

June 2015

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

AAUW Eugene-Lane Branch Meeting

Saturday, June 13

Westminster Presbyterian Church
777 Coburg Road, Eugene.

Social time: 9:30 am
Business Meeting: 10:00 am
Program: 10:30 am

Hostesses: Gorgie Hofma & Barbara Carter

READERS' THEATRE PRESENTATION

Our June program will be our Readers' Theatre presentation which will be performed by the members. They will read their own prose along with the prose of others. The presentation will be entitled "Contemplations," and it will be dedicated to Pat Lanier, who was a long time member, featuring some of her writings.

This event is free, and all are welcome. For more information, call Cindy at 541-344-4572.



Pat Lanier



Readers' Theatre Group, left to right: Carol Miller, Barbara Carter, Peg Emery, Jo Brew, Cindy Parker and Kappy Eaton.

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AAUW PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

Kappy Eaton—June 2015

AAUW OREGON 2015 LOBBY DAY

A successful day of hearing about legislative issues and visiting legislators was hosted in the Capitol on May 12 by AAUW Public Policy chair, Trish Garner, and Lobby Day chair, Liz Estabrooks. More than 30 AAUW members participated along with 12 students from Western Oregon University. They were accompanied by their instructor, Doris Cancel-Tirado, an assistant professor in the Division of Health and Exercise Science, who is teaching their class on women's health. House Speaker Representative Tina Kotek was the keynote speaker at the beginning of the day.

Senator Betsy Johnson led a discussion about the legislative process in Oregon, a much more open system than in other state legislatures. An excellent panel on Economic and Financial Security included presentations from Dr. Bobbie Weber, a Faculty Research Associate in Public Health and Human Services at Oregon State University, Paloma Sparks, Legislative Director for the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, and Lili Haug, Policy Director of Family Forward. They covered the issues of student child care financial assistance (lacking), paid sick leave, and pay equity problems in Oregon, respectively, and provided lively discussion.

Current status of selected Women's Health and Wellness bills, including family and children:

SB 525B that prohibits firearms possession or ammunition to persons who have a court order regarding an intimate partner or child or a conviction of harm to a family member was passed by the Senate Rules committee May 19 to the Senate floor with a "do pass" recommendation.

HB 2007, which makes it an employer crime to discriminate against an employee who requests wage information or who files a wage complaint, passed the House, 34-24, passed to the Senate floor May 20 from the Senate Workforce committee.

HB 2006, pay equity, is still in the House Business and Labor committee and will "die" if it isn't moved by May 22.

HB 759, which requires both public and private universities and colleges to adopt sexual assault protocol, has passed the Senate and has been sent to the House Higher Education and Workforce Development committee, and is expected to pass the House.

SB 492 which allows the use of sick or vacation by victims of sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence, or harassment passed the Senate 28-0, and is expected to pass the House.

UPDATES FOR OTHER LEGISLATIVE CONCERNS

Increased Dollars in Revenue Forecast

On May 14, the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis and the Legislative Revenue Office released the June, 2015 revenue forecast on which the Legislature will base its adopted budget for the 2015-17 biennia. While the figures could change between now and the final calculations after June 30, there is a predicted 10.4% growth in the state's revenue from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 15. Looking at personal income and corporate tax returns, lottery resources and others, the projected 2015-17 biennial revenue is \$17,488.4 billion. That is welcome news along with the increase in employment and some movement upward in wages. The economic uptick is finally taking place across the state with rural areas showing improvement.

The state's reserve funds have grown substantially. The estimated Rainy Day Fund is \$212 Million. The Education Stability Fund is estimated at \$179.3 million. With addition of reserves in the General Fund, the projected reserves total \$894.7

On the downside, the more than 2% increase in revenue from the projection in 2013, will trigger the kicker, amounting to a projected \$477.5 million return to personal income taxpayers.

It will come in the form of a tax credit when individuals file their 2015 tax forms in April, 2016. The corporate surplus, over projected income, of \$61.3 million will go into the General Fund, dedicated to K-12 education spending for 2015-17 as mandated in the constitutional amendment removing the money from corporation return.

As might be expected, there are urgent calls from higher education presidents requesting additional budget dollars, social services programs with increased needs, expiring or new tax credits seeking funding, and new proposals asking to be included in the mix. When the \$7.25 billion K-12 budget was passed earlier, there was a hue and cry of a \$200 million inadequacy which prompted legislative leadership to state that if there was a surplus, 40% would be added to the total. Between that and the \$61 million from the corporate kicker, K-12 looks better, but still will lead to teacher and program cuts.

Rumors abound around the Capitol, and a current one is that in the Capitol backrooms, negotiations are going on regarding an end-of-session Omnibus bill. Now that an increased revenue projection has been made, a number of items on the back burner (so to speak) may move on a priority list. There also is a likely conflict growing between those legislators who want to save and those who want to spend as well as on the priorities.

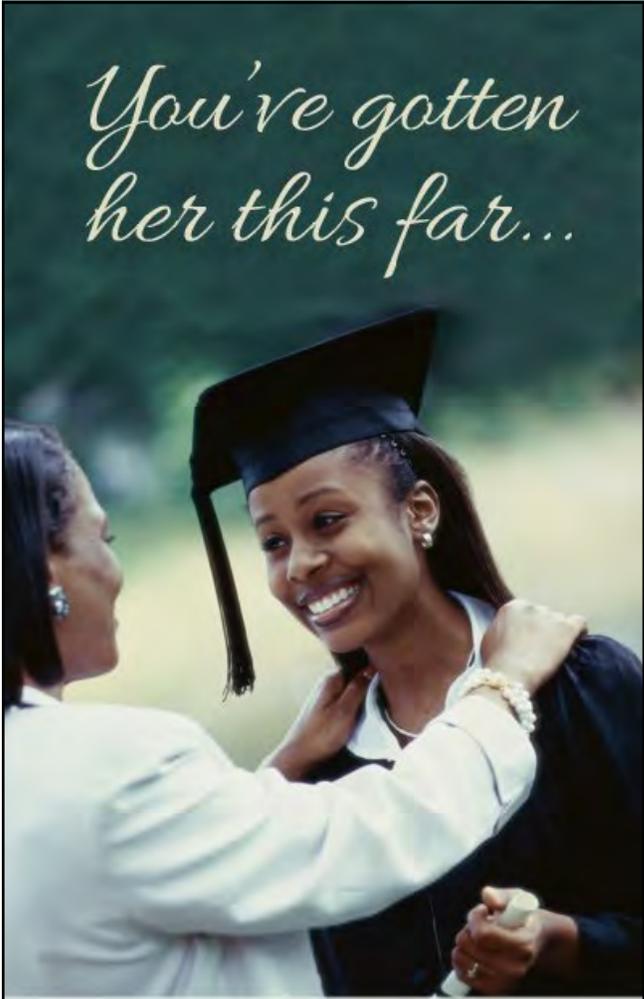
National Popular Vote Compact, HB 3475, passed the House, 37-21, on May 18. It received bi-partisan support, and probably will be referred to the Senate Rules committee. When implemented, the Compact would ensure that every vote cast across the 50 states and D.C. would count and the candidate receiving the most votes would be elected.

Two Redistricting bills have passed from the Senate Rules committee to the Senate floor. SB 331 directs the Dept. of Correction to determine the last-known address of inmates so the Secretary of State can add the individuals to the populations of those places for the purpose of the census. HB 2974 A requires that 10 public hearings throughout the state must be held on congressional or state legislative reapportionment plans.

SB 9, which passed the Senate unanimously, was heard in House Rules May 13, but no action was taken. It directs the Secretary of State to conduct a Performance audit of state agency public records retention and disclosure practices, with analysis and recommendations on specified criteria by November 15. Agency public records are important to the public's right to know, and an overhaul is critical.

The definition of "public official" is changed in HB 2020 to include the First Partner, State Treasurer, Attorney General, Secretary of State and the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industry, and it prohibits any acceptance of money or other consideration for speaking or presentation engagements. The House Rules committee held a hearing with no action on May 13.

HB 3470 A is a comprehensive climate change bill. It would require that the Environmental Quality Commission adopt rules regarding the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits for years 2020 and 2050, with interim rules every five years. The Commission must adopt a plan and a program to ensure that the statewide emissions limits are being met. The Department of Environmental Quality would administer the plan and program with required regulations and reporting. Timelines are established for adoption of the various rules. Two work sessions have been held in the House Rules committee after initial hearings.



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Out to Lunch Bunch

We will be going to The Indulge, 1461 Mohawk in Springfield on Wednesday, June 10, at 11:30 am. Set in the center of a 9,500 square foot eclectic vintage and antique store, the eatery is surrounded by everything from beautiful antique cabinets, dressers and dining sets to clothing, shoes and jewelry. Some of the tables have lovely enormous crystal chandeliers hanging above them, while all have lit candles and eye-catching centerpieces. Completed and mismatched dining sets, both new and vintage, create a welcoming, fun and casual environment.

The menu includes soups, salads, sandwiches, paninis, quiches and desserts. Beverages include sodas, teas, espressos, mochas and lattes, and wine and beer.

Indulge actually faces onto 18th Street, but you can turn by Wendy's on Mohawk and go to the back group of businesses. Hope you can join us. Please RSVP to Barbara Gault at barbcookgault@yahoo.com or 541-746-0916.



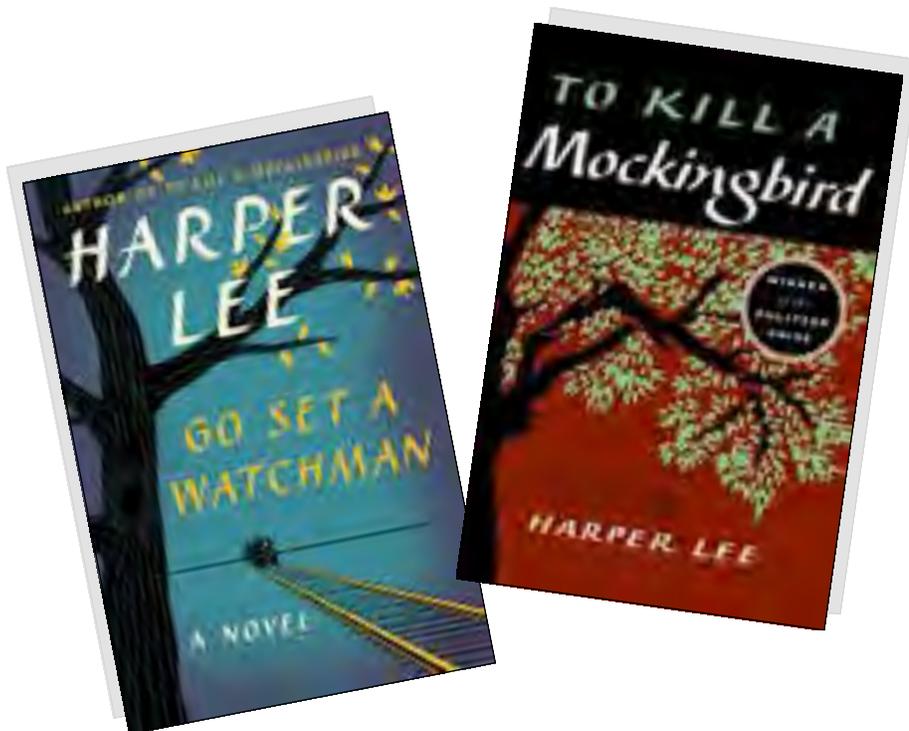
Congratulations to Dr. Carol E. Marusich

AAUW Eugene-Lane Branch member, Carol E. Marusich, OD, MS, FCOVD has been awarded the 2015 G.N. German Award by the College of Optometrists in Vision Development. The *Eugene Register Guard* reported March 3, 2015, that she has been honored for “her excellence in developmental optometry, her work as COVD International Examination and Certification board chairwoman, and her contributions to the profession and her community.” Not only does our member have a private practice in Eugene, she is an adjunct faculty member of Pacific University College of Optometry.



BOOK CLUB SUMMER READING

The Book Club is going to read (reread) To Kill A Mockingbird this summer, and when Harper Lee's new (old?) novel, Go Set a Watchman, comes out July 14, we are going to read it, too.





Carene's Contemplations

As our branch year comes to an end, I've been thinking about service. There is an article on the AAUW website about the founding

of AAUW and the two women who paved the way for the rest of us to benefit from higher education and enhanced professional careers. It is so inspiring that I have included it in this newsletter.

Speaking of service, thank you to those of you who make the existence of our branch possible through your service as officers, board members and committee chairs. And special thanks to Gail Goshert for creating this issue of the newsletter.

Our two newly-elected officers are:

Membership Vice-President: Jo Brew

Communications Vice-President: Elleen Levy

We are still in need of a Recording Secretary, so please let me know if you are able to assume this important (but not difficult) position.

At our annual meeting we also voted to pursue partnering with Lane Community College to secure a grant and put on a Tech Savvy event next year. Tech Savvy is a daylong science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) career conference designed to

attract girls in sixth through ninth grade to these fields and to inform families about STEM education and careers. Although the program focuses on exciting girls about STEM, Tech Savvy also includes an important program for parents. This component encourages families to reinforce the girls' interest in STEM. Kudos to Cindy Parker for volunteering to serve as the liaison in this effort! Stay tuned for more information and opportunities to get involved.

Remember to pay your AAUW dues soon and send me any changes to your contact information for the directory. I hope you have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Carene



TechSavvy
by AAUW

She Earned the First Chemistry Degree Awarded to a Woman (and Then Founded AAUW!) from www.aauw.org



Around AAUW, we have all seen the iconic image of a 24-year-old Marion Talbot standing proudly in her cap and gown, recently graduated from Boston University and ready to found the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (November 28, 1881). But Talbot is only half the story. It's time we start paying attention to her counterpart, Ellen Swallow Richards.

Richards was nearly 40 years old when she and Talbot founded AAUW — they were born one generation apart.

We know about the barriers

that Talbot faced in pursuit of her education; imagine what they must have been for her older mentor and teacher. Still, at a time when women were largely barred from higher education, Richards earned a chemistry degree, worked on clean water treatment and pollution, and even founded the first home ec and school lunch programs.

Richards was born December 3, 1842, in Dunstable, Massachusetts, to parents who valued education for both girls and boys. Between tutoring and housecleaning jobs, she saved the \$300 she needed for tuition and enrolled at Vassar College in 1868, where she earned her bachelor's degree in just two years — becoming the first U.S. woman to be awarded a degree in chemistry.

Desiring to continue her studies, she applied to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The administration admitted her, but only as a “special student,” making it known that her admission would in no way serve as a precedent for other women to attend. According to the online Vassar Encyclopedia, “Her entrance to MIT was not easy; many institutions turned her down on the basis of her sex, and MIT declined all women applicants except for Richards, accepting her as a special student to ascertain women's ability in the sciences.”

Richards completed the requirements for a master's degree but MIT refused to grant it to her, so Vassar awarded it instead. She then completed all of the requirements for her doctorate but never received the degree.

Despite these obstacles, Richards stayed connected with MIT. In 1876, with the help of the Women's Educational Association of Boston, she established the Woman's Laboratory at MIT and worked as an assistant instructor (without pay). Through the Woman's Laboratory, she fulfilled her dream of encouraging other women to study science and provided an entry point for their training. At the lab, women were taught chemistry, biology, and mineralogy. Marion Talbot was one of Richards' students.

From 1884 to 1911, Richards taught at the Massachusetts State Board of Health's Lawrence Experiment Station, where she conducted studies on water quality. She researched causes of water pollution, and her work resulted in the establishment of the first modern sewage treatment plant.

Richards is also credited with creating the field of home economics, and she wrote many books and manuals on the topic. With her colleagues, she organized a series of conferences at Lake Placid, New York, which resulted in the formation of the American Home Economics Association in 1909 with Richards as its first president. She was also behind the nation's first school lunch program, started in Boston in 1894.

Richards remained active with AAUW until her death in 1911. At the 25th anniversary meeting in 1907 she was still going strong, speaking on “Desirable Tendencies in Professional and Technical Education for Women.” In that speech she reflected on the progress that had been made in the previous 25 years, nothing that “into the newer lines of investigation of pure and applied science, women were going in rapidly increasing numbers.” She continued, “To whom shall we look more confidently for leadership in constructive work, for social and national betterment, than to the professionally and technically trained women now coming onto the stage?”

We think she'd be pleased to see all the talented women coming onto the stage these days.



BRANCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Board Officers

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Membership Vice-President:	Jo Brew
Finance Vice-President:	Stephanie Winsor
Communications Vice-President:	Elleen Levy
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	Alternate: JoAnn Ellis
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Reader Board:	Marian Spath

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

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

The News

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

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

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Ad Manager: Jo Brew, 541-688-8546
Jo@Jo-Brew.com

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 Monday Bridge Group

at 1:00 p.m.

Contact Donna Pierce, 541-344-3365

Out-to-Lunch Bunch

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

Readers' Theatre

Contact Barbara Carter, 541-554-2944



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.

June 9

Monthly Branch Meeting Schedule

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

June 13, 2015—Readers' Theatre



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