



Eugene-Lane Branch The News

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2013-2014

December 2013

Saturday, December 7 Annual Holiday Brunch



- ★ Social hour 9:30 to 10:00 when you can buy Basket Raffle tickets for the big drawing at the end of the party!
- ★ Special catering by Market of Choice!
- ★ Spirited Holiday entertainment
- ★ Basket Raffle tickets are \$1 each, or 6 for \$5. Winners announced at close of festivities.
- ★ Remember to bring the tickets you purchased in November!
- ★ Funds raised for LAF

Hostesses Schedule for 2014

Please sign up at the branch meeting .

Jan. 11 Cindy Parker,
Carol Hildebrand

Feb. 15 (1 open) :
Carol Miller

(open) _____

Mar. 8 Kappy Eaton,
Stephanie Winsor

Apr. 12 Elleen Levy,
Banti Winslow

May 7 Ardith Hinman,
JoAnn Ellis

June 4 Gorgie Hofma,
Barbara Gault

the slack for University Press who can no longer afford to publish. Another room had Fair Trade representatives with products from Cambodia to sell, and maybe other places as well, and a table with Women's Space representatives. We did have SPICE and our own materials on our table.

Before and after the speakers and other presentations we had people passing through. My biggest disappointment was how few women students came up those stairs. They were the people I most wanted to be seen by. On the other hand, we had a lot of women from other places, sometimes other countries and many knew what AAUW is and commented on the good work the organization does. One woman had worked on AAUW research in Washington D.C. but she isn't living here now. A couple mentioned fellowships and grants. It's easy to forget some of the good things we are part of.

I was close enough to the ballroom to hear some of the speakers I particularly wanted to hear and on Saturday, Kate Wilhelm was in our room to sign books. On Friday, Barb and Wendy were in and out to give breaks. On Saturday

From Jo's Desk

---Jo Brew, President



Like any other event, the 40th anniversary of the Women's Center had both some rewards and disappointments. The set up all worked the way it was supposed to on Friday. I had nearby parking and Cindy showed up to help me unload,. set up and stayed around until Linda arrived. We were in a side room with the U of O bookstore and two book publishers who are picking up

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Kristina came in so the quiet times during presentations were more interesting. I hadn't bought a parking pass for Saturday so one of Kristina's first chores was to teach me how to use their parking meters. I came away feeling that it had been worth doing, both for myself and AAUW but I also wondered if there had been enough campus publicity, or maybe the younger women are so preoccupied with the present they don't think ahead to what they face as women in the future. At any rate, I am glad it is in the past.

I will say the leaves on campus, both on the ground and still on the trees were spectacular. I do still have a few trees with gorgeous leaves out my window but I know they won't be there much longer. I'm not one who loves a cold grey and white winter scene, at least not close by so I'd hold back time a little if I could.

On the other hand, there are good things about this time of year and I'm looking forward to our brunch and the Out and About's tea coming up. My sister-in-law, for whatever reason, has begun posting something she's grateful for on my email every morning. The first day, when she said she was grateful for a supportive brother, I called her to find out if she was ill or something had gone wrong and she needed support! Now I find I look forward to the comments. There are thirty things I'm thankful for, including friends, I could make it through the whole month.

Happy December Birthday to.....

Barbara Gault
Rosiland Lund
Ellen Otani
Eva LaMar-Fridlund
Donna Pierce
Carol Stabile
Mary Ellickson



Tax Deductions--it's that time!

We have three opportunities:

- ❖ AAUW Action Fund
- ❖ Kappy Eaton Scholarship Fund
- ❖ Membership dues (\$46.00 are deductible for 2013-2014 dues)

11/9/13 Board Meeting Summary

1. Proposed annual goal of \$250 by each April for SPICE camp scholarships. Discussion to continue at January Board meeting.
2. Valentine Cookie Exchange planned.
3. State request for 2015 conference to be held in Eugene being considered.
4. AAUW Fund letters will be available at branch meeting.
5. Readers' Theater will present its annual program in April of 2014 instead of June.

Member News



Kristina Schmunk, our UofO student representative, and **Nicholas Kraaz** were married on August 10th. Kristina attends the University of Oregon Law School and Nicholas is a chemical engineering Ph.D student at Oregon State University.

Those travel treasures--for Looking Glass!

As you travel this holiday season, remember to bring home those motel/hotel samples for our Looking Glass project.

AAUW Public Policy Update

December 2013

--Kappy Eaton, Public Policy Chair

State of the State

Restructuring the State Budget Process.

The 2013 Legislature established an Interim Task Force on State Budget Process in SB 552. It was charged with reviewing all of the budget process statutes, deciding which laws should be repealed, kept, modified or newly written, and reporting a draft of recommendations to the Legislature by November 15. The recommendations are to be in a comprehensive package of statutory changes that will modernize the process of developing the state budget and help align the state process with the outcomes recommended and adopted by the Legislative Assembly.

The committee met November 12, decided to meet in January 2014, and will ask the February 2014 annual session for an extension of time to complete their review and recommendations. To date they have sorted out which bills have policy issues and must be reviewed by the Rules committees, which must be changed in some way, which need further deliberation, which might be combined and which may be non-operational. Also, there is disagreement within the committee regarding a number of laws, and the committee was not given any resources to involve research. In other words, stay tuned. The Governor and the Ways and Means committee decided to modify budget construction for the 2011-13 and 2013-15 biennia, using an approach to build the budget around the available resources and not rely on new resources. The Interim committee's work is related to formalizing that concept.

December Economic and Revenue Forecast.

The State Economist stated, "It's as good as it gets" in explaining Oregon's current economic status and revenue outlook before the Interim Senate and House Revenue Committees on November 21. The economic indicators are

moving in the right direction, with unemployment down, business balance sheets up, personal income tax receipts up, and economic improvement across the state, both urban and rural. The recovery from the "Great Recession" still is slow, but home construction, a key indicator, is improving and agriculture remains strong. Although the job market is better, the labor force improvement is still weak, and there is really no significant increase in the revenue forecast. "The good news outweighs the bad."

For the General Fund forecast, the \$158 million revenue projected from the actions of the Special Session increased the bottom line. There will be an increase in the personal income tax revenue and cigarette tax returns, but no growth on the corporate side. Estate taxes are the lowest in eight years, and no growth in investment taxes. Moving forward, there is an anticipated \$136 million increase over the September forecast for 2013-15. The state is not back to the historic growth rates, but 10% is the long-term projection. Oregon's demographics indicate a shrinking workforce that will influence future growth. Legislators were visibly shaken when the economist said that the revenue increases moved the personal income tax revenue to about 50% before the kicker would kick in, although he expressed doubts that would happen.

Local Property Tax Problems.

A panel of county assessors from Deschutes, Clackamas and Lane presented graphic information about the continuing impacts of Measure 5 (1997) on local property tax revenues and home owners to the Senate Revenue committee November 21. Because of the constitutional limits on the total percent of property taxes that can be levied by all facets of local governments and the requirements between real market value and maximum assessed value of homes, inequality between home owners with property substantially of the same values has risen dramatically in many counties. It also has affected the outcomes of local elections for school, public safety, and library and park districts because the compression factor lessens the amount that can

actually be distributed. This problem is raised at each legislative session, and the need for counties to have adequate resources worsens. Whether the decision-makers will have the fortitude to pass a referral measure to voters is questionable even though the issues are significant.

Special Session Fixes.

Both the House and Senate Interim Revenue committees heard testimony November 20 and 21 on issues related to tax changes enacted during the Special Session of September 30-October 2, 2013. Of particular concern were implementation of the cigarette tax increase and the small business tax cuts. The Legislative Revenue Office indicated that a draft bill for fixing anticipated changes was serving as a placeholder for the 2014 session, and the House committee moved to use it as a committee bill and authorized its development. During the Special Session debated on the Grand Bargain, part of the passage discussion included the promise that the 2014 session would review changes.

Clean Air Fee.

A report on the implementation of SB 306 was presented to the House Revenue committee on November 20 by the Northwest Energy Research Center (NERC), located at Portland State University. The legislation calls for a technical review and a possible plan for implementation of a clean air fee related to carbon emissions. The report gives background on costs and social benefits of such a fee, as well as the issues around whether it would be revenue neutral and various options for economic growth. The Legislative Revenue Office is reviewing current policies and statutes regarding clean air and carbon. The final plan draft from NERC is due December 15.

Social Policy

Cover Oregon.

Cover Oregon's Executive Director was on the proverbial "hot seat" November 21 when members of the Joint Committee on Audits, Information Management and Technology held a public hearing regarding the problems of implementing the health care application process

in Oregon. Scheduled to open October 1, the system is operating with handwritten applications because the online technology is not working. Rocky King demonstrated the parts of the program that are available such as choosing and comparing plans, and background personal information. His explanation for the delay is the lack of testing which did not take place during June, July and August, as expected. His new online date is December 15. The committee was not harsh, but remained concerned and skeptical.

Higher Education.

The Senate Interim Education and Workforce Development committee discussed community college concepts and the proposed Oregon Opportunities Initiative (OOI) at an informational Hearing November 21. State Treasurer Ted Wheeler explained the purpose and importance of the OOI, which will be on the November 2014 General Election ballot. It would provide access and affordability to post-secondary students through a focus on low-income persons and permanent funding. He pointed out that by 2020, 70% of Oregon jobs will require some higher education and, currently, newer jobs that pay higher wages also want more educated personnel. Also supporting the OOI was Barbara Dudley, a teacher, speaking on behalf of the Oregon Working Families Party. Others addressing the issue were two Oregon Education Investment Board, Oregon Community College Association, Portland Community College and the Beaverton City Council.

The members of the Boards of Directors for the University of Oregon, Oregon State University and Portland State University were approved November 20 by the Senate Rules committee and moved to the Senate for a vote. An affirmative vote is expected after the September fiasco when enough members were absent to cause a lack of the 2/3-affirmative vote required for confirmation.

Save the Date--

AAUW Oregon Legislative Day: February 21

KidSports --FYI

Executive Director Bev Smith sent an information publication to Carol Hildebrand, thanking us for our 2013 gift. Our annual gift was part of scholarship assistance for 684 girls who participated in 2012-13 Winter Basketball.

KidSports turns 60 this year. It began in 1953 as the Eugene Boys Athletic Association, evolving through many modifications, including

- adding football in 1960s
- adding soccer in 1970s
- and changing the name to Eugene Sports Program when girls were enrolled
- changed the name to KidSports in the 1980s



November 2013 Update

U.S. Supreme Court Preview Call Engages AAUW Members with the Court

On October 24, LAF Program Manager Mollie Lam and Regulatory Affairs Manager Beth Scott co-hosted a conference call with AAUW members to discuss important cases before the Supreme Court this term. Reproductive rights,

affirmative action, and health care coverage are on the court's docket in the coming year. If you weren't able to attend the call, you can read Beth and Mollie's [blog post](#) and [listen to a recording of the call](#). We are truly gratified by the many e-mails AAUW members sent to congratulate LAF on the call and to ask for more events like this one.

U.S. Supreme Court Will Not Consider Oklahoma Law Banning Medication Abortion

During the October 24 Supreme Court call, we discussed Cline v. Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice. In that case, the Oklahoma Supreme Court overturned a 2011 Oklahoma law that severely restricted the use of medications to end pregnancy. Before hearing the case, the U.S. Supreme Court had asked the Oklahoma Supreme Court to clarify whether the law banned medication abortion altogether. Last week, the Oklahoma Supreme Court confirmed that the law did in fact ban all medication abortion. In response, the U.S. Supreme Court announced that it would not hear the case, which means that the Oklahoma Supreme Court's ruling overturning the law will stand.



November 22, 2013

(No publication on November 29.)

Governor Announces Results of Equal Pay Study

We applaud the leadership of Gov. Dannel Malloy (D-CT) in commissioning a nine-month study and pay equity report released this week. The report cited AAUW's research on the gender pay gap and recommended many of the policies for which AAUW advocates, including policies that allow workers to discuss wages and programs that encourage girls to consider science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.

AAUW Cheer of the Week

Congratulations to the three women who became the first female graduates of the Marine Corps Infantry training course! These ladies performed the same exercises as men over a 59-day training camp. Although the women will not join infantry units while the Armed Forces continues to study how to lift the combat ban for women, Thursday's graduation ceremony still represents a significant crack in the military glass ceiling.

AAUW Jeer of the Week

A recent Government Accountability Office report found gross mismanagement of the D.C. Opportunity Scholarships Program (the nation's only federal school voucher program) by the D.C. Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation. The report found the Trust often disperses the voucher scholarships to students after school enrollment periods have already closed, lacks effective internal controls to safeguard program funds, and engages in unsound financial practices.

AAUW has opposed continuation of the expired D.C. voucher program and strongly opposes reauthorizing the program. This program funnels taxpayer money to private schools that do not have to follow many civil rights laws, such as the No Child Left Behind Act and Title IX, which prohibits sex discrimination in educational programs that receive federal funding.

Bits and Pieces

- On Tuesday, the U.S. Supreme Court split 5-4 in refusing to block a Texas abortion law. One of the provisions of the law mandates that doctors performing abortions must have hospital privileges within 30 miles of the site where the abortion takes place. Dissenting Justices Stephen G. Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Elena Kagan, and Sonia Sotomayor pointed out that the law "seriously disrupts" the status quo in Texas and that women will suffer permanent harm while the

case continues to make its way through the appeals court system.

- On Wednesday, the Department of Labor announced the new Women Veterans' Program within the Office for Veterans' Employment and Training Services (VETS). This program will increase awareness of department resources available to women veterans and educate potential employers about the capabilities and contributions of women veterans.

- On Wednesday, anti-human trafficking activist Cindy McCain disparaged the NFL for not confronting human trafficking at the upcoming New Jersey Super Bowl. An NFL spokesman added that the NFL supports law enforcement and believes the human trafficking concerns in advance of the 2013 New Orleans Super Bowl were unfounded.

- All the more reason to be grateful that AAUW of New Jersey is deeply involved in efforts to fight human trafficking at the 2014 Super Bowl! Learn more on AAUW's blog.

- On Wednesday, Illinois became the 16th state to recognize same-sex marriage.

On Wednesday, the Center for American Progress published a report evaluating current proposals to address the growing problem of student loan debt.



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 announcements.
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: Carol Hildebrand

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 Handy Reminder on how to Introduce AAUW to Prospective Members:

REAP

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Philanthropy

The News

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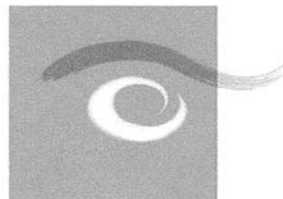
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Meeting Calendar

Saturday, 9:30 a.m., December 7, 2013, Holiday Brunch
Westminster Church

Wednesday, 11:30 a.m., December 11, 2013, Out-to-Lunch-Bunch
Sweet Waters Inn

Wednesday, January 8, 2014, 10:00 a.m., Board Meeting
Quail Run Clubhouse *All members welcome.*

Saturday, January 11, 2014, 9:30 a.m., Branch Meeting
Westminster Church

Friday, February 14, 2014: AAUW Oregon Legislative Day
Salem, Or

April 25-27, 2014, Oregon/Washington Joint Convention,
Embassy Suites Hotel, Portland, OR