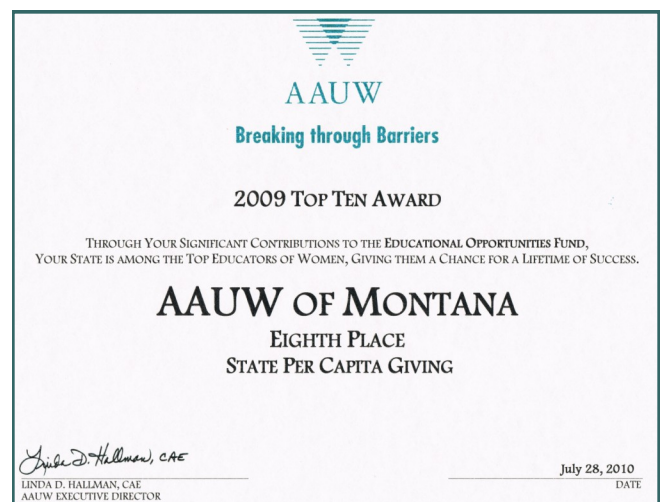


The point of all this is to suggest that others of you may need to add some motivators to your own good intentions regarding participating in AAUW at the branch level, especially now that we all need to pay more attention to what's going on, as Corky has written here in her front-page article. So what will help motivate you? Maybe it's something as simple as putting the branch programs into your calendars as soon as you receive your branch directory. That way, they'll be right there reminding you not to schedule something else on those dates. Another idea is to make an agreement with another branch member to attend meetings together. Then you'll feel guilty about backing out without a good excuse. A third suggestion is to invite a friend/prospective member to a meeting and then go to the meeting together. If she joins, make sure to take her to several more meetings until she feels part of the branch. That way, you'll be going to more meetings too.

Of course, one of the best motivators is to join your branch board (board members are much more likely than non-board members to attend most meetings). Too drastic for you? Well then, try one of the other motivators I've listed above or come up with one of your own. Find something that will really get you to meetings and have you signing up to volunteer your time for fundraisers and other community programs. We need your attendance and your help to keep AAUW vital here in Montana.

Finally, I want to end this letter on a positive note. Please look at the award announcement, shown below, rewarding our donations to the Educational Opportunity Fund (formerly known as Educational Foundation). Congratulations to all of you whose donations helped us win this recognition. Thank you for all you do for AAUW.

Diane



OUT: "ONE MEMBER, ONE VOTE"

The concept of "One Member, One Vote" was adopted by the delegates to the 2009 AAUW National Convention. It provides every member the opportunity to have both a personal voice in the process of directing the future of AAUW and the right to vote for candidates as well as proposed bylaws amendments, resolutions, and the Public Policy Program.

Voting Options

Members will have two methods for casting their vote: They may vote online at the AAUW website, or they may use the paper ballot that will be mailed to them. Only the first ballot from each member received at national headquarters, whether electronic or paper, will be counted.

Voting Process

- Paper ballots will be mailed on April 15, 2011. Each paper ballot is personalized with the member's AAUW ID number and a PIN — these two identifiers provide security and ensure that each member's vote will be counted only once.
- Online voting will take place from May 1, 2011, through 9 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, June 17, 2011. To vote, members will log in to the One Member, One Vote section of the AAUW website. Each voter must enter her or his Member ID and the PIN provided on the personalized paper ballot.

Member Participation

In past years, election of candidates for the AAUW Board of Directors and voting on other items of business, such as proposed bylaws amendments, resolutions, and the Public Policy Program, occurred during the biennial national convention. With One Member, One Vote, it is essential that we maximize opportunities for all members to participate in the process. Our website capabilities are the best and most efficient way to promote and engage members in the process.

AAUW Outlook has been the mainstay of our voting communication and, with our expansion to three *Outlooks* per year, we will be able to provide plenty of details in print to help ensure that all members are fully informed. The Fall 2010 issue of *AAUW Outlook* will provide information about the process and where members can go to find more detailed information. The Winter *AAUW Outlook* will include all proposed bylaws amendments, resolutions, and the Public Policy Program that will appear on the ballot, along with their rationales. It will also feature candidate profiles as it has in the past. The Spring/Summer issue of *AAUW Outlook* will repeat this information and will include any final information on candidates whose profiles may have been incomplete in the winter issue.

Key Dates and Deadlines

Bylaws proposals (online)	August 1, 2010, to November 1, 2010
Resolution proposals (online)	August 1, 2010, to November 1, 2010
Public Policy Program proposals (online)	October 1, 2010, to November 15, 2010
Candidate applications close	October 1, 2010
Meet the candidates (online)	December 1, 2010, to June 17, 2011
Winter <i>AAUW Outlook</i>	Mid-to-late January 2011
State conventions (most of them)	Mid-March to end of April 2011
Paper ballots mailed to every member	April 15, 2011
Spring/Summer <i>AAUW Outlook</i>	End of April 2011
Voting begins	May 1, 2011
Voting (online)	Completed no later than June 17, 2011, 9 p.m. EDT
Voting (paper ballots)	Postmarked no later than May 31, 2011

✓ OUT: Our New AAUW Funds State Directors

Usually, the first newsletter of each biennium begins with an introduction of all our new board members, but this time there has been little change in the makeup of the board. Everyone has returned for another term except for Jo Stevenson whose position as chair of AAUW Funds will now be shared by Lynn Allison and Rita Schmidt, both of Great Falls. Welcome aboard, Rita and Lynn. The following is Lynn's own introduction of our newest board members and a breakdown of the various AAUW Funds.

When Rita and I agreed to serve as the AAUW Funds Directors for the state, it was largely out of selfish reasons. The Great Falls branch has been working on a Career Development Grant since 2006. We hope to reach our \$75,000 goal by 2014, our branch's Centennial year. Right now we are a little over halfway there. Branches from across the state have shown amazing support for our efforts, especially during the state convention last May. Our branch is so grateful for your generosity and for helping us reach our goal.

Rita and I have been collaborating on various projects and causes for the past three decades. We have worked together on every phase of leadership and advocacy through our membership in the Great Falls Education Association and the Montana Education Association.

Rita served on the Project Excellence School Accreditation committee and served as president of the Montana Library Association. She has taught every level K-12 as well as at the College of Great Falls and MSU College of Technology. She served as Vice President and President of the Great Falls branch. She also served on the AAUW state board as LAF fund director.

My teaching career was spent as a high school library media specialist. I had a five year hiatus when I served as the full-time release president of the Great Falls Education

Association. I have served as publicity chair, vice-president and president of AAUW-Great Falls and one term as Program VP on the AAUW-Montana board.

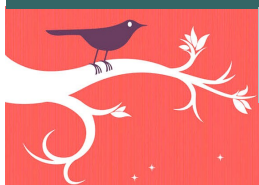
Rita and I, as do all AAUW members, believe in the power of education to transform and enrich lives. Our professional lives were devoted to public education. We are especially committed to advancing the status and welfare of women through education. AAUW on the national, state, and local levels seeks to provide educational opportunity and equity to women through a variety of AAUW Funds:

- **Career Development Grants** support women who hold a bachelor's degree and are preparing to change or advance their careers or re-enter the workforce. Great Falls' Centennial Grant (Fund #4302) is currently the only grant awaiting completion in the state of Montana.
- **Eleanor Roosevelt Fund** honors an individual, project, or institution for outstanding contributions to equity and education for women. While the award focuses on education, the recipient need not be an educator.
- **International Fellowships** are awarded for full-time study or research to women who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Fellowships support graduate or postgraduate studies at accredited institutions. Recipients are selected for academic achievement and demonstrated commitment to women and girls. The overwhelming majority return to their home countries to become leaders in government, academia, community activism, the arts, and science.
- **American Fellowships** support women scholars completing doctoral dissertations, conducting post-doctoral research or finishing research for publication. Recipients must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

✓ Out: Our New State Website

After suffering with an unworkable website for several years, AAUW-Montana is proud to announce our new and improved presence on the Internet. We discovered a great new hosting service, headed by an Oregon man whose mother is an AAUW member, and launched the new site in July. Some of the pages are still incomplete as President Diane is doing all the work on the site by herself, but most of it is up and running now. There is both a public section (what we're all about) and a private, members-only section (full of documents that members and officers may want to find easily—ask your branch president for the ID and password for access). Check it out for yourself at www.aauwmontana.org. Please let us know what we can do to improve it (other than get it finished, that is). And be sure to share it with any prospective members you may know.

Visit the AAUW-Montana website at www.aauwmontana.org.



Notes from the Branches

Bozeman—On August 26th, AAUW-Bozeman joined with BPW and the League of Women Voters to celebrate Women's Equality Day with a public showing of the DVD "Iron Jawed Angels." Then, on Constitution Day, September 17th, the branch hosted our second annual public reading of the entire U.S. Constitution, which was attended by staff members from the offices of both Senator Baucus and Senator Tester as well as by members of local coalition organizations, and several local residents. We plan to make our Constitution Day observance an annual event in Bozeman.

Great Falls—The Great Falls branch is nearing completion of its yearly six months' project of preparing for our annual Book Sale. In three weeks, all will be in readiness for the hordes of book lovers to walk in the door. Our Book Sale will be Oct. 20-24 and Oct. 27-31. We are hoping for another big year.

Kalispell—The AAUW-Kalispell branch is partnering with the Flathead County Library System in the 2010 Big Read program. The year, the Flathead will read Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*. The Kalispell AAUW Branch will sponsor a screening of the film "Vietnam Nurses" at the Bigfork Playhouse on October 26th at 7pm. Diane Carlson Evans, former Vietnam-era nurse and the catalyst behind the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington, DC will host the program.

Livingston—Park County branch of AAUW kicked-off its 2010-11 year with a Wine & Cheese Meet & Greet Social at Warmstone Fireplaces and Designs in downtown Livingston. The event was hosted by the Branch's new Membership Co-chairwomen Nancy Egar and Desiree Pihl. The ambiance was welcoming, appetizers delicious, and wine luscious. A fun time was had by all—including the two newest members of the Branch who joined at the event!

[Continued from page 1] through discussion and voting by delegates at conventions. In direct democracies, to which AAUW is moving, there is no representation and usually minimal public deliberation. Just as citizens in direct democracies are expected to analyze issues on their own, AAUW members are now expected to weigh and debate AAUW proposals largely on our own. So what can we do to make direct member control of AAUW work? Check out these suggestions:

- ✓ Immediately go to the One Member, One Vote (OMOV) web page at www.aauw.org/member_center/1member1vote/index.cfm and read about the process.
- ✓ Read materials from AAUW as they come in electronically and in the **Outlook**, now the primary means of member communication. [This means no more round filing or TTRL stacking.]
- ✓ Discuss the proposals and candidates with at least one other person—preferably at a branch meeting or on an issue blog on AAUW's website.
- ✓ Write to candidates asking them their positions on issues that are important to you. [Remember, few members will now get to meet candidates, as delegates could at conventions; you will need to do this mostly on your own.]
- ✓ Vote!!!

Of course, all this takes time—much more time than voting for a delegate to represent us at a convention. Computer and information technologies have given us the means by which we can directly govern our corporation. What those technologies cannot give us—in fact what they take away from us—is the TIME to execute those responsibilities responsibly. It's hard work, but we must commit to it or be engulfed. Let's not let this sea change wash us away.



✓ OUT: ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

Because advocacy is one of the four prongs of the AAUW mission statement, we plan to dedicate a section of every issue of our newsletter to this subject. We hope to include state and national topics of current interest so all our members can feel a part of the “bigger picture” of AAUW.



Cap the Rate

The delegates to our May 2010 state convention in Lewistown approved an addition to our Public Policy Program

that advocates “protection from predatory lending practices” as well as a resolution in support of I-164. This ballot initiative supports capping the rate of such predatory loans at 36%. This resolution asked all AAUW-Montana members to sign the petition to put I-164 on the November 2010 ballot. Thankfully, that petition was successful, so now we are asking all members to follow through by voting **FOR** I-164 in November.

Also, please take a few minutes of your time to publicly support I-164 again by going to the Cap the Rate website and adding your name to the list of those endorsing this initiative (www.captherate.com/Endorsements.html).

Pay Equity Legislation

Pay equity has been a primary issue for AAUW—both nationally and in Montana—for many years. Although the recent recession has had some pundits calling for a moratorium on any legislation which might, in their opinions, “cost more money,” AAUW has not stepped back from its support for pay equity. On September 5, 2010, the *Huffington Post* published an article on the subject by Linda Hallman, AAUW Executive Director (and keynote speaker at our May 2010 state convention). Titled “Want to Pay Tribute? Then Pay Equally,” it’s worth a read. Go to <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/linda-hallman/want-to-pay-tribute-then-b-706227.html> to read this statement.



Act now!

The opportunity may never come again.



Montana Women’s Lobby

The advocacy platform for AAUW-Montana in the state is voiced primarily through the Montana Women’s Lobby. We ask ALL branches and members to join the Lobby so that our voices can be heard in the Montana Legislature.

Representatives from AAUW-Montana serve on the Board of Directors of the Lobby as one of the two main “umbrella” organizations directing the actions of the MWL lobbyist, Linda Gryczan. We need to tell Linda soon what AAUW-Montana’s most important issue will be for the upcoming legislative session. Should it be pay equity, educational funding, gender nondiscrimination, or something else entirely? Talk with your friends in the branch and let us know where our focus should be this session.

Also, please consider joining the Lobby as an individual member. Let’s remember that it truly is important to “put your money where your mouth is.”

Join the Lobby Today

Send a check for \$50 (regular membership) or \$25 (living lightly) along with your name, address, phone number, and email address (to receive issues of Linda’s wonderful *Helena Hotflash* throughout the session) to:

Montana Women’s Lobby
P.O. Box 11558
Bozeman, MT 59719-1558

✓ OUT: PROGRAMMING RESOURCES

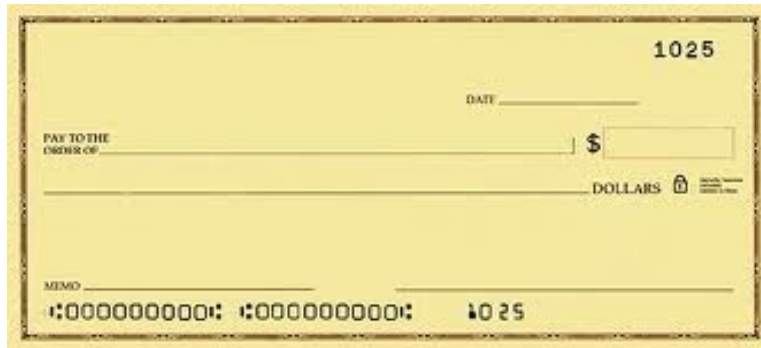
Finding good ideas for branch programs—especially programs that speak to AAUW’s mission-- can be a daunting task, especially in small communities where we tend to recycle the same experts and we, and they, may be a bit burned out. Thankfully, there are lots of new and improved resources available to help. Even if you are not on a branch board, the resources listed below are of interest to individual members and show the many equity-based efforts with which AAUW is involved on the national and international levels:

- ✓ The **iAdelante! Book List** recommends both fiction and non-fiction books monthly. Their recommendations are ideal for a diversity oriented book group but can also guide individual reading. Check out this year’s selections at <http://www.aauw.org/connect/adelante/titles.cfm>.
- ✓ The **National Girls Collaborative Project** (<http://www.ngcproject.org/>) is a coalition committed to informing girls about, and encouraging them to pursue, careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. AAUW's partners in the project include the EdLab Group; Assessing Women and Men in Engineering; and the Education Development Center. The Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) events that many branches have supported over the years are part of this project as are the recently AAUW-published reports ***Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*** and ***Where the Girls Are***. *Why So Few?* analyzes environmental and social barriers, such as stereotypes, gender bias and the climate of science and engineering departments in colleges and universities, that continue to block women’s participation and progress in science, technology, engineering, and math. *Where the Girls Are* takes a comprehensive look at girls’ educational achievement during the past 35 years, paying special attention to the relationship between girls’ and boys’ progress.
- ✓ **Resolutions** passed by AAUW Montana at Convention in May either call upon branches to sponsor specific programs during the 2010-2012 biennium or direct members to take specific actions. *Resolution 1, Ongoing Support for Montana Indian Education for All*, for example, calls upon the state organization and branches to sponsor one program each biennium that will help educate members and participants about Native peoples and cultures. (go to http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/IEFAResources.html#gpm1_3 for lists of program resources). Other resolutions, particularly those supporting the Montana Women’s Lobby, the Cap the Rate Initiative, and the comprehensive sex education curriculum developed by the Montana Partnership for Sex Education present their own program ideas. Check out all the current resolutions in the member center of our new website.
- ✓ The **public policy programs** of both national and state organizations contain a wealth of program ideas that will be of interest to members and the public. Just two examples: cities, counties and institutions are considering writing protections from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression into their codes and policies. A program that asks, say, the mayor, the county supervisor and the school district superintendent to report on the status of such policies in your area would be an interesting way to do mission-based programming. Similarly, in 2004, AAUW Montana came out in support of full day kindergartens. Sponsoring a program looking at how full day kindergartens are being implemented in your school district would be a public service.

AAUW programs are the arena where individual education and societal activism combine to advance equity for women and girls.

IT'S TIME TO WRITE YOUR RENEWAL ✓

Have you renewed your **AAUW membership** yet? If not, contact your branch finance officer to get it done before your name is dropped from AAUW's database after October 31, 2010.



Have you renewed your support for the **MT Women's Lobby**? See page 6 for details on how to join this AAUW public policy advocacy network,

Mission Statement—AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Diversity Statement—In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

Value Promise—By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.



Montana

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED