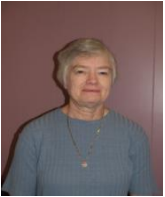


# MONTANA TREASURE STATER

Empowering women since 1881



## President's Message

Mary Gernaat

I hope everyone had great summer and ready for another season of AAUW.

AAUW-MT had a very successful meeting in Great Falls in April. At that same time the Great Falls Branch celebrated its 100th Anniversary, along with the completion of our Education Grant. Thank you to all the members who travelled to Great Falls and helped with the business of AAUW-MT. It was nice to have so many from other branches in attendance.

The Great Falls Branch would also like to thank the branches and individual members who contributed to our grant. We appreciate all the help.

\$tart \$mart is becoming a reality in Montana. Thanks to a group of members, mainly in Bozeman, we have some definite plans for implementing \$tart \$mart into several sites of the Montana University System. There is more about that later in the *Treasure Stater*.

Because Diane Sands, our past Public Policy chair, is on the November ballot she is unable to continue in that position. We are very fortunate that Trudi Schmidt, a former 8 year Representative and 8 year Senator from Great Falls, has agreed to serve as our new Public Policy chair. She is very knowledgeable and familiar with the way things work in Helena and is a wonderful asset to AAUW-MT. There is more information related to our Public Policy later in this *Treasure Stater*.

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

A special THANK YOU to Diane Ehernberger for her work with the Montana AAUW website. She keeps it up to date with valuable information about what is current with AAUW-MT. The access to this website is—[aauw-mt.aauw.net](http://aauw-mt.aauw.net).

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

*Mary Gernaat*

## AAUW-MT 2014 STATE MEETING – not convention “EVERY MEMBER VOTE”

By Mary Gernaat

The 2014 biennial meeting was held in Great Falls March 26-27, 2014, at the Hampton Inn.

Because of changes by AAUW's national organization, this meeting operated under a difference format than previous meetings. The first change was that we no longer had “delegates”. All members, who attended, were eligible to participate and vote on all questions. The Nominating Committee presented the proposed slate of officers for 2014-2016 and welcomed nominations from the floor. The slate was approved and prepared for the ballot, and voted on during the “every member vote” process in May.

Proposed changes to the Public Policy program were presented and discussed, along with proposed resolutions. The final drafts were approved and also prepared for the ballot.

The “every member vote” began within 20 days following the meeting. Each member of AAUW-MT had 21 days from the date of distribution of the ballot to vote and return their ballots. The ballots were sent either electronically, if the committee had a current e-mail address for you, or through surface mail. The Election Committee then had 7 days to certify and tabulate the results. The results were posted on the state website, sent to the incoming and outgoing Board of Directors, to each candidate for election, and are published in this issue of the *Treasure Stater*.

This was the first time we tried this type of voting and we welcome any suggestions for improvements for the next election. For the most part, it was deemed a success.

## Board of Directors

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### Bylaws/Parliamentarian

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### Newsletter

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### AAUW Member Helpline

1-800-326-2289

### AAUW Website

www.aauw.org

## AAUW-Montana Receives Grant from the Women's Foundation of Montana

AAUW-MT recently received a grant of \$4000 from the Women's Foundation of Montana to help fund a multi-year project to bring [Start Smart salary negotiation workshops](#) to college women at eight campuses within the Montana University System.

The Start Smart project also has received funding from the Office of the Presidents of both UM and MSU, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, and the MSU Women's Center. With these funds, AAUW-MT has purchased two Start Smart site licenses from the [WAGE Project](#) which will allow AAUW-MT to host an unlimited number of workshops at The University of Montana and three of its satellite campuses (MT Tech, UM-Western, and Helena College) and at Montana State University and three of its satellites (MSU-Billings, MSU-Northern, and Great Falls College).

In October, Annie Houle, a national WAGE Project facilitator and trainer, will present the first workshops in Missoula, Dillon, and Bozeman. At the same time she will also train up to three local facilitators from each of the eight campuses so that workshops can be offered as often as possible within the three years covered by the site licenses.

If you are affiliated with one of the eight licensed campuses or live in those communities and are interested in training to be a \$\$ facilitator, contact one of the co-chairs of the AAUW-MT Start Smart Committee: Cheryl Juergens ([cjuergens2013@gmail.com](mailto:cjuergens2013@gmail.com)) or Sheila Bonnard

### START SMART UPDATE

In September, AAUW announced the acquisition of the WAGE project's salary negotiation workshops for women, Start Smart and Work Smart. For six years, AAUW and Wage have collaborated to expand Start Smart to 740 \$\$ workshops at 336 colleges, community colleges and universities across the country with more than 1100 facilitators trained to lead workshops.

It is hoped that this acquisition will be an opportunity for AAUW to become more involved with the further expansion of these programs.

## Branch News

### AAUW—Billings

The Billings Branch has celebrated several women in our community in the past few months. At our May meeting, we awarded our two college scholarships for 2014-15. In September, we celebrated two fifty year members, Carol Dye and Sandra Wyman. We also honored our Legislation and Public Policy Chair, Barbara Gulick, with the Named Gift Award. Barbara worked gently but purposefully to nudge our branch into political action last year.

For the third year, the AAUW Billings "Relay for Life" team raised money for the American Cancer Society and participated in the annual event in July, which draws thousands to the West High School track. We're looking forward to a year of excellent programming at our monthly Saturday meetings beginning in September with our own state president, Mary Gernaat. In October, we'll hear from Kristi Drake, the Executive Director of BikeNet, and in November from Kevin Kooistra of the Western Heritage Center who will speak on suffrage leader and women's rights activist, Hazel Hunkins Hallinan, a native of Billings. Having "lost our lease" at our long-time meeting spot at MSU-B, we now have a new home on the campus of Rocky Mountain College.

### AAUW-Bozeman

Members of the Bozeman Branch dressed in white and purple and marched as suffragettes in Bozeman's Sweet Pea Parade on August 1<sup>st</sup>. In July Corky Bush gave the first of two lectures on women's suffrage at the Museum of the Rockies.

The second lecture is scheduled for November. Members have been registering voters at the Bozeman Farmers' Market all summer and will help with candidate forums in September and October. Members Cheryl Juergens, Sheila Bonnard and Diane Ehernberger have secured some funding for the \$tart \$mart program and sessions will be held in Missoula, Dillon and Bozeman in October.

### AAUW-Glendive

The Glendive Branch met informally in July at the home of Verna Carpenter to socialize over Mary Harstad's "lemonade" and make preliminary plans for the 2014-15 year.

The branch also received a paddlefish grant that allowed us

to bring the display "Leading the Way: Montana Women Suffrage and the Struggle for Equal Citizenship to Glendive for the month of August. After approaching both political parties with a request for financial help in transporting the display, the Democratic party sent us a check for \$25. It was displayed at the county fair, the public library and the county courthouse.

### AAUW-Great Falls

Great Falls Branch would like to thank everyone who attended our Centennial Gala. Our History Committee members spent hours working on the project. In May, the Branch awarded four \$2000 scholarships to Cascade County women. The traditional scholarships go to Juniors, Seniors and Graduates students. Our Associate Degree Scholarships for Nontraditional Students will be awarded at our Christmas Luncheon. Our members are hard at work sorting books for our annual October Book Sale at the Great Falls Public Library. We have received truckloads of donations from the community.

### AAUW-Kalispell

The Kalispell Branch is revving up for another great year! With membership levels at a record high (80+ members!) we've really been having fun. The annual book sale was again a success last spring, as Vicki Gockenbach has taken on the book sale chair lead.

This summer we gathered on the Far West Boat, which provided a beautiful tour of Flathead Lake and an opportunity to socialize and get to know each other better, and also held a meeting where members had a chance to share topics of interest for future program consideration.

Upcoming events include a presentation and book signing by Charlotte Caldwell on her book "Visions and Voices- Montana's One-Room Schoolhouses," with book sale proceeds going to the Preserve Montana Fund for the stabilization and preservation of Montana's Historic One-Room Schoolhouses. Next will be an energetic program provided by the ImagineIt Library staff on the importance of adult play. October brings "Inequality for All," a film about income disparity in the United States co-sponsored by Flathead Valley Community College, followed by a panel discussion of local experts.

## Branch News

### AAUW-Miles City

Though we are few in numbers, our branch is still involved in numerous activities. In April, we sponsored Diane Sands' Humanities Montana Speakers Bureau Program, "Taking Action: A Political History of Women in Montana" at the Miles City Public Library. That month we also awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to local students. May brought our annual sponsorship of a Missoula Children's Theatre week-long residency in Miles City. (Note: After seventeen years of sponsoring and coordinating the residency, AAUW is "retiring" from the Theatre and we are currently seeking another organization to take over the sponsorship role.)

At the end of May, we wrapped up our year with a potluck lunch meeting and fascinating program (and a bit of wine tasting) ☺ at our local Tongue River Winery!

After sponsoring Shakespeare in the Parks in July, we are now gearing up for our September 25<sup>th</sup> Candidates Forum, which will feature candidates who are running for a variety of offices in eastern Montana. Our biggest event of the year lies ahead on Thanksgiving weekend, when we hold the annual AAUW Christmas Market at the Miles Community College Centra, with some 70+ vendors filling 100 spaces. Proceeds from the Market fund our annual scholarships. In addition, this year we also provided financial assistance to these local programs: Custer Network Against Domestic Abuse, Holy Rosary Hospice, Range Riders Museum, ROCKS After School Program, Custer Fund for Animals, plus a donation to the Montana Honor Flight

## Election Committee

There were 59 AAUW-MT members that voted during the Every Member Vote. That is not a large percentage, but we are pleased that the vote went well.

The results were that the 2012-2014 re-nominated officers were re-elected. The officers for 2014-2016 are listed on the second page of the *Treasure Stater*.

The members of the committee were Corky Bush, Bozeman, chair, RuthAnn Ebert, Glasgow, and Mary Reiter, Billings. Diane Ehernberger provided the technical support with her computer.

Thank you to these members for all their hard work. If anyone has any suggestions or comments on the success of the voting or how the voting system could be approved, please let Corky know.

*Submitted by Mary Gernaat, as Corky is in Scotland at press time.*

## Public Policy 2014 - 2016

This AAUW-Montana public policy program was approved by the 2014 Every Member vote. It forms the basis for all AAUW public policy advocacy activities in Montana through June 30, 2016.

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**TO SUPPORT A STRONG SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION THAT PROMOTES GENDER FAIRNESS, EQUITY, AND DIVERSITY, AAUW-MONTANA ADVOCATES:**

- Adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students with full funding of mandated programs.
- Increased support for and access to higher education.
- Promotion and protection of academic freedom.
- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX.
- Public school programs that focus on the educational needs of all women and girls for career preparation, the full participation of girls in science, math and technology programs, and training in diversity for all students.
- Community and school programs that ensure that schools are safe for all students, regardless of race, creed, disability, and, especially, sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.
- Utilization and acceptance of federal funds for special programs and needs.
- Funding for the education of gifted and talented students.
- Funding for educational and scientific research.
- Funding for and access to arts, reading and writing programs for both boys and girls in all levels of public education.
- Establishing and enforcing standards for home, charter, and private schools that are consistent with the standards of the Office of Public Instruction.
- Vigorous implementation and full funding of Montana's constitutionally mandated (American) "Indian Education for All" educational requirements.
- Continued state reimbursement of full day kindergarten.
- Establishment of and support for a state-level college loan forgiveness program.

And opposes:

- The use of public monies to fund private educational alternatives.
- Censorship or the release of personally identifiable information of the reading or research activities of users of school libraries and classrooms."

**TO GUARANTEE EQUALITY AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS FOR A DIVERSE SOCIETY, AAUW-MONTANA ADVOCATES:**

- Affirmative action, elimination of all forms of discrimination, and inclusion of protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in the Montana Human Rights Act and in institutional, municipal, and county policies.
- Gender balance, racial parity, and representation of low income levels in appointments to state boards and committees.
- Accessible health care services and affordable insurance coverage for all Montanans
- Self-determination in one's reproductive life, access to full reproductive health care services, and protection of privacy in one's health and reproductive choices.
- Reforming hate crime statutes to include coverage of gender, ethnicity, and sexual orientation.
- Freedom from violence, harassment, and intimidation in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities.
- Programs that address the underlying causes of crime, violence, and abuse.
- Eradication of sexual harassment and bullying through training programs, policy development, and enforcement policies in the community, workplace, and educational institutions.

## Public Policy cont'd

- Strong support for access to affordable legal services at local, state, and national levels.
- Vigorous defense of civil and constitutional rights.
- Protection of victims of sex trafficking and increased investigation of and reporting on sex trafficking in Montana.

And opposes:

- Efforts to limit civil rights for gays and lesbians.
- Unwarranted governmental surveillance on individual citizens.
- Legislation, referenda, initiatives, and constitutional amendments that establish “personhood” at any time prior to birth.
- Legislation, referenda, initiatives, and constitutional amendments that limit or restrict access to voting.
- Legislation, referenda, initiatives, and constitutional amendments addressing immigration that create unreasonable requirements for proof of citizenship or limit access to public education and basic health and safety programs.

### **TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR ALL WOMEN, AAUW-MONTANA ADVOCATES:**

- Prohibition of employment discrimination to ensure equitable access to, equal pay for, and advancement in employment.
- Vigorous enforcement of anti-discrimination and equal pay statutes, including Montana’s 1983 Comparable Worth Legislation.
- Access to high quality, affordable dependent care.
- Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the workforce.
- Programs that improve access to post-secondary education, career development, child care, and increased earning potential for persons making the transition from public assistance to self-sufficiency.
- State funding for welfare and unemployment programs.
- Measures to ensure legal recognition and financial benefits for unpaid work.
- State support of small and micro businesses.
- Affordable housing.
- Protection of environmental quality.
- Development and maintenance of adequate infrastructure in MT.
- Tax policy that provides for funding of essential state services.
- Protection from predatory lending practices.

And opposes:

- Weakening or eliminating the state’s non-gender insurance laws.
- Any laws, referenda, or initiatives that, in the name of tax relief, result in the reduction or elimination of government programs and services for women, children, and the poor.

### **TO PROMOTE THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES, AAUW-MONTANA ADVOCATES:**

- Adequate funding of cultural and aesthetic projects, public radio, public television, and public organizations which support the arts and humanities, including but not limited to the Montana Arts Council, the Montana Committee for the Humanities, and the Montana Historical Society.
- Adequate funding for basic research in the arts and humanities.

And opposes:

- All forms of censorship of the arts.

# Resolutions 2014 - 2016

## Resolution 1

### **Ongoing Support for the Montana Women's Lobby**

In 1983, AAUW-Montana joined with other women's organizations to found the Women's Lobbyist Fund, a coalition that became the Montana Women's Lobby.

AAUW-Montana has recognized the Montana Women's Lobby as the public policy advocacy arm of AAUW in the state of Montana and has served continuously on the MWL Board of Directors since its founding. Other organizational members of the MWL coalition have dropped their membership as they have hired their own dedicated lobbyists. Since 2006, AAUW-Montana and BPW have shared the leadership of MWL. Without this leadership, MWL would not be able to continue its vital work for women in Montana.

**Therefore, be it resolved** that AAUW-Montana continue its leadership role and participation in the Montana Women's Lobby by providing leadership from the State organization and significant financial support from all levels; the state organization, branches and individual members.

*To implement this resolution, the AAUW-Montana will appoint member(s) to represent AAUW on the Board of Directors of the Montana Women's Lobby. AAUW-Montana and its branches will continue organizational membership in the Montana Women's Lobby and encourage individual support of the MWL by all AAUW members in the state.*

## Resolution 2

### **Recognizing Montana Woman Suffrage Centennial in 2014 and supporting the Creation of the Montana Women's Mural**

Women in Montana fought for and won the right to vote in 1914, six years before the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution. Women in Montana helped send the first woman in American history to the US Congress, have served and continue to serve in every branch of local, state, and tribal government, and have eloquently represented views across the entire spectrum of American politics.

The art work now decorating the Montana capitol conveys a narrative of the history of Montana and the significance of its government but, with few exceptions, the story of Montana's women is poorly represented. The 2011 Montana Legislature authorized creation of a Montana women's history mural to be placed prominently in the Montana Capitol.

**Therefore be it resolved** that AAUW-Montana will celebrate the centennial of women's suffrage in the state and provide financial support for the creation of the Montana Women's History Mural.

*To implement this resolution, Montana AAUW and AAUW branches, during 2014, will celebrate the historic achievements of Montana women, provide financial support for the Women's History Mural in the Montana Capitol, and participate in statewide and local events honoring Montana Women's History.*

## Resolution 3

### **Opposition to All Efforts to Suppress Voting in Montana, Including Legislative Referendum 126, Which Would Eliminate Same-Day Registration**

Montana has an enviable reputation for its open registration laws, which especially work to the benefit of women and residents of rural counties. Same day registration ensures that citizens who have difficulty getting to their county courthouses will still be able to participate fully in our democracy.

**Therefore, be it resolved** that AAUW-Montana oppose all efforts at voter suppression and take a public stance in opposition to LR-126.

*To implement this resolution, AAUW-Montana will work in coalition with other organizations to encourage people not to vote for LR-126. Branches will educate their members about this issue and join local coalitions in opposition to voter suppression. Members are encouraged to vote NO on LR-126 and ask local candidates their position on this issue.*

## Resolutions 2014 - 2016 cont'd

### Resolution 4

#### **Support for Development and Implementation of Policies against Sexual Violence on Campus**

Montana has been in the center of the recent controversy over campus policies and actions regarding sexual assault and violence on campuses. In response, new federal guidelines and regulations have been issued and distributed to campuses. Now, each campus is responsible for developing and implementing policies in keeping with the new guidelines and regulations.

**Therefore, be it resolved** that AAUW-MT will communicate with the Montana Board of Regents, the Commissioner of Higher Education, and local campuses to keep branches and the state board informed on the current status of campus sexual assault and sexual violence policies.”

*To implement this resolution, the AAUW-MT Board of Directors will communicate with the Montana Board of Regents to determine how the Regents are assisting the campuses in development and implementation of the new policies. Branches with local campuses will inquire as to the status of policies and if there is any way AAUW can be of assistance locally.*

### Resolution 5

#### **Support for Ballot Initiative 14, Which Would Increase Access to Montana’s Medicaid Program for Uninsured, Low-income Adults.**

The 2013 Montana Legislature failed to pass legislation that would have expanded Medicaid coverage to include 70,000 Montana adults who currently cannot afford health insurance. Ballot Initiative 14 would authorize that Medicaid expansion so more of these uninsured adults will be covered.

Over half of Montana’s American Indians between the ages of 18-64 lack health coverage. But with expansion, nearly 20,000 American Indians in Montana will be eligible to enroll in Medicaid.

Montana has the highest percentage of uninsured veterans (17.3 percent) in the country. Even for those with coverage through Veterans Affairs, Montana VA facilities are few and far between. With expansion, approximately 9,500 veterans and their families will gain access to health care.

Most importantly, expanding Medicaid would improve the lives and the health of 70,000 Montanans, helping to build healthy communities and a stronger state.

**Therefore be it resolved** that AAUW-Montana will work to support Ballot Initiative 14 and the expansion of Medicaid in Montana.

*To implement this resolution, AAUW-MT will work in coalition with other organizations for the expansion of Medicaid. Branches will educate their members and communities about the need for Medicaid expansion.*



# In Memoriam

In preparation for our 100 year anniversary, members of Great Falls AAUW spent many hours researching our past. As we pored through files, scrapbooks, pictures and newsletters we were amazed at the productivity of our predecessors. Our founders conducted an amazing variety of activities and projects during their tenure. They conducted any number of study groups on foreign policy, education, politics, and social issues just to name a few.

They sponsored a Children's Theater and even put on a play production themselves. They taught foreign languages to elementary children and held bridge parties. They were engaged in every facet of living in their community. They held various fund raising efforts, the largest of which continues today, the Used Book Sale. They began providing small loans to women seeking to further their educations which evolved into our large scholarship and grant program to libraries, museums, and the after school program.

Each branch can tell its own story of its founding mothers and sisters. We all stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. They were true pioneers and trailblazers who left us with a grand legacy of hard work, courage and vision.

We miss those who have left us. We remember them fondly and their example provides a foundation on which to build as we construct the legacy we will leave for those who follow.

*Lynn Allison*

## **Billings**

*Sally Hickman –Jane Howell –Dorothy McLaughlin*

## **Bozeman**

*Beth Mast –Shirley Luhrsen –Annabelle Anderson*

## **Glendive**

*Louise Cross*

## **Great Falls**

*Colleen Hazen--Cherie Kuenning--Janet Rossmiller--Marilyn Vinji*

## **Kalispell**

*Margaret L. Person –Dorothy Schonknecht*

## **Missoula**

*Lillian Perkins (also belonged to Billings Branch)*

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