

# Eugene-Lane Branch The News

#### October 2014

http://eugenelane-or.aauw.net

#### Inside this issue:

Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)	2
Public Policy Update	4
Branch Meeting Schedule	7
Board Meeting Schedule	7
Branch Leadership Team	8
Interest and Project Groups	9
A Membership Moment	9



# **Carene's Contemplations**

I just read the following in the AAUW Washington update:

The One Thing You Must Do...

What's your vote for? Equal pay for equal work? College affordability? Access to preventive health care? Safer

campuses? Print this sign, write your answer

in the space provided, take a picture and post

it on Facebook and

#ItsMyVote. Let's get everyone talking about the issues that are driv-

ing us to the polls and make our voices heard.

Twitter with

Vote on November 4.

Register at www.aauwaction.org.

Branch Meeting
Saturday, October 11
Social time: 9:30 am

Business meeting: 10:00 am

Program: approximately 10:30 am



# Judy Greer made a sign and I would love it if we

all make one together at the branch meeting on October 11. I'll bring the signs, pens to write on them and a camera. You bring yourself, and your ideas. We'll take photos, both of us as individuals, and as a group and I'll post them on our branch Facebook page. It will be fun and together we'll make our voices heard.

I want to welcome our two new members Karen Alvarado and Gail Goshert (thank you JoAnn Ellis for bringing her to the September meeting). We agreed that growing our membership is our number one goal this year and we are off to a great start.

Who will you bring to the next meeting?

#### **Discussion of Ballot Measures**

We have invited the community to hear a discussion of the ballot measures we will be voting on in November.

It will be a "conversation" presented by Kappy Eaton, Carol Hildebrand and Barbara Carter at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 777 Coburg Rd. in Eugene. It is free and open to the public, so bring your friends and neighbors.

Eugene-Lane Branch

# Moshak v. University of Tennessee: **Discrimination Too Common in College**

#### **Athletics** (from the AAUW website)

Women's sports have come a long way since Title IX, but a lawsuit from former University of Tennessee staff shows that we are still grappling with gender gaps in university athletics. AAUW is proud to support the case through our Legal Advocacy Fund.

#### The Story behind Moshak

Jennifer Moshak, Heather Mason, and Collin Schlosser are former employees of the University of Tennessee's women's athletic department. In 2012, they filed suit against the university, alleging sex discrimination and unlawful retaliation under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the Equal Pay Act of 1963. The plaintiffs claim they were unlawfully discriminated against and eventually forced out of their positions during a university-led merger of the men's and women's athletic departments.

Schlosser and Mason argue in part that they were fired by UT after making internal complaints alleging unequal pay between men's and women's athletic department employees. Moshak claims she was forced to retire after being demoted and marginalized. The plaintiffs also say that during the merger, which was led by newly hired Athletic Director Dave Hart, the vast majority — 86 percent — of positions terminated either were held by women or were associated with the women's athletic department.

"The University of Tennessee and its athletic director, Dave Hart, engaged in blatantly discriminatory and retaliatory actions against accomplished employees in the women's athletic department, in violation of Title IX and other federal laws," said the plaintiffs' attorney, Lisa Banks of Katz, Marshall, and Banks, a civil rights law firm in Washington, D.C. "Gender discrimination is unfortunately a situation that is all too common in collegiate athletic departments across the country today, and we intend to use all the tools at our disposal to hold the university accountable and to shed light on this pervasive problem."

The case is currently scheduled to go to trial in June 2015 in the U.S. District Court for Eastern Tennessee. AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund began supporting the case in 2014.

#### Why Moshak Matters

Although equity in athletics wasn't a primary goal of Title IX, the gains in women's sports have been some of the most widely recognized examples of gender equity success. Since Title IX was passed more than 40 years ago, women's participation in

college sports has increased by more than 600 percent.

Yet gender discrimination in sports remains a significant problem, for athletes as well as for coaches and administrators who support women's athletics. The Moshak plaintiffs shared a professional commitment to women's athletics at a school — the University of Tennessee — that has a rich history of excellence in women's sports. If the plaintiffs' claims are vindicated in this case, we face the sobering reality that gender discrimination in athletics persists, even at schools where female athletes have achieved great success.

Significantly, the Moshak plaintiffs' allegations go beyond discrimination against women in the workplace. They also challenge the university's treatment of women's sports staff, both male and female. Those allegations speak to a deep level of potential institutionalized discrimination when it comes to valuing women's sports and women athletes.

### **AAUW Members and Supporters Make It** Possible Through Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)

The Legal Advocacy Fund works to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. Our resources range from community outreach programs to backing of major cases.



Eugene-Lane Branch will be distributing our fundraising letter for Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) and Educational Funding (EF) to members in November. Please contribute what you can.

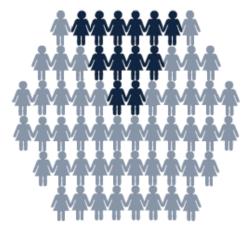
#### **Educational Funding (EF) and Awards**

AAUW has a long and distinguished history of advancing educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States and around the globe.

One of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women, AAUW is providing more than \$3.7 million in funding for more than 244 fellowships and grants to outstanding women and non-profit organizations in the 2014–15 academic year. Due to the longstanding, generous contributions of AAUW members, a broader community of women continues to gain access to educational and economic opportunities — breaking through barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Fellowship and grant recipients perform research in a wide range of disciplines and work to improve their schools and communities. Their intellect, dedication, imagination, and effort promise to forge new paths in scholarship, improve the quality of life for all, and tackle the educational and social barriers facing women worldwide.

20% of U.S. College Women Are Victims of Attempted or Actual Sexual Assault



Source: U.S. Justice Department

# Keeping Our Girls Safe : Challenging Rape Culture on College Campuses

Excerpt from article by Darlene Freidman. To read the full story visit: http://www.liveyourdream.org/yourdream.html

One in five women will be sexually assaulted during their time in college, usually by someone they know.

Most won't report it for fear of victim blaming, retribution, or because they are embarrassed or feel guilty. Many find it difficult to continue their education. Given our sexualized culture of disrespect, the report didn't particularly shock me. What did surprise me is the lengths to which universities have gone to cover up their problem and protect the guilty parties (often high ranking athletes). That is unconscionable.

# So what can we do to further prepare our young women?

Continue to relay fundamental safety information: Use common sense. Don't go out alone. Don't leave a party or bar with someone you don't know, avoid situations where a lot of drinking is occurring and never leave a drink unattended. Trust your intuition: if it doesn't feel right, don't do it.

- Research potential college choices to determine their handling of sexual assaults.
- Encourage our daughters and sons to create a campus culture where women are valued and protected.
- Use our power as donors, or would-be donors, to demand accountability.
- Hold college administrations responsible for creating clear and simple processes to address sexual violence and protect women on their campuses.





#### **AAUW PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE KAPPY FATON**

October 2014

AAUW OREGON has new Public Policy Chair. Filling the several-year vacancy is Trish Garner, a member of Astoria Branch, now living in Portland. She is an attorney by profession.

The AAUW Washington Update contains the disturbing news that Congress spent just two weeks in DC after the August recess, and then adjourned with no plans to return after the November election. It has been four years since AAUW and many other groups asked Congress to fix the Citizens United decision giving person rights to corporations. The Senate did debate for the first time the Constitutional amendment to enact meaningful campaign finance reform, as well as the Paycheck Fairness Act – with no success.

Congress did not raise the minimum wage, allow some ability to refinance student loans, reverse the discriminatory and harmful reproductive health care decision from the Supreme Court in the Hobby Lobby case nor deal with immigration issues and higher education needs. Probably worse, they only funded the government through December and haven't passed a timely budget

since 1997. There is a lot on the plate for the new Congress and for AAUW advocacy come 2015.

#### STATE OF THE STATE

September Economic Forecast. Will the Kicker law actually be in play at the end of the 2013-15 biennium? While the state's revenue picture still shows relatively slow, but continuing growth, the possibility of enough personal income tax dollars coming in to exceed the 2% projected ending balance for June 30, 2015, still is a threat. The corporate income revenue is expected to exceed the projection, and by law it will now go into the General Fund for public education. The Legislature has had several proposals for a constitutional amendment to change the allocation of the excessive personal income tax revenue, but has refused to refer any to voters. When the last overprojection occurred in 2009, \$900 million was returned to taxpayers as the Great Recession began. The state is still recovering. Oregonians amended the constitution in 2012 to revert the corporate revenue. Stay tuned for the December forecast, coming in late November.

October 2014 Page 5

Voting Reform: How the West is Winning. The conference, put on by Common Cause Colorado, was attended by between 50 and 60 election officials, national research institutions including the Pew Charitable Trusts, Rockefeller Brothers Fund and The Brennan Center for Justice, Legal Center for Older Adults and People with Disabilities, Common Cause directors/board members, and representatives of such organizations as the League of Women Voters, Democracy Fund, America Votes, ACLU, AFL, AFSCME, and the Bus Project. Two Secretaries of State, Kate Brown of Oregon and Kim Wyman of Washington, were speakers, and the states represented were Oregon, California, Washington, New Mexico, Illinois, Arizona, Montana, and Colorado.

Exciting, passionate, informational, and timely are a few words to describe the content of the panel presentations. Western states are using online voter registration, vote by mail, new technologies, surveys, TV ads, and voter education tools to get more citizens signed up to vote and actually voting. Their participation rates are going up. Several also are registering both 16 and 17 year olds and keeping them informed while they are waiting to be 18. Secretary Brown indicated she will introduce again in the 2015 legislative session the bills to modernize voter registration and registration of 16 year olds. These can now be backed up by data from other western states. She also is going to introduce campaign finance proposals to limit both contributions and spending as well as the necessary constitutional amendment to allow limits.

One of the most interesting aspects of the conference was the demographics of the attendees. Very few were in their 50s, a couple were over 60, and the vast majority were in their 30s and

40s. These are the energetic leaders working in the citizen participation organizations and heading up the county and state election offices. The problems of voting that affect the disabled and the language barriers of ballots and issue education for minorities are found in all of the states and are being addressed in various days, but adequate funding is scarce. However, overall, the future for improved citizen participation in our part of the U.S. looks pretty positive.

September Interim Legislative Days. The Interim committees of the Legislature met September 15, 16 and 17 to continue the May discussions of issues considered to be priorities for the 2015 regular session. Reports were received from the many task forces established in 2013 and 2014, with early recommendations for legislative action in 2015. Bills will be drafted in December and January for decisions by the committees and individual members before the Legislature convenes for business in February. Following are some of the key areas:

E-Cigarettes: There is expected legislation for both regulation and taxation on the vapor-type products that contain nicotine. Sales now are above combustible cigarettes and the profits are growing. There are few studies on the harmful effects of the drug itself other than addiction, but concern is for use by minors.

Clean Air Tax/Fee: The Northwest Economic Research Center at Portland, State University reported on the current aspects of its study regarding taxation of carbon gas emissions. Legislation is expected with consideration of revenue from a fee or taxes, its impact on business and citizens, environmental issues, and a revenue neutral model, among others. The final report is due in December.

Retirement Security: The State Treasurer has led a task force reviewing the financial readiness of Oregonians for retirement. His report painted a dismal picture, with more than 50% having but \$25,000 in retirement savings at the top, and many much lower than that. Legislation will be introduced calling for voluntary participation in a savings plan through employment, no employer mandated contribution, portable, and with a state board accountability and oversight.

Strategic Investment Project (SIP): The state has made funding available to counties and cities that partner with private corporations for development projects leading to the creation of significant jobs having family wage incomes. The development funds allow the local governments to grant property tax relief to the developers. The Legislature's Revenue committees heard reports from Washington County and the City of Hillsboro about the Intel SIP and will consider possible changes in 2015.

Voter Registration: Proposals to allow automatic voter registration through the Department of Motor Vehicles driver's license process, with passage to the Secretary of State's office, and to allow 16 year olds to pre-register will be introduced again after failure to pass in 2013.

Mental Health: It is expected that the state Mental Health system will see proposed revisions in processes and procedures since no new housing for clients has been developed after a sizeable appropriation of new funding to the Department of Human Services in 2013, and the acute shortage of crisis treatment beds across the state.

Judicial Selection: There will be legislation introduced to consider the method by which Oregon Appeals court judges are selected. Currently, they are appointed by the Governor and must run for the office at the next appropriate election cycle. With the advent of big money judicial campaigns to influence decisions in pending corporate law suits (Ohio and West Virginia, etc.), a coalition of professional and knowledgeable citizens, with legislative support, is having a bill drafted to consider options, such as a commission

Natural Resources: There continue to be a growing number of issues in this extensive area. Some of those include rivers, land use development, regional solutions (11 state regions), clean air (carbon emissions), timber, and the increasing costs for firefighting.

There will be more Legislative Days December 8-10. The Legislature will formally convene on January 12, meet for three days in organizing for the session, and start the regular session February 2.

Have you saved any clippings from the Register-Guard, or other newspaper, about our branch activities or programs?

If so, please let me know. We are collecting them for our scrapbook. Thanks...Carene

## The News

is published monthly, September through June, by AAUW Eugene-Lane Branch. It is distributed to members by e-mail or regular mail.

<u>Deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month, August through May.</u> Items are to be submitted to the editor by that date.

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October 2014 Page 7

# **Monthly Branch Meeting Schedule**

Monthly program information is available in the branch newsletter and on the website http://eugenelane-or.aauw.net/Newsletter.

October 11, 2014 **November 8, 2014 December 13, 2014 Holiday Brunch** January 10, 2015 February 14, 2015 March 14, 2015 April 11, 2015 May 9, 2015 **Annual Meeting** June 13, 2015 Readers' Theatre



# **Monthly Board Meeting Schedule**

Board meetings are held on Tuesdays at 11:30 am at the Falcon Wood Village Clubhouse, 1475 Green Acres Rd., Eugene. All members are welcome.

October 28 April 7 May 5 January 6 February 10 Iune 9 March 10

Jo Brew, our new Advertising Manager, needs business cards that you gather from those places you frequent. Just hand her the cards—she does all the rest!

The Out-to-Lunch Bunch will be meeting Wednesday, Oct. 8 at 11:30. Contact Betty Kjeldgaard if you'd like to join the group. (541) 683-4926 The plan is to meet at Rye, the restaurant near the Ferry St. bridge, 444 E 3rd St, Eugene, OR 97401



#### **BRANCH LEADERSHIP TEAM**

#### **Board Officers**

President: Carene Davis-Stitt
Program Vice-President: Cindy Parker

Membership Co-Vice-President: Linda Wittorff,

Sharon Beverly

Finance Vice-President: Stephanie Winsor

Communications Vice-President: Elleen Levy
Recording Secretary: Linda McCleary
AAUW Funds Co-Chairs: Ardith Hinman

Patricia Lanier

Public Policy: Kappy Eaton

#### **Member Chairs**

Advertising & Branch Fundraiser: Jo Brew
Book Exchange: Ellen Otani
Branch Brochure: Wendy Cook
Bylaws: Peggy Shippen
Calling Committee: Judy Greer

Directory: Carene Davis-Stitt

Financial Records:

Historian:

Hospitality:

LCC C/U Representative:

Looking Glass Outreach:

Pat Zeller

Gorgie Hofma

Jill McCleary

Cathy Lindsley

Pat Lanier

Newsletter: Carene Davis Stitt Nominating Committee: Carol Hildebrand,

Ardith Hinman

Website Manager: Wendy Cook Reader Board: Marian Spath

#### 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 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





October 2014

## **Interest and Project Groups**

Branch members are invited to join any group. Please call the contact person for details. If you're interested in forming a new group, please contact the branch president.

# **Afternoon Book Group**—3rd Monday at 2:00 p.m.

Meets in homes of members. Contact Betty Kjeldgaard, 541-683-4926

# **Alpha Bridge**—Every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

Willamalane Senior Activity Center, Springfield. Contact Ardith Hinman, 541-747-4310

## **Fourth Tuesday Bridge Group**

at 1:00 p.m.

Contact Donna Pierce, 541-344-3365

#### **Out and Abouters**

Contact Linda Wittorff, lindaatex@yahoo.com, 541-844-1422

#### **Out-to-Lunch Bunch**

Contact Carol Hildebrand, carodane@aol.com, 541-344-4267

#### Readers' Theatre

Contact Barbara Carter, 541-554-2944



# **Check your voting status**

You are most likely already registered to vote, but it doesn't hurt to <u>make sure your voter</u> <u>registration is current</u>. Maybe you moved recently, changed your name, or haven't voted in a few years. Check your registration in advance so you're not surprised when you don't receive a mail ballot.

Once you've checked your registration, you're all set —but what about your friends and family?

## A Membership Moment....

We want to welcome three new members: Karen Alvarado, Gail Goshert, and renewing member, Lynette Saul.

Take a moment to introduce yourself to them when you see them at a meeting--it's such a welcoming personal touch!

Karen Alvarado, PhD Stanford & University of Oregon

Gail Goshert Susquehanna University

Lynette Saul *University of Oregon*  Page 10 Eugene-Lane Branch

# **Our Sponsors**

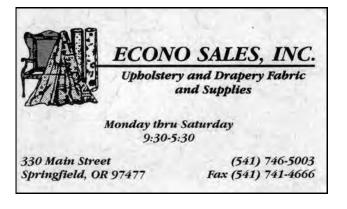
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October 2014 Page 11





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# MARY KAY

\*Based on recently published skin care/color cosmetics sales data

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