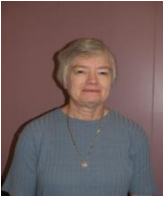


MONTANA TREASURE STATER

Empowering women since 1881



President's Message

Mary Gernaat

I hope everyone is having a great winter and able to navigate the snow and ice.

We have several interesting events planned for the near future. On March 6-7, AAUW-MT, in conjunction with Montana Women Vote and the Women's Foundation of Montana, will be meeting in Helena for our Legislative Day and Board of Directors Meeting. I urge all members to consider joining us for this important event. Registration information for Legislative Week is included in this edition of the *Treasure Stater*.

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

CALENDAR

LEGISLATIVE DAY

HELENA MARCH 6 – 7

\$START \$SMART

MISSOULA MARCH 14
DILLON MARCH 17 & 18
BOZEMAN MARCH 21

NATIONAL CONVENTION

SAN DIEGO JUNE 18 - 21

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

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

Mary Gernaat

WHO WILL YOU VOTE FOR IN THE AAUW NATIONAL ELECTION?

Voting opens April 15, but don't wait until then to get to know your candidates and find out about important ballot initiatives. Go online to see who's running for the AAUW Board of Directors and what else is on the ballot. Visit www.aauw.org/resource/national-election

TAX DEDUCTION

A portion of your National AAUW membership dues are tax deductible. If you paid \$49 in dues last year, you can deduct \$46.

Board of Directors

President

Mary Gernaat, 452-8769
gernaatwcm@aol.com

Program

Lynn Allison 761-3212
riclynallison@msn.com

Membership

Verna Carpenter 365-4465
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AAUW Funds

Linda Harris, 862-6671
tcqsinc@montanasky.net

Bylaws/Parliamentarian

Corky Bush, 599-4670
Corkyb43@yahoo.com

Newsletter

Susan Lee, 453-8860
Suelee000@msn.com

AAUW Member Helpline

1-800-326-2289

AAUW Website

www.aauw.org

\$TART \$SMART UPDATE

The nation-wide \$tart \$mart Workshops prepare college women who are approaching the job market with the confidence, knowledge, and skills they need to negotiate salaries and benefits. The facilitators are trained to conduct these workshops. Our goal is to eventually have the workshops presented on all college campuses in Montana. It is very important that AAUW-MT branches support this great program. If you have members that would be interested or know of others, please contact the appropriate people at the location closest to you for more information.

Annie Houle, AAUW Trainer, will provide workshops and facilitator trainings in Montana during the week of March 14-21, 2015. These workshops and facilitator trainings are being sponsored by the AAUW-MT \$tart \$mart Project and the Dillon Women's Resource/Community Support Center Equal Pay Coalition, with grants from the Women's Foundation of Montana and funding from the Offices of the Presidents' of UM and MSU, the Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and MSU Women's Center.

[Student Registration](http://aauw-mt.aauw.net/tart-mart-2/register-to-attend-a-tart-mart-workshop/) --: <http://aauw-mt.aauw.net/tart-mart-2/register-to-attend-a-tart-mart-workshop/>

[Facilitator Registration](http://aauw-mt.aauw.net/tart-mart-2/facilitator-training/) -- <http://aauw-mt.aauw.net/tart-mart-2/facilitator-training/>

Saturday, March 14, 2015—University of Montana in Missoula;
College of Education & Human Sciences Building, Room 123

- Student Workshop: 10:00 am to 1:30 pm
- Facilitator Training: 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Tuesday, March 17, 2015—University of Montana Western in Dillon;
Lewis & Clark Room

- Student Workshop: 4:00 to 7:00 pm
- Facilitator Training: 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Saturday, March 21, 2015—Montana State University in Bozeman;
Reid Hall, Rooms 401 & 402

- Student Workshop: 10:00 am to 1:30 pm
- Facilitator Training: 2:00 to 4:00

MONTANA WOMEN'S LOBBY

On November 20, 2014, the Board of Directors of the Montana Women's Lobby announced that they voted to disband, effective November 30. The main reason for this was the dwindling organizational and individual memberships and lack of funds to hire a half-time lobbyist for the 2015 legislative session.

The Board also decided that they would donate the remaining assets to *Montana Women Vote*, for the purpose of paying MWV dues for three MWL member organizations (AAUW-MT, Montana BPW and BPW-Bozeman. For more information, go to <http://www.montanawomenvote.org>.

HELENA HOT FLASH

Linda Gryczan, MWL's former lobbyist, as decided to continue publishing the HELENA HOTFLASH. This is the best way for you to continue to receive the latest information about the Montana Legislature. Please consider joining on and sending Linda some money necessary to keep the Hotflash going.

She asked for \$25.00 for the entire session, but since it has been in session for about a month she might consider a lesser amount if you contact her at HelenaHotflash@mt.net.

LEGISLATIVE WEEKEND

On March 6 and 7, 2015, AAUW-Montana will gather for our biennial Legislative Weekend at the Capitol in Helena. At this time we are waiting for Montana Women Vote and the Women's Foundation of Montana to finalize their plans. Events will begin at 8:30 Friday morning with an issues briefing at the Montana Historical Society. At 10:00, we will cross the street to the Capitol for the rest of the day's activities. Several hot button issues: Early childhood education, Medicaid expansion, public funding of private schools, and LGTB anti-discrimination issues provide us with an opportunity to meet face to face with our representatives to discuss and promote our public policy issues. AAUW members will make their presence known by button-holing representatives, testifying before committees and attending hearings. In addition to providing input to our representatives, we have the opportunity to express our thanks to those who support our public policy issues. While at the Capitol we will be able to view the Women's History Mural, a dream turned into reality by Diane Sands and her team. Late afternoon and evening is the perfect time to reconnect with members from across the state and share our successes, challenges and hopes over dinner and perhaps a glass of wine.

After our busy Friday at the Capitol, Saturday's activities will be dedicated completely to AAUW. Claudia Richards, AAUW Staff member, is Jane of all trades at AAUW, having worked in Development for 13 years, Meetings for 3 years, and currently Senior Branch Relations Manager in Membership. She has visited 29 of the 50 contiguous states and can name at least one AAUW member in every US state and territory. Claudia is passionate about AAUW issues and finds great pleasure in working with AAUW members and volunteers at all levels of the AAUW Community. She studied Business Administration and Marketing at the University of Maryland and is a proud 20+ year employee of AAUW, as well as volunteering for non-profit organizations focused on the education of children, educating incarcerated women, and survivors of domestic violence. She is also a proud Mom of a six year old Olde English Bulldog and a licensed Zumba instructor.

We encourage your branch to send a representative to attend Claudia's presentation. For a preview, go to <http://www.aauw.org/?s=membership+matters>. Claudia's presentation will be followed by a state board meeting (to which all AAUW members are invited). The meeting should be concluded shortly after noon so everyone can head home in daylight. For the full schedule of events, lodging instructions, see the Registration Form on Page 4 don't miss this opportunity to join with other AAUW-MT members from around the state. See you in Helena!

Schedule for Legislative Weekend

Friday, March 6

8:30am –Registration & Continental Breakfast

At the Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts

8:45am – Issues Brief and Updates

Linda Gryczan and others

10:00am – Walk across the street to the Capital

Lobby legislators. Other events published as they become available.

Noon – Lunch provided

1:00pm -4:30pm – Lobby at Capital

4:30pm – Debriefing Session at the Super 8.

6:00pm – No Host Dinner at one of Helena’s Great Restaurants.

Saturday, March 7

8:30am – 10:00am – Claudia Richards, AAUW National

10:30am – 12:30pm – State Board Meeting

Reserve your room in Helena

Super 8 Motel, 2200 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 \$51.00 plus tax per night regardless of the number of people staying in the room. A free breakfast is included.

To reserve your room, call 406-443-2450 by March 2 and use the code 89200.

LEGISLATIVE WEEKEND EVENTS REGISTRATION FORM

I plan to attend the following activities:

_____ Issues briefing at the Montana Historical Society (Friday 8:30am to 9:45am

_____ Lunch (Friday Noon)

_____ AAUW Workshop with Claudia Richards (Saturday 8:30am-10:00am

_____ AAUW-MT Board meeting
(Saturday, 10:30am – 12:00pm)

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Primary Phone _____ Email _____

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

Payment

Mail check payable to AAUW-MT with this form to:

Mary Gernaat
2413 Otter Way
Great Falls, MT 59405

Questions: Contact Mary Gernaat at 406.452.8769 or gernaatwcm@aol.com



San Diego – June 18 – June 21

Every two years, hundreds of women leaders from across the country gather to discover new ways to empower themselves and other women and girls. AAUW's national convention is a unique opportunity to learn new skills, gain insight and inspiration, and connect with other women leaders.

AAUW adopted [One Member, One Vote](#) in 2007 to offer members unprecedented input on AAUW governance and agenda decisions. At that year's convention, AAUW voted to open the national convention to every member and their guests. Our program is now focused on providing engaging opportunities for professional and personal growth so that women leaders everywhere can maximize their impact.

Make no mistake: The national convention isn't all work and no play. Our program is full of unique entertainment and fun surprises. It's also a place to meet new friends or catch up with other leaders and advocates from across the country. Plus, you can take in the best culture and entertainment our host cities have to offer on exciting pre-and post-convention tours. See the registration information below.

2015 AAUW Convention Banquet

Saturday, June 20, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets \$125

Meals Provided

Thursday, June 18: Welcome dinner, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, June 19: Lunch, noon

To Register by Phone

Call AAUW Connect at 800.326.2289 or e-mail connect@aauw.org.

To Register by Mail

[Download the registration form](#). Send the completed form (and check, if applicable) to AAUW Convention, 1111 16th St NW, Washington, DC 20036

Changes and Cancellations

[Log in to your account](#) to make changes to your registration and add special events. You may also make changes by phone at 800.326.2289.

Any changes must be made by 5 p.m. EDT on Friday, June 12, 2015.

You may [cancel your registration online](#) or by phone at 800.326.2289.

If you cancel your registration and/or special events by 5 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, AAUW will refund your payment, minus a \$100 cancellation fee. All refunds will be processed within 6–8 weeks. After 5 p.m. EDT on May 13, 2015, no refunds will be given

AAUW – MT

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Empowering Women Since 1881