



Eugene-Lane Branch The News

empowering women since 1881

<http://eugenelane-or.aauw.net>

2013-2014

October 2013

**Saturday, October 12
Westminster Church
9:30 - 10:00 Social Hour
10:00 Business Meeting
10:30**



Norma "Bean"
Comrada is a
longtime Eugene
resident, writer,

artist, and translator whose commitment to community involvement and tireless work for positive change led her to help establish kindergartens in District 4J. Among other things, she was also involved in the earliest educational TV; was the affirmative action officer at the U of O; and instrumental in the women's movement. Come be swept up in this fascinating and energetic woman's journey and her commitment to contributing to the betterment of women, children and our local community.

We are hosting a table at the 40th Anniversary of the Center for the Study of Women in Society – Nov 7-9, 2013

The Department of Women's and Gender Studies is collaborating with the [Center for the Study of Women in Society](#) (CSWS) and the [ASUO Women's Center](#) to celebrate [CSWS's 40th anniversary](#). The celebration will be free and is to be held November 7 – 9, 2013, in the Erb Memorial Union (various rooms).

Among the highlights of the event are:

Screening of the documentary *Agents of Change*, honoring University of Oregon individuals and their history of activism, research and teaching.

Women's Stories, Women's Lives symposium, with talks and presentations by University of Oregon professors and graduates, community members and more

Sally Miller Gearhart Worlds Beyond World symposium, on the topic of speculative science fiction and its role in imagining feminist futures and utopia – with appearances by [Ursula K. Le Guin](#), [Molly Gloss](#) and more.

For more information, including :

- [General overview](#)
- [Schedule of the event](#)
- [Register online here](#)

Registration is required for attendance; don't worry, it's all free!

A volunteer schedule will be available at the branch meeting October 12. **[Be sure to sign up--what a grand way to publicize our branch and our activities!](#)**

Branch spices SPICE!

Remember the SPICE jar on a table at each branch meeting? It's back--for our project to sponsor girls at the UofO summer camps in the SPICE program. (**Science Program to Inspire Creativity and Excellence**).



We are officially listed as a sponsor on the web site--check it out!:

<http://oco.uoregon.edu/spice/give>

Even though we're listed as a "chapter," let's continue to fill our jar at each meeting!

In this issue

Board Meeting Summary	3
Directory	3
From Jo's Desk	2
Gentle Reminders	3
Happy Birthday	2
Hostesses Schedule	3
In Memoriam	2
Interest Groups	7
LAF Report	6
Member News	3
Mission Statement	7
Public Policy Update	4-6
Rosters, The News	7
Scholarship Awardee	2

From Jo's Desk

---Jo Brew, President



Driving north this week I notice the leaves are beginning to turn, some of the corn fields have been cut and most of the hay harvested. I do like fall but we have had such an exceptionally nice summer, I'm not ready to have it end. It's been a year when we can be thankful and appreciative of where we live.

Even the garden is almost finished. Our tomatoes have given us riches-- amazing after the total flop last year. That's when our son looked at the puny plants during his visit and pronounced it was probably time to give up gardening. I'm making a point to share pictures this year.

After a morning of showers and then a warm afternoon with a little breeze, I was tempted to go out and play-- or my version of that-- take a brisk walk. A rock on the sidewalk rolled when I stepped on it and I fell. No serious repercussions but I'll be staying out of sight while stitches, scrapes, and bruises heal. It won't take long. I suppose October 7 when I'm scheduled to make an AAUW presentation at the Richardson Barn Senior lunch, I'll try to cover up any leftover marks. All the grandchildren are back in school now and we've had a visit from Ken's brother and wife, probably the last visitors of the summer. I guess it's about time to settle down and tend to business.

I'm working on the last two sections of the first Highway 99 book. It was a beautiful time to drive through wine country and I made a stop at a wonderful Lavender Farm. Last week it was collecting the pictures and this week will be recording the rest of the stories. I feel like I've memorized the road and everything along it but I still discover something new every day.

I'm thinking of the items we should display at the American Association of University Women table in the Women's Center Celebration in November--if anyone has any ideas for an interest getting display, I'd like to hear about them. There is no such thing as too soon.

Happy October Birthday to.....

Linda McCleary
Lois Hopper
Jo Brew
Barbara Carter
Margaret Squaires



Repeat Scholarship Awardee at LCC

Annie Michelle Dutchover has been awarded a second-year scholarship of \$1,400.00 from the Kappy Eaton Scholarship at LCC.

To learn more about this fund, go to our website <http://eugenelane-or.aauw.net> choose "Participate," then scroll down to "Scholarships."

Information about donating will be in the November newsletter for your year-end tax planning.

In Memoriam

Doris McCan, longtime Honorary Member, passed away on July 24, 2013, at the age of 102. Services were held September 30 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Eugene. Burial was in New Jersey. Memorial donations can be made to St. Mary's.

Doris was an AAUW member for more than 50 years, and, thus, was granted Honorary Member status. She was also an Education Foundation Honored Member in 1999. She was an avid bridge enthusiast, a long-time participant in the Interest Group

She was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1911, and spent much of her adult life in New Jersey, where she worked for Gryphon Press. She and her husband moved to Eugene in 1977 to be near their daughter.

Hostesses Schedule

Please sign up at the branch meeting

Oct. 12 Jill and Linda Mc Cleary
Nov. 9 Pat Lanier, (open)
Dec. 7 Holiday brunch
Jan. 11 Cindy Parker and
Carol Hildebrand
Feb. 15 (open)
March 8 Kappy Eaton, (open)
April 12 (open)
June 4 Georgie Hofma and
Barbara Gault

Member News

Dr. Carol Marusich authored an excellent column of vision advice for anyone dealing with the development of young children. It was published in the Monday, September 16th issue of *The Register-Guard*, which can be accessed at www.registerguard.com.

Directory Additions/Changes

Welcome new member.....

Kathleen Stearns, who previously belonged to branches in California and Missouri.

Directories are ready!

If you didn't pick up your 2013-2014 Directory at September branch meeting, be sure to take it at the October meeting!

Gentle Reminders



Looking Glass supplies
(support teen clients)



Used Books Recycling
(supports LAF)



e-scrip grocery shopping
(supports Kappy Eaton
Scholarship)



**Kappy Eaton/LCC
Scholarship Fund**



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Highlights of 9/11/13 Board Meeting

- ★ Carene Davis-Stitt will assume chairmanship of Bylaws Committee.
- ★ Cindy Parker and Kappy Eaton will serve on the Audit Committee.
- ★ Branch members will staff a table at the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Women's Studies at ERB Memorial, UofO, November 7-9.
- ★ Branch chose these activities for Pay Equity Day: wear badges on the day, April 8, 2014; call/mail elected officials regarding the pay issues. February will be the most effective time to contact elected officials at the Legislative Session in Salem.

Judy Greer will send cards to members who are ill Please let her know--e-mail judy.greer@comcast.net

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

October 2013

--Kappy Eaton, Public Policy Chair

STATE OF THE STATE

Fiscal Policy

Will it actually happen on September 30? By the time you read this, the decision to move Oregon forward by investing additional resources in public education at all levels, by addressing the serious issues with the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), and by shoring up support for seniors, the mentally ill, and working families may have been made. The Governor has called a Special Session for the Legislature on September 30 to consider and vote on a new version of the "Grand Bargain" which was defeated at the end of the regular 2013 session July 8.

The current "agreement," culminating weeks of crisscrossing the state by the Governor and several days of meetings with legislative leaders, would do some of the following with \$244 million in new revenue added to the adopted 2013-15 budget:

1. Increase funding for K-12 public schools by \$100 million.
2. Increase funding for community colleges by \$15 million, and four-year universities by \$25 million.
3. Increase funding for services and programs assisting the mentally ill by \$20 million.
4. Increase support for low-income working families through a \$12 million addition to the Earned Income Tax Credit.
5. Provide relief totaling \$43 million for small businesses through a lower tax rate on pass-through active income, and Fair Trade tax relief on agricultural exports. A special proposal also changes the regulations regarding GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms).

A major portion of the new revenue will come from further changes to PERS related to the annual COLAs, an increase in the corporate minimum income tax rate from 6.6% to 7.6%, an

increase in the cigarette tax of 10 cents, changes to the senior medical deduction (capping income and raising the entry age to 67) and the personal tax exemptions for individual and couple tax payers with incomes over \$100,000 and \$200,000 respectively (cutting off \$186). The PERS change will affect those with retirement incomes under \$60,000 by cutting the 2% COLA to 1.25% and those over \$60,000 to .25%, and it will provide a lessening by \$4.6 billion of the Funds unfunded liability as well as help avoid law suits over the revisions.

Public hearings were held September 26 and 27 by a Special Interim Committee on five legislative concepts, two dealing with the PERS COLA cuts and with the system itself, one for the business tax cuts, one with the raise in the cigarette tax, and on with the GMOs.

The agreement was reached through very serious negotiations between the Governor and the two major political parties, and it is hoped that there will be enough bipartisan legislative support to pass the individual proposals. Those not requiring revenue changes can be passed by simple majorities. However, the Constitution requires a three-fifths votes for any money measures such as the raising the tax on tobacco. The Governor has stated that he will not sign just individual bills, only the entire package. This agreement is a critical step forward for Oregon, particularly for advancing public education.

Most of the 2013 Legislative Interim committees met during the scheduled times of September 16, 17 and 18. The House Revenue and the Senate Finance and Revenue committees met jointly to hear reports on the 2010-11 census data (latest available) regarding state and local government overall revenue structure comparing Oregon both with all other states and with California, Idaho, Washington and Nevada. Basically, Oregon is lower in per capita tax revenue than the other 49 states as a whole, and in the middle of the four western states.

Gearing up for the 2014 session, the Revenue committees began to consider some of the issues that might require legislative action because

requests for bill drafting must be forwarded to Legislative Counsel by November 21 when the next Interim hearings are scheduled. Information was given about E-cigarettes with many questions raised as to what they are, as well as how or if to tax them. The nicotine that is vaporized does not fall within any Oregon tobacco statutes. The Department of Revenue reported that it has asked the Attorney General for an interpretation of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act) as to affecting Oregon income tax laws regarding domestic partnerships and same sex couples living in Oregon and having been married in other states.

One of the more interesting discussions dealt with the Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) which was revised in 2012 because of the wide-open granting of millions of dollars to energy developers with little oversight. Apparently an Eastern Oregon wind farm developer divided his wind generation into three projects and applied for and received a \$20 million dollar credit from the Department of Energy for each of the three although they were not separate operations owner-wise. There were very critical questions to the DOE administrator who must return with answers.

University Governance.

After the vigorous, lengthy and tense review of recommendations about the state's university system, the Oregon legislature passed the proposal to grant the University of Oregon and Portland State University the right to have internal boards of directors. Oregon State University also decided to participate in the initial action, and the four regional universities may also form boards if they decide to do so in the future. The boards will begin formal operation on July 1, but nominations for appointment by the Governor were made in July 2013. Boards will have between 11-15 members, serving four year terms, except that student members will serve two years. One of the knotty problems was whether members of the faculty and classified staff would be on the boards and have voting status. The final bill includes them, but the Governor has the authority to grant

them voting status which the student member has in the law, and he did.

The Governor sent his lists of appointees to the Senate Rules committee, and September 16, during the Interim session, was chosen for the appointments hearing. The Rules committee interviewed each candidate in person or on the phone during the three-hour meeting (nominees for other commissions and boards were also heard), and voted in favor of all at the end of the session. (I listened to all the nominees and was impressed with their experience, diversity, intelligence and enthusiasm for the boards). The report was sent to the Senate for its confirming vote on September 18. Five members of the Senate were absent. It takes a 16 member affirmative vote to pass any non-revenue proposal. The vote was 13-12 so none of the board members was appointed. Negative votes were cast by both parties, mostly on the issue of faculty members having representation with possible "conflicts of interest", but most of the Republicans voted against the nominees. A new appointment vote will take place in November, and the majority Democratic party indicates the vote will be favorable. Needless to say, much consternation ensued. Nothing about this road to greater independence for public higher education in Oregon has been easy. While the boards will not formally start work until July 1, 2014, members plan to do a lot of organizing, electing chairs, forming sub-committees, and adopting by-laws in the months prior to July, and the delay is frustrating and disappointing.

Oregon Pre-School-12 and Higher Education Structure

The new seamless Oregon public education structure has taken shape and is being implemented this fall. Nancy Golden, the former Springfield School District Superintendent, is serving as the interim Oregon Chief Education Officer, with authority over and responsibility for the now P-20 system – pre-school (from infancy) through graduate study. The Chief Education Officer is selected by the Oregon Education

Investment Board (OEIB), the final educational authority. Immediately underneath the OEIB are two structures --one for the education system of pre-school through high school, and one for the higher education system of community colleges and four-year universities. Very briefly, below is a view of the components of the emerging system. (If you want charts, timelines and details, go online to <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/>, the Oregon Legislative Information System, click on Committees and request the House Interim Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development meeting materials for Monday, September 16.)

Reporting to the OEIB for the P-12 portion are the Early Learning Council, the Youth Development Council and the State Board of Education. The State Board has a Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction who supervises the Youth Development Director and the Early Learning Director. On the higher education side is the Higher Education Coordinating Commission which has a director who will oversee the Oregon Student Access Commission and Community College Workforce Development.

As part of the ongoing movement to improve and strengthen the Oregon education system, starting last year, all school districts had to develop and file compacts with OEIB, laying out the outcomes for students to be gained through the programs offered and evaluation measures.

School Funding Allocation Formula for 2013-14

AAUW's primary concern with Oregon public education is adequate and equitable funding. The new educational structure for the state requires additional investing of time and resources to realize the P-20-Plan by 2025. With the increase from \$5.7 billion to \$6.55 billion for 2013-15 (and hopefully \$100 million more), the work of the new Chief Education Officer and the Oregon Education Investment Board has begun in earnest. In allocating funds to the 197 School Districts and the Education Service Districts, the total available is the dollars in the State School Fund plus the

local revenues: the total is \$9,737,746,297 billion. The school districts get \$9,229,547,714 or 95.55% (minus three "carve outs" for special needs) and the special districts get 4.5% (minus two "carve outs"), \$423,243,583 million.



September 2013

Supreme Court Rules on Employee Rights

The U.S. Supreme Court released many important decisions in its most recent term, and two of those decisions will negatively affect the rights of Americans in the workplace. In *Vance v. Ball State University*, the court made it easier for employers to escape liability for discrimination and harassment in the workplace. The court limited the definition of "supervisor" to include only those employees with the power to "take tangible employment actions," such as hiring or firing, against the complainant. This decision means workers will now have a much harder time providing workplace harassment and discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. AAUW opposes limits on a worker's ability to seek remedies for harassment and discrimination, and we are working with Congress to address this issue through legislation.

In the case of *University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center v. Nassar*, the court ruled that one of Title VII's protections for claims of discrimination based on sex, race, or religion did not apply to retaliation claims. The court now holds retaliation claims to a higher standard of proof than it does status-based discrimination claims. Under this ruling, plaintiffs alleging retaliation must meet stricter requirements in order to prove their case. AAUW is working with Congress to restore this worker protection.

Interest Groups

Afternoon Book Group

Third Monday, 2:00 p.m.,
Contact Betty Kjeldgaard,
541-683-4926. [Open](#)

Alpha Bridge

Every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.
Willamalane Senior Adult
Activity Center, Springfield.
Contact Ardith Hinman,
541-747-4310. [Open](#)

Fourth Monday Bridge Group

1:00 p.m. Contact Donna
Pierce, 541-344-3365,
[Open](#)

Out & Abouters

Periodic trips around our
part of Oregon; newsletter/
ReaderBoard announce-
ments. Contact Linda
Wittorff, 541-844-1422.

Out-to-Lunch Bunch

Contact Mary Ellickson,
maryellickson@gmail.com

Readers' Theatre

Contact Barbara Carter,
541-554-2944. 1-2 OPENINGS.

Vision

AAUW will be a powerful
advocate and visible leader in
equity and education through
research, philanthropy, and
measurable change in critical
areas impacting the lives of
women and girls.

Mission

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

Value Promise

By joining AAUW, we belong
to a community that breaks
through educational and
economic barriers so that all
women have a fair chance.

Diversity

In principle and in practice,
AAUW values and seeks a
diverse membership. There
shall be no barriers to full
participation in the
organization on the basis of
gender, race, creed, age, sexual
orientation, national origin,
disability or class.

ROSTERS

Elected:

Co-Presidents: Jo Brew/
Carene Davis-Stitt
Program VP: Jill McCleary
Financial VP: Stephanie Winsor
Membership VP: Linda Wittorff
Communications. VP:
Elleen Levy
Recording Secretary:
Cindy Parker

Appointed:

AAUW Funds Co-Chairs:
Ardith Hinman, Gorgie Hofma
Public Policy: Kappy Eaton
Member Chairs:
Advertising Manager:
JoAnn Ellis
Book Exchange: Ellen Otani
Branch Brochure: Wendy Cook
Bylaws: Carene Davis-Stitt
Calling Committee: Pat Lanier
C/U Liaison, UofO:
C/U Liaison, LCC:
Cathy Lindsley
Directory: Judy Greer
Financial Records: Pat Zeller
Historian: Linda McCleary
Hospitality: Jill McCleary
Newsletter: Marian Spath
Nominating Committee :
Website Manager: Wendy Cook

The News

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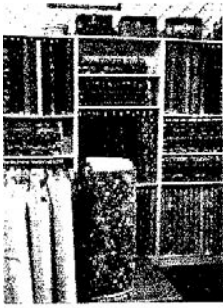
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still
an **issue**



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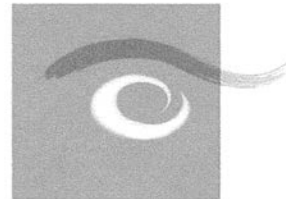


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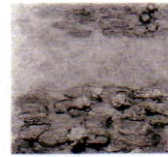
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Meeting Calendar

Wednesday, 10:00, October 9, 2013, Board Meeting,

Quail Run Clubhouse *All members welcome.*

Saturday, 9:30 a.m., October 12, 2013, Branch Meeting

Westminster Church

Wednesday, 10:00, November 6, 2013, Board Meeting,

Quail Run Clubhouse *All members welcome.*

Saturday, 9:30 a.m., November 9, 2013, Branch Meeting

Westminster Church

November 7-9, Center for the Study of Women in

Society Celebration, University of Oregon

April 25-27, 2014, Oregon/Washington Joint Convention,

Embassy Suites Hotel, Portland, OR