

# Eugene-Lane Branch The News

empowering women since 1881

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2013-2014 April 2014

April 12, 2014, at Westminster Church, (777 Coburg Road, Eugene 97401 9:30 social, 10:00 business, 10:30 program

#### Readers' Theatre Presents

Inspired Great Potpourri of Prose and Poetry

The Interest Group has created another fascinating program of readings that began life with an early 2013 Fall meeting where the members discussed possible themes. Once a theme was chosen, each member researched and summarized results. sometimes personally writing contributions. Every program focuses on the role of women in some manner and form. This unique program will inspire, inform and entertain! Join us! Banti Winslow and Stephanie Winsor will host.

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Eugene-Lane Branch-The News April 2014

#### Kappy Eaton Scholarship Endowment

LCC reports that since January 2, 2008, when the Endowment was established, \$44,220 in gifts has been received, and \$11,300 in scholarships for students have been awarded during the last six years. The value of the endowment at the end of 2013 was \$55,480. The 2013-2014 Scholarship recipient is Keri Hagler.

#### From Jo's Desk

—Jo Brew. Co-President



While I've been occupied rejoicing in blooming daffodils and tulips, others haven't.

My mailbox is full of ads, reminders about spring housecleaning. Worse, I look out my windows and see the woman across the street is having her windows washed and the carpet cleaning company is two houses down. All good things but I know I'd need to dig myself out from stacks of paper and things I don't use anymore before I could begin any house cleaning project. Maybe early summer

would count as a good time to do the spring housecleaning? Right now my thoughts are certainly more in tune with the trees and flowers in bloom than cleaning.

Yesterday I met with
Rachel, a University of Oregon
student, a leader who is active
in several groups which fit with
our interests. She's a Campus
Ambassador for New
Leadership Oregon, and other
student groups. I am hoping she
will become an Associate
member of our branch even
though she has a pretty full
schedule. She is interested in
going to our convention and
I'm encouraging her.

Of course, I also used the meeting as an excuse to wear my Equal Pay Badge downtown. I've been doing pretty well remembering and it's so attractive, it does get attention. Thank you again Cindy, and thank Cameron for his muscle help, too.

Even though I'm not a fan of walking around in downtown Eugene, I did see some interesting new shops and some that have been attractively updated. I even stopped for a wreath of dried flowers from Passion Flower to hang on my front door. I hadn't been to Passion Flower since it moved from the shop next to

the Railroad station., a very long time ago. It's strange how many people are smiling and friendly as they walk on one of the early days of sunshine. I certainly stayed out to enjoy it longer than I needed to.

During the time while the University was on Christmas break, our oldest son was visiting from Washington, the one who runs marathons for pleasure. He took us on an alumni walking tour of the campus. Strange to think I had four children who went to school there and I still didn't know my way around the campus. I probably would still need to look at a map for some things but I'd be much better with the idea now. (It was also a bit of a surprise I could walk that far, three and a half miles, and still fix dinner when we got home.) If I have occasion to meet with student Rachel again, I might make it at someplace on campus since the bus is her transit.

After I was talking to Rachel about our upcoming joint convention with Washington, I decided I'd better get busy and get my registration sent in as well as check my bookshelves for some mysteries to put in our basket for the silent auction fund raiser. I thought vaguely about choosing clothes but then I heard the weather forecast which was still including snow in the mountains. I'll wait awhile to make plans about what to wear.

With our Readers' Theater program coming at the April meeting, earlier than usual, we'll also be having some longer practices so I really don't see any time to put toward housecleaning right now, regardless of the season. I'll just try not to look at what my neighbors are doing.

### **AAUW Public Policy Update April 2014**

-Kappy Eaton, Public Policy Chair

### STATE OF THE STATE Oregon Assembly, 2014:

Generally speaking, it was both the best and worst of 35 days. When Oregon citizens voted in 2010 to hold annual sessions, the short, even-year meeting was perceived to primarily discuss fiscal adjustments to the biennial budget and a review of possible revisions to laws passed during the longer, odd year session. However, for 2014, each legislator was allowed to introduce two bills, each House and Senate committee, up to three bills, and more than 200 were introduced. Time for discussion in committees was limited; passage in each chamber was hurried; the planned deadline for sine die adjournment had to be extended a week because of bill amendments and disagreements. Adjournment came at 5 p.m., March 7, after a frantic day of consideration and reconsideration of key legislation.

SJR 201 is a proposed Constitutional amendment to add 10 days to the short session and subtract 10 from the longer session. It had a brief hearing in Senate Rules and probably will be discussed during the Interim committee meetings scheduled for May and September. Following are some of the issues brought forward and the final results.

Election Issues. The omnibus proposal for housekeeping changes to Oregon's election system, SB 1504, passed both House and Senate, and then mysteriously was "stuffed" into SB 1515 with an emergency clause added, and re-voted positively at the last minute. The original SB 1515 called for establishing a study committee on the feasibility of electronic voting. It was passed by the Senate, but died in the House Rules committee after a very negative hearing. Among the election changes are allowing electioneering in front of county election offices after hours, allowing the name of a candidate for two positions to appear twice on the ballot, allowing a person submitting an unsigned ballot to remain on the active voter

list, and updating violations that prevent persons from gathering signatures.

Two bills that did not move, but are expected to reappear in 2015, deal with (1) adding defective ballot boards to county elections oversight and (2) increasing additional proof of residency for voter registrations and for the Secretary of State to research how to check all registered voters residency accuracy.

Post-Secondary Education Issues. Students were particularly supportive of HB 4019B which contained a list of significant information to be presented to students prior to enrollment in any Oregon public higher education institution. Included were (1) program requirements; (2) costs of education; (3) average wage or salary; and (4) loan default rates. After discussion in both House and Senate Higher Ed committees, with referral to Ways and Means because of research cost and complexity, the bill was amended twice and passed. It now calls for a general data sheet to be produced, based on research done by various groups across the country.

Just before adjournment, a revised university governance bill, HB 4018B, squeaked through. It provides for the four regional universities to have internal governing boards if they apply before May 15, 2014. Among other items, it allows the commingling of funds between institutions that have boards through a Public University Fund under the jurisdiction of the State Treasurer. HB 4016B allocates the Higher Education Coordinating Committee (HECC) and the Community Colleges/Workforce Development Department \$750,000 from the General Fund to establish a grant program for distributing moneys to community colleges directed to increase the number of low income, first generation college students enrolled and progressing toward degrees or certificates. It is retroactive to July 1, 2013.

SB 1524B requires HECC to determine the viability of allowing Oregon high school graduates or students completing 12 years of study to attend an Oregon community college without paying tuition or fee for a specified period of time. HECC has until September 30, 2014, to

report viability. The commission is to research the possible number of students, the annual cost, possible sources of money, current capacity of community colleges to enroll new students, and criteria for eligibility. If the program is found viable, HECC is to develop criteria to accompany its report.

Fiscal Policy Issues. Some major monetary bills were not decided until the brink of adjournment and some were passed and repassed. Necessary corrections to parts of the "Grand Bargain," enacted during the 2013 Special Session and promised by legislators at the time, are in SB 1534C. Included are changes to the Oregon senior medical tax subtraction, tax treatment for small, domestic international sales corporations, and corrections for the distribution of proceeds from the increased cigarette tax. There were hours of testimony, many Legislative Revenue Office Reports, amendments in both House and Senate committees such as adding exemptions for disabled tax payers and children, 2013 calculations, lowering small business taxes as well as technical "fixes," It passed just before the final budget votes.

SB 5703A was another cliff-hanger with extensive consequences, passing late March 7. Probably best known as the Oregon Health and Science University's (OHSU) cancer center construction bill, with a \$500 million donation from Phil Knight (Nike) at stake, it also went back and forth between sessions of both chambers and considerable work by the Senate Finance and Revenue committee. There are several projects included in the measure, with state-wide implications and economic/medical support beyond Portland and OHSU, as various legislators pointed out. Job creation, clinical trials, medical outreach and protection, as well as an emphasis on minority women contractors are included, benefitting areas such as Beaverton, Cornelius, Stayton and Klamath Falls, among others. One contentious area was the \$200 million bonding authority for OHSU's cancer institute, and the argument by three House opponents that such funding was more needed for schools and

gambling addiction programs. There is a budget note for the Oregon Health Authority to provide oversight.

Aiding low income home owners who are part of the senior property tax deferral program, the interest rate for taxes advanced was changed to 6% per annum from 6% compounded annually in HB 4148.

Various other tax proposals, such as allowing subtractions for workplace wellness program dividends, payment of interest on loans for attending Oregon public higher education institutions, and further increasing the cigarette tax were only briefly considered and left on the cutting room floor.

**Social Policy Issues.** Grants for summer meals programs in schools, HB 4090,was passed along with summer school grants to Title I schools with high poverty rates in HB 4117. Formula changes were made for students in detention and correctional facilities, and for students in the Providence Health Care facility in Portland.

Several bills were directed to deal with the Cover Oregon health insurance program. HB 4122 requires the state to hire consultants for quality assurance and for oversight of Information and Technology projects. HB 4154 extends the enrollment for health insurance through the Cover Oregon website through April, offered protection for whistleblowers, and gave the Governor authority to re-appoint Board members. Other measures will request a federal waiver for children's insurance under Cover Oregon, require reports to the Legislature from Cover Oregon on coverage of diabetes during pregnancy, and extension of the Oregon Medical Insurance Pool until March 31, 2014.

The Oregon Health Authority budget was amended to increase funds for adult residential alcohol and drug treatment, breast and cervical cancer care, dental pilot and home care workers. The Department of Human Services received an increase in Aging and People with Disabilities community programs and transportation. The crop donation tax credit was continued after considerable discussion about its importance

for children in schools and low income families. While the bill to restrict the sale of e-cigarettes to juveniles didn't pass, the larger issue of the use of vapor products will be considered in 2015.

Natural Resources Issues. There were about 50 bills relating to natural resources during this short session, but only a few were followed. During the interim, the Regional Solutions legislation from 2013 was implemented through a series of meetings across the state. HB 4015 was amended to require that natural resource agencies do a plan by July 1 regarding how they will participate in the Regional Solutions program. They will be considering their staffing needs for the 2015 budget cycle, including use of grants and loans programs. An important part of the bill requires the development of a process to provide for public notice, the opportunity for public comment and for consideration of public comment. This includes regional solutions advisory committee meetings and regional implementation project proposals. In addition, \$10 million of Lottery revenue bond proceeds has been allocated for a new Regional Infrastructure Fund housed in the Business Development Department. Eight projects have been approved.

In the transportation area, a Memorial to Congress, HJM 201, asks for expanding improved standards for new and existing crude oil-carrying rail tank cars; HB 4107 encourages use of alternative fuels by providing state-backed loans to private fleets; and HB 4131 replaces per-gallon fuel taxes with a special license fee.

An additional \$5 million in Lottery funds will now go for Clean Energy Works of Oregon, reaching the total of \$10 million allocated by the 2013 session. The one-stop- shopping-whole-house approach to reducing energy usage in homes seeks to broadly replace or augment one measure at a time contracts. HB 4041 extends energy efficient financing options by allowing local governments to facilitate privately funded, tax-lien secured upgrades to commercial and industrial buildings. HB 4126 and HB 4042 easily passed. The first codifies compromises intended to keep attacks on Oregon's Renewable Portfolio

Standard off the 2014 ballot, and the second adds wave energy to the list of net metered energy technologies.

Looking Ahead. Oregon is in the black, with a balanced budget for the remainder of 2013-2015, and the state agencies are putting together their funding requests for 2015-2017. Planning for that biennium's legislative session has already begun with the announcement of deadlines for pre-session filing of legislative bill drafts in September and December. Interim committees will gather in May, and the cycle that defines Oregon's democracy will restart. Next up will be a discussion of the proposed citizen initiatives.

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The 2014-2015 Membership Form is now available on our website for your dues payment.

### Happy April Birthday to.....



Mary Lee Helm Peggy Shippen Maxine Hudgins

#### 3/5/14 Board Meeting Summary

- 1. Convention voting delegates: Jo Brew, Linda Wittorff, Marian Spath
- 2. Ardith Hinman will prepare Mystery Book Basket for Convention, to include treats furnished by Linda Wittorff.
- 3. Pay equity buttons will be featured in a Convention Showcase for Success poster, with montages of branch activities since last Convention.
- 4. Four gift honorees to be honored at Convention because of our \$2,000 support of AAUW Funds.



February 2014

### D.C. Circuit Hears Arguments in *Klay v. Panetta*

On February 14, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit heard arguments in *Klay v. Panetta*, a Legal Advocacy Fund-supported lawsuit brought by survivors of military sexual assault and litigated by attorney Susan Burke. The case was originally filed March 6, 2012, and AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman spoke at the accompanying National Press Club event.

In the suit, the *Klay* plaintiffs allege that U.S. military officials tolerated sexual predators in their ranks and antagonized service members who reported rape, sexual assault, and harassment. The plaintiffs argue that this culture of sexual assault violates their constitutional rights. In early 2013, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia granted the defendants' motion to dismiss the case. The court held that the plaintiffs' injuries were "incident to their military service" and that the court was prevented by legal precedent from ruling on a military matter. Burke then appealed to the D.C. Circuit. Stay tuned for the appeals court's ruling.

### Supreme Court Hears Arguments in McCullen v. Coakley

On January 15, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in *McCullen v. Coakley*, a case testing the constitutionality of buffer zones around reproductive health care clinics. Anti-choice activists filed suit against Massachusetts to challenge a state law designed to protect clinic patients from intimidation and harassment. The law creates a 35-foot buffer zone around reproductive health care clinics that only patients, employees, and their agents may enter, preventing anti-choice protesters from approaching patients as they enter the clinic. The plaintiffs argue that the law violates their free speech rights, claiming

that they are constitutionally entitled to approach patients to offer anti-choice literature and anti-choice counseling. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 1st Circuit upheld the law, and the plaintiffs appealed to the Supreme Court. AAUW signed on to an amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to uphold the law.

We discussed *McCullen* and its potential impact on the rights of women and girls during our <u>Supreme Court call</u> last October. As mentioned then, *McCullen* tests the strength of a case from 2000 in which the Supreme Court upheld a different buffer-zone law. However, since that decision, the makeup of the court has changed significantly — there are four new justices — and the buffer zone mandated by the Massachusetts law is significantly larger than the buffer zone upheld in the 2000 decision. Look for LAF's analysis of the court's ruling later this year.



#### March 21, 2014

There was palpable excitement in the AAUW office (March 20) as we watched President Barack Obama give a speech at a college in Florida. Not only were two AAUW members were in the audience, but an AAUW supporter got to sit down with the president and share her story of balancing work responsibilities while caring for a son with special needs. Very cool indeed!

In his speech, the president <u>talked</u> about equal pay, paid family and medical leave, increasing the minimum wage, and access to higher education. My favorite part was when he called on Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act and "join us in this century." The president's speech launched the WhiteHouse's campaign to draw attention to the needs of women and their families. The Department of Labor's Women's

Bureau will hold a <u>series of events</u> across the country (you'll hear more from us about this soon) that will culminate in a <u>White House Summit on Working Families</u> on June 23.

Rush Limbaugh struck again this week, mocking the idea of a National Women's History Museum. He said that women already have museums – they're "called malls." Limbaugh's comments were inspired by this week's announcement that the House of Representatives will vote this year on bipartisan legislation to create a commission to study the possibilities of a National Women's History Museum on the National Mall.

—The annual Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) <u>survey</u> was released today. There were some surprising <u>results</u> in the data, which was collected from the 2011-12 school year. It showed disparities in high school retention, lack of access to college counselors, and lack of access to preschool for much of the country. The CRDC collects information nationally from every public school.

--Field testing of math and English/language exams tied to Common Core State Standards will begin between March 24 and June 6 in 36 states and the District of Columbia. The exams are a crucial part of assessing what works and what doesn't in Common Core implementation. In further education news, the Oregon State Board of Education last week adopted the Next Generation Science Standards, making them the 10th state to do so.

-- The University Dayton's win over Ohio State might have busted your bracket, but it did not bust AAUW's NCAA March Madness

Bracket. AAUW picked a bracket based upon pay equity-choosing schools with the smallest pay disparity between head coaches of men's and women's teams at the same school. Dayton came closest to pay equity, with the coaches of its women's teams paid 96 percent of what it pays coaches of its men's teams.

### Interest Groups Afternoon Book Group

Third Monday, 2:00 p.m., Contact Betty Kjeldgaard, 541-683-4926. <u>Open</u>

#### 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, 541-544-2944. 1-2 openings.

## The Handy Reminder on how to Introduce AAUW to Prospective Members:

#### **REAP**

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#### Vision

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, 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 nder, 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: (Open) Book Exchange: Ellen Otani Branch Brochure: Wendy Cook Bylaws: Carene Davis-Stitt Calling Committee: Pat Lanier C/U Liaison, UofO: (Open) C/U Liaison, LCC:

Cathy Lindsley
Directory: Judy Greer
Financial Records: Pat Zeller
Historian: Linda McCleary
Hospitality: Jill McCleary
Newsletter: Marian Spath
Nominating Committee:
Carene-Davis Stitt
Ardith Hinman
Carol Hildebrand

Website Manager: Wendy Cook

#### The News

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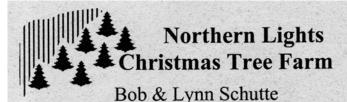


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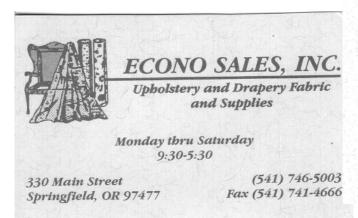




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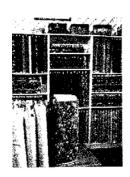
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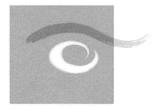
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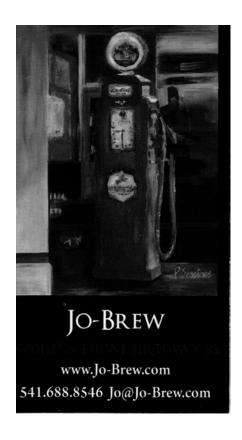
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#### **Meeting Calendar**

Saturday, April 5, 2014, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.,

Women of Achievement Award, Portland

Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 10:00 a.m., Board Meeting

Quail Run Clubhouse All members welcome.

Saturday, April 12, 2014, 9:30 a.m., Branch Meeting Westminster Church

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

Wednesday, May 7, 2014, 10:00 a.m., Board Meeting Quail Run Clubhouse *All members welcome*.

Saturday, May 10, 2014, 9:30 a.m., Branch Meeting Westminster Church