



MONTANA TREASURE STATER

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AAUW-MONTANA NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2013

ADVOCATE & CELEBRATE IN HELENA

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On March 8 and 9, 2013, AAUW-Montana will gather for our biennial Legislative Weekend—with members of several other organizations—at the Capitol in Helena. Events will begin at 8:30 Friday morning with a Montana Women's Lobby (MWL) issues briefing at the Montana Historical Society. At 10:00, we will cross the street to the Capitol to join with members of Montana Women Vote (MWV), Business & Professional Women (BPW), the Women's Foundation of Montana (WFM), and the Interagency Committee for Change by Women (ICCW) for the rest of the day's activities. March 8th is also International Women's Day, and we will be celebrating that event along with pursuing our legislative activities. MWV will hold a mid-morning "Lobbying 101" workshop for anyone new to grassroots advocacy. WFM will host a free lunch and press conference to announce the publication of their *Report on the Status of Women in Montana*. ICCW is hoping to arrange a meeting with Gov. Bullock for organizational leaders sometime in the afternoon.



Calendar

- Mar. 7, 6-9 pm—PPMT Fund-raiser, Great Northern Hotel, Helena.
- Mar. 8, 8:30-4:00—Legislative Day, MT Hist. Soc. & Capitol, Helena.
- Mar. 8, evening—Fundraiser for MT Women's History Mural (details TBD)
- Mar. 9, 8:30-12:30—AAUW \$mart \$tart Presentation & State Board Meeting, Super 8, Helena.
- June 9-12, 2013—AAUW National Convention, New Orleans, LA.

After our busy Friday at the Capitol, Saturday's activities will be dedicated completely to AAUW. Linda O'Hara, Regional Field Manager of the WAGE Project, will present an informational session about how AAUW-MT can bring \$mart \$tart workshops to Montana campuses. That presentation will be followed by a state board meeting (to which all AAUW members are invited). Everything should be concluded shortly after noon so everyone can head home in daylight.

There will also be two optional evening events that members are urged to attend. Thursday, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, Planned Parenthood of Montana (PPMT) will host a fundraiser at the Great Northern Hotel featuring a presentation by Broad Comedy (cost \$50). Then Friday's legislative events will be capped off with an evening fundraiser for the Montana Women's History Mural, a Capitol project authorized by the 2011 Legislature, which must be privately funded.

See page 7 for the full schedule of events, lodging instructions, and a registration form. Don't miss this opportunity to join with other AAUW-MT members from around the state. See you in Helena!

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that you will have a happy and healthy year.



We have several interesting events planned for the near future. On March 8–9, AAUW-MT in conjunction with Montana Women's Lobby and the Women's Foundation of Montana will be meeting in Helena for our Legislative Day and Board of Directors Meeting. I strongly encourage all members to consider joining us for this important event. We are also planning an informational workshop on \$mart \$tart. This is a program of financial education training for women in colleges in Montana. Hopefully, in the future we will be able to aid young women learn basic financial literacy, wage and benefit negotiation strategies. Registration information for Legislative Weekend is included in this edition of the *Treasure Stater*.

The "It's My Vote" Public Policy Impact Grant, which was conducted in October and November, was deemed a success. We were able to register many "millennials", along with aiding others to make their voter registrations current.

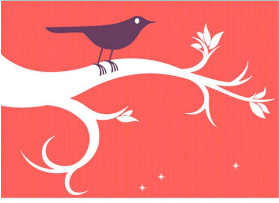
The other project that will be continuing this year is the updating of our Branch bylaws. In compliance with AAUW's and the state's new bylaws, each Branch will need to revise their own bylaws. Corky Bush, our Bylaws Chair, will be contacting each branch to assist with this project. This is not the most fun job, but it will be nice to have it completed.

I am interested in visiting all the Montana branches to meet your members and to help in any way that I can. Spring and fall are probably the best times to travel in Montana, but if you contact me we can make arrangements.

June 9–12, 2013, will the AAUW National Convention in New Orleans. As AAUW-MT President, I will be attending and would like to have many Montana members also in attendance. Unfortunately, there is not money in the state budget to give financial assistance to members wishing to attend. Therefore, it will be up to the Branches to help in any way that they can.

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

Mary Gernaat



BRANCH NOTES

AAUW-Billings has been awarding scholarships out of our Endowment since 1991. This past spring we awarded college scholarships to Michelle O'Neal from Montana State University-Billings and Angie Partain from Rocky Mountain College. Our annual Named Gift Award went to Jessica Stickney in appreciation of her passion for being informed and involved. Our branch sponsored a Relay for Life Team; we raised \$2039. Our branch is proud of Margaret Ping who celebrated her 100th birthday on May 11th and 80 years of service. The branch coordinated with her church to celebrate her birthday and members contributed more than \$1000 in her honor.

Our September branch membership meeting featured Dr. Elizabeth McNamer speaking about "Digging up Women," based on her experiences over many years at her dig in Israel. Elizabeth discussed what archaeology tells us about women's lives in Biblical times. Our branch is pleased to welcome eight new members. We have joined with the Billings League of Women Voters for several joint meetings and participated in the National Day of Voting on September 25th.

In September 2012, Barbara Brown, president of **AAUW-Bozeman**, traveled to Philadelphia to attend the Annual General Meeting of Women Graduates-USA. WG-USA is an organization of women graduates who have an interest in international issues affecting women and children worldwide. The organization is affiliated with the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).

Conference topics included the Nonviolent Peace Force, Vision 2020 (which connects organizations and individuals taking action to achieve equity for women and girls), human trafficking, and education for immigrants and refugees.

Barbara also learned that the Polaris Project for a world without slavery designates Montana as one of the "faltering four" states which have not made even minimal efforts to enact a basic legal framework to combat human trafficking and need to work to improve these laws. With the influx of population in the oil fields of eastern Montana and western North Dakota, sex trafficking has become a matter of great concern.

AAUW-Great Falls concluded a successful Used Book Sale in October. Proceeds from the sale allow the branch to fund four scholarships and make contributions to area libraries and other worthy organizations. Work on the next sale is already beginning as auction workers begin researching and cataloging books that were received too late to include in the Book Sale Auction. They will be offered in the 2013 Auction. The branch also is closing in on its goal to raise \$75,000 to fund a Career Development Grant with AAUW's Educational Foundation. The goal is less than \$5,000 away. AAUW-Great Falls gratefully acknowledges the many contributions from individuals and other branches who are helping us reach this goal.

Dr. Marlene Snyder, Development Director of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, and Allison Schmautz, who heads up the program for School District 5, gave a presentation to **AAUW-Kalispell** at our October meeting. Kalispell has implemented the program in all elementary and middle schools and has seen a marked decrease in bullying incidents. Our Book Sale chairpersons, Barb Myers and Karen Haarr, have conducted training sessions on the fine art of book sorting and recycling in an effort to engage new members in our annual fund raising event. We will be showing the film *"Invisible War"* (a new investigative documentary about the epidemic of sexual assault in the U.S. military) at FVCC in April.

AAUW-Missoula had a great holiday party with our international scholarship women as our guests. Branch President Diane Sands is spending January in Thailand on a State Dept. exchange of women leaders, including a visit with the Thai Association of University Women. AAUW-Missoula was the host organization for Diane's Thai partner, Dr. Sutada, of Nation University and a coalition of 82 women's organizations when Dr. Sutada visited Montana last spring. Diane will meet with many women's organizations and take a \$500 gift for efforts of the women's coalition. Another Missoula member, Carol Williams, is off to Cuba for a meeting with women's organizations. All this and other members' travel has sparked interest in hosting a conference on the work women are doing internationally to change the world, especially for educational equity for women and girls.

SOME OF WHAT AAUW ACCOMPLISHED IN 2012

Thanks to the work and generosity of our members and supporters, AAUW can be proud of some impressive advocacy and programmatic achievements. In 2012, we:

- Received top ratings once again from [Charity Navigator](#), [GreatNonprofits](#), [GuideStar](#), and America's Charities for our excellent financial management, transparency, and accountability. AAUW was also recognized by [NerdWallet](#) as a top women's equity group. In addition, AAUW friend and pay equity champion Lilly Ledbetter named AAUW as her charity of choice in her [Makers profile](#).
- Launched the nationwide voter education and turnout campaign, "[It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard](#)," through the AAUW Action Fund. This campaign, targeted at millennial women, engaged members and branches in nearly every state and used cutting-edge social media tactics. The campaign registered tens of thousands of voters, received hundreds of media hits, hosted hundreds of candidate and issue forums, and provided hundreds of thousands of voters with the information they needed to vote.
- Released [Graduating to a Pay Gap: The Earnings of Women and Men One Year after College Graduation](#), which uses the latest nationally representative data to explore the salary difference between women and men college graduates working full time one year after graduation and examines the effect of the pay gap on the burden of student loan debt.
- Awarded \$4.3 million in [fellowships and grants](#) for the 2012–13 program year, the largest amount in four years, to support 278 women at various stages in their professional and academic careers, research projects, and programs promoting education and equity for women and girls.
- Awarded more than \$100,000 in case support through the Legal Advocacy Fund to help women like Betty Dukes and Kori Cioca improve working conditions for all women employees at Wal-Mart and women in the military.
- Continued to rapidly expand our use of social and new media tools, experiencing 50 percent growth across many of AAUW's social media channels. [AAUW's Tumblr](#) joined the [AAUW Facebook page](#), [Twitter account](#), [YouTube channel](#), and [blog](#) this year. The AAUW Tumblr team was able to generate dynamic content on such an ambitious schedule that the page grew from zero to 5,000 followers in just a few months.
- Played a large role in drafting and introducing [legislation](#) sponsored by Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) that would undo much of the harm caused by last year's *Wal-Mart v. Dukes* Supreme Court ruling. In addition to speaking at a press conference with several members of Congress and national leaders and participating in lobby visits to obtain co-sponsors, AAUW organized a rally with plaintiff Betty Dukes at the Supreme Court on the one-year anniversary of the decision.
- Continued to expand our global commitment to women and girls through participating in the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women and the U.S. National Committee for U.N. Women, sending an international delegation to China, and hosting women visitors from abroad seeking to learn more about AAUW's mission and programs.
- Celebrated the [40th anniversary](#) of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the landmark legislation barring sex discrimination in all education programs that receive federal funding. AAUW hosted a Capitol Hill briefing and reception, ran a blog series on [AAUW Dialog](#), released a [coalition report](#), and enjoyed [recognition at the White House celebration](#). In addition, AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman spoke on a [panel sponsored by the National Women's Hall of Fame](#) that featured Birch Bayh and Bernice Sandler.

2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (cont.)

- Awarded 15 Legal Advocacy Fund [Campus Outreach Grants](#) to AAUW branches across the country, which held programs on local campuses focused on issues such as pay equity, dating violence, Title IX and athletics, and gender discrimination in the workplace.
- Reached 30 campuses and more than 600 participants with [Elect Her—Campus Women Win](#), the only program in the country that trains college women to run for student government
- Updated [The Simple Truth on the Gender Pay Gap](#) with numbers and graphics from the 2011 U.S. Census, including [new state-by-state rankings](#). The 2012 version of *The Simple Truth* received a surge in media attention, with coverage in prominent news outlets such as the [Huffington Post](#), [Time](#), [USA Today](#), the Associated Press, and [Nightly Business News](#).
- Hosted an award-winning [equal pay Twitter chat](#) with the U.S. Departments of Justice and Labor, as well as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Women's Bureau, and Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs in honor of [Equal Pay Day 2012](#).
- Prevented student loan interest rates from doubling this summer, helping those with student loans meet their commitment despite the tough economy.
- Took the lead in efforts to bring the Paycheck Fairness Act to a vote. Although the bill failed to overcome procedural hurdles in both the House and Senate, AAUW was recognized by the White House, House of Representatives, Senate, and the press as the leading authority on the bill. AAUW was quoted in several press stories about the bill, including on-camera interviews with CNN.
- Gathered a record number of almost 600 students from across the United States, Bermuda, Guam, and Jamaica for the [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#).
- Sent a [letter](#) to 10 of the largest public school districts urging them to review and correct their reporting to the U.S. Department of Education of an unlikely zero incidents of sex-based bullying and sexual harassment. Several districts responded, and AAUW continues to work with them and the Education Department to ensure proper reporting.
- Addressed the issue of sexual harassment in grades 7–12 through seven AAUW Campus Action Project grants. The campus groups organized classroom workshops, poster campaigns, and daylong conferences.
- Submitted platform comments reflecting AAUW priority issues to the Republican and Democratic parties and attended both party conventions to network with members of Congress and AAUW members in attendance.
- Ensured that the AAUW-backed [Campus SaVE Act](#) was included in the Senate-passed reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.
- Reached more than 140 campuses with our [Start Smart salary negotiation workshops](#), which teach college women how to negotiate fair salaries and benefits. After the workshops, 91 percent of attendees said that they were confident they could now negotiate for a salary and benefits that match their education and experience.
- Continued to inspire public debate with [AAUW research reports from past years](#). *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School* (2011) was featured in a broadcast shown on more than 70 television stations, mostly Fox News affiliates, and AAUW Senior Researcher Christi Corbett followed up the release of *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics* (2010) with an appearance on the JASON Project's *Wonder Women of STEM* webcast, which was broadcast to approximately 8,000 viewers.



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

In Montana



This year, MWL (the Montana Women's Lobby) has returned to its traditional practice of having a lobbyist in Helena for the 2013 Montana Legislative Session. The lobbyist, Linda Gryczan, will be a familiar face to many as she also served as the MWL lobbyist from 2003–2009.

In preparation for the 2013 session, the organizational (AAUW & BPW) and individual members of the MWL board suggested priority issues, from which three final legislative priorities were chosen by consensus:

- Promote & protect full funding of public schools.
- Implement the Affordable Care Act.
- Defend Montana's open election laws.

These priorities join the Lobby's core values of guaranteeing gender equity in insurance and protecting women's reproductive rights as Linda's primary lobbying issues.

MWL has also launched its first website and transferred its blog there — www.mtwomenslobby.org. This new site makes it easier for all of us to keep up to date on legislative issues. All you have to do is write a short comment to one of the blog posts and check the "Notify me of new posts by email" box below your comment before you submit it. Please take a few minutes to view the site, leave a comment, and remember to check that "Notify me" box.

On the National Scene

AAUW suggests we **get educated, get active, and then get others**. Here are two ways to do just that:

Issue advocacy isn't just about AAUW lending its name to an issue, or speaking up on Capitol Hill. It is about AAUW members and all citizens concerned with equity being knowledgeable about and aware of the current status of important issues—and speaking out.

For more information on our advocacy efforts, download **AAUW's Federal Policy Agenda** (PDF) at www.aauw.org/act/issue_advocacy/upload/federalpolicyagenda.pdf.

Equal Pay Day is the symbolic day when women's earnings "catch up" to men's earnings from the previous year. It takes almost four extra months, thanks to the wage gap. What should our state or branches do to observe Equal Pay Day on April 9, 2013? AAUW has updated its **AAUW Pay Equity Resource Kit** in preparation for this year's Equal Pay Day. The 40-page kit contains information, ideas, and step-by-step instructions for planning three different events! We don't have to start from scratch—AAUW has done the hard work already. Download the kit in pdf format at: www.aauw.org/act/issue_advocacy/actionpages/upload/AAUWPayEquityResourceKit2013.pdf.

Join/Rejoin the Montana Women's Lobby Today

Send your 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



[Member application on the new blog and website at www.mtwomenslobby.org]



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

SCHEDULE FOR LEGISLATIVE WEEKEND

Thursday, March 7

6:00–9:00 pm—PPMT Fundraiser with performance by Broad Comedy, Great Northern Hotel, \$50 (*Optional*).

Friday, March 8

8:30 am—Registration & Continental Breakfast, at the Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts.

8:45 am—Issues Briefing and Updates by MWL lobbyist Linda Gryczan and others.

10:00 am—Walk across the street to the Capitol to join International Women’s Day activities (Details of IWD events will be published on the AAUW-MT website as soon as they are available).

4:30 pm—Debriefing session at the Super 8 Motel.

Evening—Fundraiser for the MT Women’s History Mural, details will be published on our website when they become available (*Optional*).

Reserve Your Room in Helena

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

Double and single rooms are available for Thursday and Friday nights at the rate of \$65 plus tax per night regardless of the number of people staying in the room. A free deluxe continental breakfast is included.

To reserve your room, call 406-443-2450 by February 27. Be sure to mention AAUW or MWL to get the block rate.

Saturday, March 9

8:30 to 10:00 am—\$mart \$tart Presentation by Linda O’Hara from Oregon.

10:30 am to 12:30 pm—State Board Meeting.

Legislative Weekend Events Registration Form

I plan to attend the following activities:

- ☐ MWL Issues Briefing at the Montana Historical Society (Friday 8:30 to 9:45 am)
- ☐ International Women’s Day activities (Friday, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm) — includes free lunch
- ☐ AAUW workshop (Saturday, 8:30 to 10:00 am)
- ☐ AAUW-MT state board meeting (Saturday, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm)

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

2013

Leading Across Generations
AAUW National Convention
June 9–12 | New Orleans

Register today to attend this year's
AAUW National Convention!

“Best Value” registration available through Feb. 3rd at <http://convention.aauw.org/register/>.

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.



AAUW-Montana
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED