

Empowering women since 1881

President's Message

Mary Gernaat



I am looking forward to spring and the end of winter and all this snow!

Great Falls is busy, along with Program VP Jesse Kuntz, planning the biennial Montana State Meeting. It will be in Great Falls at the Hampton Inn, May 19-20.

We are, again, planning a "Meet and Greet" at the hotel on Friday night. So, come early and have some food and beverage. It is a wonderful time to socialize –greet "old" friends and meet some new ones.

This will be my final *Treasure Stater* as I am completing my last term as your President. It has been an honor to hold this office and I hope that I have made an impact in AAUW-MT.

I think the major accomplishment has been the institution of the Start Smart program. It is a great program to help college women better negotiate for salary and benefits when looking for a career. I will continue to work with this program as it is so vital to Montana women.

CALENDAR

April 19	Special Conference Rate Deadline Great Falls, Hampton Inn
March 22	Deadline National Bylaws Amendment Comments & Proposals
April 25 – June 9	National Bylaws voting
May 1	Early registration for Conference ends Great Falls
May 18 & 19	AAUW Montana Conference Great Falls

The other good news is that several women in Havre are working on re-establishing the Branch for that area. We wish them success and they will be invited to our state meeting.

Thank you for all the support and help that I have received from the Great Falls Branch, the Board of Directors and the members of AAUW-MT. A special thank you to Sue Lee who has prepared and delivered the *Treasure Staters* and the convention booklets.

I wish the new officers of AAUW-MT the best and I am willing to help in any way that I can.

Mary Gernaat

PRE-CONVENTION MEET & GREAT

FRIDAY

MAY 18

7:00-9:00 P.M.

WINE & HORS D'ŒUVRES

HAMPTON INN-BREAKFAST AREA

Sponsored by AAUW-Great Falls

Board of Directors

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jessebkuntz@gmail.com

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AAUW Member Helpline

1-800-326-2289

START SMART

We are currently half way through our spring 2018 season of Start Smart. We have held workshops in Missoula (UM), Helena (Carroll College), Havre (MSUN) and Kalispell (FVCC) with 36, 9, 6, and 29 people in attendance, respectively. Look for upcoming workshops on April 5 in Butte (MT Tech) and April 10 in Great Falls (GFC MSU). We are also in the process of planning a May workshop at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, with hopes of reaching at least 100 participants state-wide.

Wondering what goes in to hosting a workshop? Workshops can be conducted with limited costs. The grant funding provided by the Women's Foundation of Montana to the AAUW MT Salary Negotiation Project covers the licensing fees. Other costs include printing of workbooks, food (not a requirement), and facilitator travel, if applicable. The grant can also help cover those costs, if necessary.

As for the planning and implementation of the workshop, it is a partnership between your branch and the grant committee. The grant committee is responsible for creating and maintaining the online registrations and helping to assign a facilitator, if you do not have someone available. From there, branches will need to coordinate with the university or college to schedule a date, book a room, and plan marketing. We've found it most effective to reach out to professors and student groups.

There is still time if you would like to host a workshop this year. We are especially interested in reaching our smaller community colleges and tribal schools. If this is something you or your branch is interested in, please contact me ASAP at startsmartmt@gmail.com and we can discuss in further detail.

Jesse Kuntz

AAUW MT Salary Negotiation Project Grant Manager

AAUW-MT Mailing List

If you aren't already a member, send a message to Susan Lee (suelee000@msn.com) to add you to the list.

To post to this group, send an email to aauw-montana@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe from this group, send email to aauw-montana+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

Visit this group at <https://groups.google.com/d/forum/aauw-montana>

Slate of Officers 2018 – 2020



President
G.G. Weix
Missoula

G.G. Weix, has been an AAUW member in Montana since 2000. She is currently the Missoula President. She has helped to host four Start Smart Workshops at the University of Montana and the Missoula affiliate has revitalized the Corporate/University partnership with the University of Montana.

G.G. has been on faculty at the University of Montana since 1992, currently is Professor of Anthropology, affiliated with the South and Southeast Asian Studies Program. Her degrees are a B.A. from Stanford University in 1981 (Anthropology, with Distinction, and Honors in Humanities) M.A. and Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1990. She served as Director of Women's Studies Program from 1996-2003, and Missoula President of the League of Women Voters from 2002-2004. G.G. has served as the Montana Education Foundation representative from 2002-2006 and was State President of the Montana Foundation from 2006-2008.

Her goals for the next two years are: 1) to see both C/U partnerships and the Start Smart program continue to expand statewide, 2) to continue to improve the State website and utilize Facebook, and 3) to see that AAUW-MT continues to build partnerships across the state with organizations that share our commitment to education and equity for women and girls.

Her hobbies include two golden retrievers, swimming and cross-country skiing.



Program VP
Susan Lee
Great Falls

Sue has been a member of AAUW since 1999. But her history with AAUW goes back much further than that. In the 1970's, she started going to the AAUW Great Falls' book sale. She attended every year until she went off to college and applied for and received a scholarship from the Great Falls Branch in 1983.

In Great Falls, Sue has been secretary, membership chair, branch president and currently is the Program Vice President and *Centene* Scholarship Committee chair. She was AAUW-MT Membership chair for two terms. Sue is currently the editor of the *Treasure Stater* newsletter and serves as webmaster for both AAUW-MT and AAUW Great Falls.

She received a BA in History/Political Science from the University of Montana in 1982. She earned a Master's in Library Science from the University of Arizona in 1983. In her other life, Sue has been a librarian at the University of Providence (formerly College/University of Great Falls) since 1984. Her hobbies include reading and computers.



Membership
Jesse Kuntz
Kalispell

Jesse Kuntz has served as secretary and president of the Kalispell Branch of AAUW, attended several national conventions, and currently is the Program Vice-President for AAUW-MT. Jesse has also been heavily involved in the Start Smart initiative, serving as the Grant Manager.

In 2009 she earned a Liberal Studies B.S. with an emphasis in both Health and Human Performance and Communication. In May 2011, she received her Master of Science in Public Relations from Montana State University Billings.

She is currently a stay at home mother to her two sons Holden (3 years) and Rowan (5 months). She continues to stay involved in her community by volunteering with her local Indivisible group, Big Sky Rising, and organizes fundraisers for Planned Parenthood. She hopes to work outside the home in nonprofit management once her sons are a little older.



Communications
Christina Roberts
Missoula

Christina is a member of AAUW-Missoula and a Start Smart/Work Smart Facilitator. She has over 10 years of development experience and came to Planned Parenthood of Montana from the Planned Parenthood South Atlantic in Asheville where she worked as the Director of Philanthropy.

Offering her perspectives on moving to Western Montana, Christina commented, "I experienced Montana for the first time a few years ago and instantly loved it." Christina grew up in Arlington, Massachusetts and is a huge Red Sox fan. She moved out west in 1998 to continue her education and has a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Arizona-Tucson and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, with an emphasis in Non-profit organization.

Prior to working with Planned Parenthood of Montana, Christina also served as the development officer for Intermountain Healthcare, Planned Parenthood Association of

Slate of Officers 2018 – 2020

Utah in Salt Lake City, and as the community coordinator for South Valley Sanctuary, a domestic violence shelter in Utah. Hobbies include: Backcountry snowboarding, mountain biking, reading, camping, and trading cryptocurrency.



Treasurer
Lani Hartung
Park (Livingston)

Lani was born in Hawaii, raised in the Far East, moved to Montana to attend MSU and has been there ever since. She graduated from MSU Billings with a BS in Liberal Studies with concentrations in Communications and Accounting. Lani joined AAUW in 2009 and has served on the Park Branch board as President and currently is completing her two-year term as Treasurer. She has attended AAUW-MT conventions in Lewistown and Great Falls and enjoys networking with so many accomplished people.

Lani worked 18 years at the Livingston Memorial Hospital and also for Park County, retiring 3 years ago as the county's Finance Director. Currently she and her husband manage properties in Park and Gallatin counties.

One of her favorite jobs was as camp cook in several different hunting camps. She and her husband just celebrated 40 years of marriage and they have 2 grown children and 2 grandchildren.

The membership will be able to vote on the Slate of Officers after the Biennial Conference. Information on voting will be emailed to members in May.

Many thanks to the Nominating Committee Stacy Jovick, Chair and Desiree Pihl.



Looking for a safe space to collaborate with other women on the issues that affect the lives of young women the most? Learn about how the Younger Women's Task Force is amplifying the voices of young women around the country.

If you're a college graduate who wants to fight for social justice in a community of friends, activists, and professionals, look no further. You've found us. The struggle won't be won unless more women and allies just like you join together to advocate for women's empowerment.

You'll be fighting for yourself, for those you love, and for women all over the world. You'll make lifelong friends, and more important, you'll make a difference! See how you can make a change.

[1. Find a chapter](#) Chapters are a great way to gather like-minded individuals seeking a common cause or interest.

[2. Join YWTF](#)

Your membership in YWTF will make our voices even stronger as we tackle the many issues facing women and girls today.

[3. Start a chapter](#) Join us and help guide the next steps of the women's movement. If your city isn't on our list, it should be! E-mail us now and we'll help you make it happen.

For more information, go to <https://www.aauw.org/membership/ywtf/connect/>

Great Falls *Great Courses Study Group*

Last year the Great Falls Branch decided to begin a study group using "The Great Courses". We began with *Comparative World Religions* and this year we're studying *The Other Side of History: Daily Life in the Ancient World*. We have invited people who are nonmembers to attend and it's a great way for new members to get involved and meet each other. We would like to share these DVDs with any other Branches that are interested.

For further information, contact Jane Hashley @ janehashley@gmail.com

AAUW – MT Biennial Meeting

Building a Better Future for Women and Girls

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Subject to Change

Friday, May 18

7:00pm-9:00 pm. Meet & Greet—Hampton Inn Breakfast Area
Sponsored by Great Falls Branch

Saturday May 19

9:00am Registration Opens—Hampton Inn

9:30am State Board Meeting—Current Officers, Appointees & Branch Presidents/Representatives

11:30am Lunch, Meeting Opening

12:00pm Guest Speakers

2:15pm Break

2:30pm Public Policy/Resolutions

4:15pm Break

4:30pm AAUW Informational Sessions

6:0pm Silent Auction & Social Hour (No-host bar)

7:00pm Dinner & Program

Sunday, May 20

8:00am Table Topics & Hotel Breakfast or on your own. \$6.95 if not staying at hotel

9:00am Business Session

10:45am Break

11:00am Brunch

AAUW-MONTANA 2018 MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Full Name _____

Badge Name/Nickname, if different than above _____

Address _____

Primary Phone _____ Other Phone _____

Email Address _____

Affiliation (branch or organization) _____

Current Branch Office _____ Current State Office _____

AAUW-MT Member Yes ____ No ____

Please sign up for the following (please indicate number attending/ eating)

Registration () \$15 if postmarked before May 1, 2018

() \$25 after May 1, 2018

Friday Evening () Welcome Reception sponsored by the Great Falls Branch

Hampton Inn.

No Charge, but we need to know if you plan to attend.

Special Needs/Diet? (please specify) _____

Saturday Lunch () \$12 Deli Sandwich, Chips, and Green Salad

Saturday Dinner () \$22 Chicken Cordon Bleu

Select Entree () \$22 Baked Ham with Chutney Sauce

() \$15 Linguine with Roasted Vegetables

Sunday Brunch () \$13 Quiche Buffet

Registration Total \$ _____

Meal Total \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

Payment: Please make your check payable to AAUW-MT and mail with your completed registration form to:
Debbie Blackburn
P. O Box 526
Gallatin Gateway MT 59730

Lodging: Hampton Inn, 2301 14th St. SW. Phone 406.453.2675. to make your reservation. The AAUW rate is \$109.00, plus tax, for 1-4 people. A block of rooms will be held at this rate until May 1, 2018.



The AAUW National Board of Directors has voted to put three proposals for bylaws amendments before the membership for a vote this spring. The board strongly supports the proposed amendments that we believe will help keep AAUW vital as an organization and enable us to increase our impact in advancing equity for women and girls.

The proposed amendments address creating three-year staggered board terms, opening board service to those outside of the AAUW membership, and eliminating the degree requirement for membership. While rationale and details for each proposed amendment can be found on the [AAUW website](#), the overarching motivation for these changes at this time is to uphold and advance AAUW's mission and ensure optimal execution at the national board level.

The first two proposals would bring AAUW's board governance structure more in line with nationally accepted nonprofit best practices and the needs of the organization. The third proposal — to eliminate the degree requirement for membership — has come before the membership for vote a number of times. The board feels strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now perceived by many as counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

The board recognizes that we have not traditionally put proposals up for vote outside our AAUW National Election, but these proposed changes have been under consideration for several years by both the Governance Committee and the board, and we believe it is important to move forward without delay to position the organization for greater growth.

Voting will open on April 25, 2018, and close June 9, 2018, at 9 p.m. ET.

We encourage you all to engage in respectful debate that has always been a hallmark of the AAUW community, exercise your vote, and encourage fellow members to do the same.

You can direct any questions or concerns to connect@aauw.org.

Respectfully,

Your AAUW National Board of Directors

SILENT AUCTION

We encourage each branch to support AAUW Funds by contributing a basket for this year's silent auction to be held during this year's AAUW-MT convention. This is your opportunity to present a basket full of amazing, astounding, unique, and wonderful items that will tempt convention attendees and, more importantly, will enable AAUW to continue breaking through barriers for a broad community of women.

So put on your thinking caps to help your branch create a basket—or even more than one— so tempting that all participants at Convention will be outbidding each other for the chance to take it home. And remember to bring your checkbooks so you'll be ready to bid on your own favorite.



AAUW's member benefits can enhance your professional and personal life and will save you money along the way! Most important, every time you use one of your benefits, you are also supporting AAUW's vital work, which is what makes AAUW one of the nation's most powerful voices on women's issues.

With each purchase, AAUW receives a royalty that is used to support the work we do, including our [equal pay advocacy](#), [community programs](#), [leadership development tools](#), [student leadership conference](#), and so much more!

Some benefits include:

HOTELSTORM

AAUW is excited to introduce our members-only hotel booking website — powered by our travel partner, HotelStorm — to bring you the lowest prices on hotels all over the world. In our private portal you'll find thousands of hotels at your fingertips, 24-7 customer service support, and discounts of **10–55 percent** on hotel rooms. Contact connect@aauw.org for the login password and then [visit the portal](#) to start saving.

MAGAZINELINE

Give the gift of reading! Magazines make great gifts for friends, students, and everyone in your family. AAUW MagazineLine offers more than 800 titles to choose from at the lowest prices, guaranteed. You can save up to 85 percent on a variety of national magazines, so order now and give the gift of reading — or treat yourself! Check us out for easy ordering at [AAUW.MagazineLine.com](https://www.aauw.org/membership/benefits/magazine-line), or call us today at 800.230.0283.

All benefits are listed at: <https://www.aauw.org/membership/benefits/>

AFFILIATE NEWS

Billings - Two scholarships are awarded each year, to students attend our local colleges: one each to MSU-B and RMC. Activities are in full swing for this year's scholarships. At our next meeting we are also looking forward to hearing from a student who, with our support, attended AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

Great Falls- The Great Falls branch of AAUW has had a good fall and winter. We were a little disappointed that the total from our book sale was down but we wonder if we are seeing the effects of the turn to electronics and e-books. So far, there still seems to be enough people who support our sale and want to buy our books, games, movies, and music.

We celebrated some of the results of our sale at a Christmas brunch where we were able to award three non-traditional scholarships to very deserving women. These women are a little older, often single women with children, and frequently the first person in their family to go to college. Our money has the potential to really make a difference in someone's life.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the State Convention in May!

Miles City-In late November, we sponsored the Miles City Christmas Market at Miles Community College. We had approx. 70 vendors from numerous towns around the state and from the Dakotas and Wyoming. Profit from the Market goes towards our annual scholarships and other projects.

We will be selecting two \$1,000 college scholarship recipients by early April. Recipients are either attendees/graduates of Custer County District High School or Miles Community College.

We are working with the children's librarian at the Miles City Public Library on a project to purchase books, both fiction and non-fiction, that highlight women and girls in the fields of politics, science, advocacy, leadership, etc.

We will again be sponsoring Montana Shakespeare in the Parks here in Miles City. *Love's Labour's Lost* will be presented on July 3rd.

Missoula: We began 2018 with a Reception at the University to welcome Dr. Chelsea Bodnar, the wife of UM's new President, Seth Bodnar. Carol Williams and Diane Sands introduced Chelsea as a Rhodes Scholar from Montana, and granddaughter of our longtime member, Midge Elander.

UM is a C/U AAUW partner, with liaisons Dr. Sara Rinfret and Kelly Webster, Director of the Writing Program. Next month, Kelly Webster begins as the new Chief of Staff for UM President's Office. In February, our Branch executive board voted to contribute \$2500 to Planned Parenthood's statewide SANE continuing education training held in Great Falls this April 16-20.

In March, we hosted our fourth Start Smart! Workshop with 36 attendees and new facilitator, Christina Roberts; Mary Gernaat, local members Cindy Garthwait and Ann Sharkey assisted, and Missoula College has requested a workshop to be held for their faculty and students.

In April, we will co-host the 59th Annual AAUW/PDK Used Book Sale April 16-19th at Orchard Homes Community Center, and May 5th we host our Spring Brunch, at which time we honor PDK scholarship winners and new AAUW-Missoula officers will be elected.

AAUW – MT

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Empowering Women Since 1881

Building a Better Future for Women and Girls

Biennial Meeting Schedule and Registration