



MONTANA TREASURE STATER

Vol. 62, No. 2

AAUW-MONTANA NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2011

COME TO LEGISLATIVE WEEKEND

Contents

Legislative Weekend	1
Board of Directors	2
President's Letter	2
Programs	3
AAUW Funds	4
AAUW Honored	4
Book Sale Alert	5
Voting Deadlines	5
Advocacy News	6
Schedule & Registration	7
Principle Statements	8

On Friday, March 4, 2011, members of AAUW, BPW and the Montana Women's Lobby as well as other activists will gather at the Capitol to lobby the legislature and to celebrate International Women's Day. We will all meet at 8:15 a.m. for a pre-event briefing, featuring MWL's contracted public policy analyst, Julie Cerenzia, and social media specialist, Shawn Newton. They will explain what they are doing to engage more women across the state in MWL and discuss critical legislative issues,

After that briefing, we will join with Montana Women Vote for a daylong International Women's Day event. There will be workshops, lunch, and perhaps a rally. Full details of this part of the day were not available at press time but will be distributed as soon as possible.

We do know more details about one portion of the day's events because AAUW-MT and MWL will jointly present a workshop on pay equity and related issues, titled "Get A.L.I.C.E. Out of Wonderland." See the article on page 3 for more on the workshop. Also, we expect there will be time for individual lobbying.

Unlike other years when we partnered with MEA/MFT and attended their reception for legislators, we will not have a similar opportunity this year. MEA/MFT decided not to hold their legislative rally and reception this year. Instead we will have a late Friday afternoon debriefing session followed by dinner on our own.

We hope all AAUW members will stay overnight on Friday in order to attend the next day's events. Saturday morning, March 5, we will gather at a meeting room in the Super 8 Motel for a workshop presented by Dave Kirkwood, a national AAUW leader (more about Dave on page 3). The state board meeting will follow. All AAUW members are invited to attend both events.

We hope everyone will attend this biennial Legislative Weekend. This is a chance to show that we care about what is happening in the Legislature. It's important to demonstrate that we have not disappeared just because many of this session's legislators don't support our issues and really don't want to hear from us.

A final bit of good news—we should be done with all activities shortly after noon on Saturday so everyone will have a chance to drive home in daylight. See you in Helena!



Calendar

March 4—MWL briefing and International Women's Day event, Helena
March 5, 2011—AAUW workshop and state board meeting, Super 8 Motel, Helena
June 16–19, 2011—AAUW National Convention, Washington, DC
June 16–19, 2011—The Charlotte Perkins Gilman Conference, UM campus, Missoula
July 2011—Telephone board meeting, Date TBD

AAUW-Montana**President:**

Diane Ehernberger, 579-3088
di47mt@gmail.com

Program:

Susan Lubbers, 245-2970
rslubbers@q.com

Membership:

Susan Lee, 453-8860
suelee000@msn.com

Communications:

Mary Gernaat, 452-8769
geraatwcm@aol.com

Finance:

Birdie Dapples, 698-3227
birdeena@bresnan.net

Public Policy:

Susan Lubbers, 245-2970
rslubbers@q.com

AAUW Funds:

Lynn Allison, 761-3212
riclynallison@msn.com

[and]

Rita Schmidt, 453-1142
grschmidt@bresnan.net

Bylaws/Parliamentarian:

Corky Bush, 599-4670
corkyb43@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor:

Corky Bush, 599-4670
corkyb43@yahoo.com

AAUW Member Helpline:

1-800-326-2289

AAUW Website:

www.aauw.org

President's Letter

The last weekend in January, I attended the Women's Policy Leadership Institute in Helena. About 120 women from around the state attended—representing all ages as well as many organizations and issues. Although the main topic was political—how to respond to this particular Legislature, the themes of the conference could easily be applied to life in general.



The first theme was that in any discussion, you don't have to allow your opposition to control the terminology. Politically, this refers to not buying into the argument that we have to solve "the budget crisis." In reality, Montana doesn't have a budget crisis; what we're really facing is how to fairly allocate reduced revenues. Unfortunately, many legislators are cutting programs so deeply that it seems they are cutting simply for cutting's sake. In life's arena, we also don't have to accept another's terminology. For instance, as parents we're already lost if we allow a teenager to define the issue under discussion.

Another theme of WPLI was that progressive women's groups must gather together around shared values rather than allowing ourselves to be divided by particular issues. It's so much more productive to align issues to our values instead of simply arguing for getting a specific piece of the shrinking revenue pie. That's not to say that issues are unimportant, but basing requests on the shared value of providing public services that improve the lives of Montana's citizens is even more crucial. This idea also can be transferred from the political arena to life in general. On the job, for instance, the value of our products or services easily outweighs any one task we may take on.

The final theme I heard discussed was accepting and even embracing change. Communicating our views to this year's crop of legislators in the same old way is simply ineffective. They are not listening to lobbyists because they arrived in Helena with their minds and agendas already set. They are, however, still reacting to letters and calls from their constituents. This means we can't operate under the assumption that what worked in the past will work this year. We have to change our tactics to meet the new "reality." In life, too, we must be willing to reassess our actions in light of what is going on now instead of continuing to act out of habit. As women, too, we must continue to be willing to change ourselves and our actions as life around us changes.

All in all, attending WPLI was good for me. I came away with new ideas about how to work effectively in AAUW and MWL—worth the price of the conference in itself. But WPLI also induced me to reassess how I interact with friends and family—a true bonus!

Diane

PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS

GET A.L.I.C.E. OUT OF WONDERLAND

A.L.I.C.E. stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed—the condition of most women in the United States. It was the theme of a conference held at the County College of Morris, New Jersey in October 2010. It will also be the focus of a workshop that AAUW-MT and MWL will present at the International Women's Day Conference to be held at the Capitol in Helena on Friday, March 4, 2011.

The workshop will address women's status in Montana's economy and compare this with the status of men. Participants will discuss how women can move to financial parity with men through advocating for changes in public policy, developing personal financial savvy, and enhancing their planning and negotiating skills.

If the personal is political; the political is personal. It will take change at both levels to get Alice out of Wonderland and more fully into the Montana economy.

STATE-LEVEL "PROGRAM IN A BOX" NOW AVAILABLE

To commemorate *Roe v. Wade*, the MSU Women's Center, AAUW-Bozeman, and other local organizations co-sponsored a performance of *The Trial of Sarah Jones*. The one-act play takes place at a time when the legislature of an unnamed state has declared that life begins at conception. Sarah Jones, already the mother of two children and taking the Pill, finds herself pregnant, has an abortion, and is tried for murder. The play follows the trial up until both attorneys rest their cases. The audience is asked to

play the role of jury members and determine whether Sarah is or is not guilty of murder.

The play, which can be performed as a dramatic reading, requires eight actors. It was followed in Bozeman by a panel discussion. Branches can receive a copy of the play and a handout on the history of abortion in the U.S. by contacting Corky Bush.

NATIONAL LEADER TO PRESENT WORKSHOP IN MONTANA

Dave Kirkwood, an AAUW Director-at-Large from Minnesota, will be joining us for our Legislative Weekend in March. He will also present this year's national workshop designed for state conventions. As we don't have a convention this year, Dave will participate in Friday's events and then present his workshop on Saturday morning before the state board meeting.



Dave is a long-time AAUW member; his experience has included participation in the final editorial review of the Strategic Process document, appointment to the Executive Search Committee, and two terms on the national Membership Committee. He was elected as Director-at-Large in 2009 and is currently running for re-election.

In his professional life as a senior manager at Unisys, Dave has been a long-term advocate for equality and diversity in the business environment. He serves on an engineering advisory council for a local community college, where his goal is to ensure that women see a career path in a STEM field as both welcoming and supportive.

AAUW-Montana welcomes Dave to our state and hopes that many of our local members will travel to Helena March 4–5 to meet him.

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

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

AAUW FUNDS

By Lynn Allison & Rita Schmidt
Montana AAUW Funds Co-Chairs

When we were searching for inspiration for this newsletter article, we spent a lot of time exploring AAUW's website. We were encouraged as we read through the articles and explored different links. It is there we found a direct connection between the dollars we raise and the actions taken by AAUW on behalf of women.

2010 was a great year for Montana AAUW's fund-raising efforts. In 2010, AAUW members in Montana donated \$9,929.00 to various funds and causes. Donations to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund made it possible for AAUW to once again publish hard copies of *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*, a research project outlining specific barriers to women entering these fields. Donations to LAF make it possible for AAUW to continue pursuing court actions such as *Duke v. Wal-Mart* and *Sun v. U Mass Dartmouth*. The outcome of these cases may affect women for generations. Finally, many of you donated to the Great Falls' Centennial Grant (Fund #4302). Currently, Great Falls is close to the 60% mark of our \$75,000.00 goal.

Did you know that AAUW has been rated as one of the top nonprofit charities by Great Nonprofits (see article next column)? Check out the success stories and thank you notes from AAUW grant and scholarship recipients: at <http://greatnonprofits.org/reviews/aauw2/>. These testimonials will uplift and encourage you. When you get discouraged or weary, check out their site, <http://www.aauw.org>, or read the latest edition of the *Outlook*. You'll find the energy to keep on keeping on.

Thanks again for your generosity and commitment to improving women's lives through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. Keep up the good work.

AAUW HONORED

In January 2011, AAUW was named a top-rated nonprofit in two separate categories through reviews of charitable organizations by GreatNonprofits.org. AAUW is listed as a top "women's empowerment" organization and a top "education" organization.

GreatNonprofits.org, which is itself a nonprofit organization, provides an online forum for user reviews of nonprofits. The reviews by AAUW members and others who have benefited from AAUW's research, publications, fellowships and grants, and leadership programs led to AAUW's inclusion as a top nonprofit in the areas of education and women's empowerment.



"AAUW is honored to have received this high rating from such a distinguished organization," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "The rating is a fantastic validation of our organization's strong mission, values, and financial transparency."

In their reviews, supporters of AAUW shared some of their individual accomplishments and AAUW's important role in their lives. These stories, featured on the GreatNonprofits.org website, highlight examples of AAUW's work to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

GreatNonprofits.org was founded in 2007 as a site to provide reviews and ratings of U.S. nonprofits. Users can rate more than 1.2 million nonprofits through the site and partner sites.

SAVE THE DATE—June 16–19, 2011

If you can't travel to Washington, DC, for this year's AAUW convention, how about taking a shorter trip to Missoula for the Fifth International Conference on Charlotte Perkins Gilman? AAUW-MT will sponsor a pre-conference reception on Thursday, June 16. We'd love to have as many AAUW members present as possible. For more information on Gilman's life, work, and the conference, check out the website at <http://www.cas.umt.edu/gilman/>.

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

News from Association

Attention Branches!

New Federal Restrictions on Selling Children's Books

In response to media stories about lead and other toxins in children's toys, Congress adopted the "Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act" in 2008. The law seeks to lower the levels of dangerous toxins, such as lead, in products intended for children 12 years of age or younger. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), which regulates most consumer goods, was put in charge of enforcing this law. The CPSC announced that almost all products for children ages 12 or younger were covered by this law, **including books**. Under this interpretation, books are subject to the same testing standards as children's toys and clothing.

Under the new federal rules, ***every children's book published before 1986 and intended for readers ages 12 and younger must be certified by CPSC's lab to ensure that lead-based ink does not exceed acceptable levels.*** As AAUW state and branch affiliates, you must do this testing before you may resell these particular children's books. This testing process could prove costly, so each branch will have to make its own decision as to whether testing such books is worth the cost and covered in their book sale budget.

At a minimum, AAUW recommends that if a branch is aware that a pre-1986 book contains lead, it must remove that book from the book sale. Additionally, if branches confirm the presence of lead-based ink in any children's books, they should let AAUW staff know so that we might share that information with other branches. ***Branches may simply decide not to sell any children's books published before 1986, and simply recycle those that have been donated. In the event a book does not have a publication date and the branch cannot afford testing, the most prudent course would be to not offer the book for sale.***

AAUW is lobbying Congress to pass legislation to end this restriction on children's books which have been repeatedly proven safe. This bill, H.R. 272, was introduced in January 2011 and would exempt books from the CPSC's new lead standards. Introduced by Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-Nebraska), it has the support of both AAUW and the American Library Association. AAUW will keep you posted on our progress in moving the legislation and will look to local members to support its passage.

Key AAUW Voting Dates and Deadlines

As a follow-up to the article in the Fall 2010 *Treasure Stater*, here are a few reminders about the One Member One Vote elections that are about to begin. Instead of sending delegates to Convention to vote in our place, we are each responsible for voting for candidates for national office as well as for changes to AAUW's bylaws and public policy program. Candidate information and the text of proposed bylaws amendments and public policy changes will be published in the Winter 2011 *Outlook* magazine. If you haven't yet received your copy, it should be arriving soon.

After you have familiarized yourselves with the issues and candidates, be ready to cast your ballots according to the following schedule:

Paper ballots mailed to every member	April 15, 2011
Spring/Summer AAUW Outlook	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

ADVOCACY NEWS

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.



IN MONTANA

This year, in light of the exceedingly one-sided nature of the Montana Legislature, the Montana Women's Lobby (AAUW's advocacy arm here in Montana), made the decision to not engage exclusively in direct lobbying. Instead, MWL has hired Julie Cerenzia as Public Policy Analyst and Shawn Newton as Social Media Specialist. Both are Montana natives currently living in Bozeman. Julie is busy researching various issues, especially non-gender insurance, pay equity, and establishing standards for guardians ad litem. Shawn has given MWL a digital presence by launching a blog at Tumblr and setting up MWL pages on Facebook and Twitter. Go to any of these sites, do a search for Montana Women's Lobby, and take a look. Then sign on!

The purpose of all these changes is to engage more Montana women in the political process and to expand MWL's membership, especially among younger women. You are all MWL members by virtue of AAUW-MT's organizational membership; however, we also need your individual memberships. The more members we have, the stronger our voice will be.

Join MWL Today

Send a check for \$50 (regular membership) or \$25 (living lightly) along with your name, address, phone number, and email address to:

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

ON THE NATIONAL SCENE

Last week marked the second anniversary of President Obama's signing of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. It seemed as though the next step, pay equity, was right around the corner. Unfortunately, after solid opposition from the entire Senatorial Republican delegation (including women) the measure failed. Mid-term election results indicate dim prospects for the issue in the near future. Since 1913, AAUW has pursued the goal of pay equity for women and girls, and we are not about to give up now. As we always have, we will pull ourselves up by our bootstraps (or bra straps) and work toward our goal.



How does AAUW accomplish support the cause of equity for women? One dollar, one project at a time. When we're in the middle of a branch project, we often stop and ask ourselves why are we doing this? It's hard to see the end picture when you are organizing and carrying out an event. We often become discouraged because the work is hard, there are too few volunteers, and nobody appreciates what we do. However, when we write a letter to the editor, lobby a legislator, or sponsor a candidate forum, and see people respond to the information we give, we can then say “Oh, yeah, that's why we work so hard.”

At the national level, donations to the AAUW Action Fund (<http://aauwaction.org/>) ensure that AAUW continues to work on legislative items so crucial to U. S. women such as pay equity and funding for public schools.

SCHEDULE FOR LEGISLATIVE WEEKEND

Celebrate and Advocate!

Friday, March 4

8:00 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast,
Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts

8:15 a.m. Issues Briefing and Updates by MWL contrac-
tors, Julie Cerenzia and Shawn Newton.

10:00 a.m. Walk across the street to the Capitol to join
International Women's Day activities. (Details of
IWD events to be published on AAUW-MT website
as soon as available)

4:00 p.m. Debriefing session at the Super 8 Motel

Evening Dinner on your own.

Saturday, March 5

8:30 to 10:00 a.m. AAUW workshop

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. AAUW-MT state board meeting

Reserve Your Room in Helena

The Super 8 Motel, 2201 11th Avenue, has set aside a block of rooms for Legislative Weekend and our board meeting.

Double and single rooms are available for Thursday and Friday nights at the rate of \$55 plus tax per night regardless of the number of people staying in the room. A deluxe continental breakfast is included.

To reserve your room, call 406-443-2450 before February 25. Be sure to mention AAUW or MWL to get the block rate.

Legislative Weekend Events Registration Form

I plan to attend the following activities:

- ☐ MWL Briefing at the Montana Historical Society (Friday 8:15 to 9:45 a.m.)
- ☐ International Women's Day activities (Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) — includes free lunch
- ☐ AAUW workshop (Saturday, 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.)
- ☐ AAUW-MT state board meeting (Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

I am a member of:

☐ AAUW ☐ BPW ☐ MWL ☐ UNAFFILIATED

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

The registration fee for any and all Legislative Weekend activities is \$10.00.

Mail check, payable to **Montana Women's Lobby**, with this form to:

Diane Ehernberger, 1008 Flanders Creek Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718-6362

JOIN US IN WASHINGTON, DC IN JUNE



AAUW CONVENTION 2011

Breaking through Barriers—Advocating for Change

June 16-19, 2011

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

AAUW-Montana
c/o Diane Ehernberger
1008 Flanders Creek Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59718-6362

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED