

October 2015

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

AAUW Eugene-Lane Branch Meeting

EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY LEVY — WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Saturday, October 10th

Westminster Presbyterian Church
777 Coburg Road, Eugene

Social time: 9:30 am

Hostesses: Linda McCleary & Jill McCleary

Business meeting: 10:00 am

Speaker: 10:30 am

On November 3, Eugene voters will be asked to decide about a proposed operating levy for Eugene Public Library (EPL) programs and services. The proposed levy would be in addition to the current EPL budget and would provide more hours and access, more programs for all ages (especially for early childhood literacy) and more books and technology. The levy would be for four years. Hear more about the levy and current EPL services from branch member Carol Hildebrand at our branch meeting on Saturday, October 10.

Carol serves on the Eugene Public Library Foundation board of directors. She is a retired librarian, spending her career in public libraries in Minnesota and Oregon. She served Eugene Public Library for almost 20 years, first as Assistant City Librarian, then as Library Services Director. She was active in the Oregon Library Association, the Pacific Library Association and the American Library Association. Current memberships include the American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters, the Friends of Eugene Public Library and First United Methodist Church. Interests include reading (mysteries!), singing, and beginning quilting.



Carol Hildebrand is a retired librarian, spending her career in public libraries in Minnesota and Oregon. She served Eugene Public Library for almost 20 years, first as Assistant City Librarian, then as Library Services Director. She was active in the Oregon Library Association, the Pacific Library Association and the American Library Association. Current memberships include the American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters, the Friends of Eugene Public Library and First United Methodist Church. Interests include reading (mysteries!), singing, and beginning quilting.

Note: The deadline to register to vote, or change your registration, is October 13. If you have moved, changed your name or wish to change your party affiliation, you need to re-register. (This counts even if you have just moved across the hall!)



Carene's Contemplations

Fall is officially here and the days are getting cooler, but our AAUW Eugene-Lane Branch is just warming up. What an exciting branch meeting program we had last month! We were even mentioned in the Register-Guard article about Rep. Val Hoyle's talk. Kudos to Program VP Cindy Parker!

I've been thinking about how AAUW impacts our lives as Oregonians. As I was scanning through the AAUW website I found the information below:

AAUW'S ADVOCACY IMPACT IN OREGON — Fiscal Year 2014

AAUW members are eager to educate citizens and lawmakers about the results of our research and the policies needed to advance our mission. From informing voters about the issues, to registering new voters, to advocating for or against proposed legislation, AAUW is there.

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AAUW + Advocacy = Real Change!

- AAUW Action Fund Lobby Corps made 10 visits to members of Congress from Oregon.
- AAUW public policy staff provided materials for 22 events in Oregon, including 18 Equal Pay Day events.
- Oregonians sent 7,615 messages to Congress and the president through the Two-Minute Activist tool.
- Provided free access to state Salsa platform (online fundraising, advocacy and communications software) to Oregon and training to Oregon leaders.
- Volunteers earned an AAUW Impact Grant, an award of \$1,000 and extra, devoted policy staff resources, to focus on equal pay and paid sick days in Oregon. This Impact Grant was shared with Washington (each state received \$500).

Members of our branch participated in at least the first three bullet points. Good for us!

Don't you feel enthused about all the progress Peggy and the CHiPS committee Kappy Eaton, Carol Miller, Marian Spath, Gorgie Hofma are making on that project? I sure do!

I want to recognize Carol Miller, Peggy Shippen and Banti Winslow for their efforts in the distribution of Title IX materials to schools.

Thank you for making us all look good!



Out-to-Lunch Bunch

On Wednesday, October 14 at 11:30 AM, the Out-to-Lunch Bunch will meet at the Olive Garden across from Valley River Mall at 1077 Valley River Drive. Please call or e-mail Jo Brew at 541-688-8546 or Jo-Brew@Jo-Brew.com for a probably count.

Branch Newsletter Article

October 2015

Peggy Shippen, CHiPS Chair

The Civics, History and Political Science (CHiPS) Committee has been busy this month. Here's a quick run-down of what we've been doing.

Two members have volunteered to do CHiPS information gathering interviews with Instruction Coordinators. Cindy Parker will go to Fern Ridge School District. Wendy Cook will team up with Carol Miller and go to Bethel School District. Peggy will be meeting with Kevin Ricker at Springfield School District.

Last Saturday, Peggy, as guest speaker for the Salem Branch Fall Kick-off, gave a Power Point presentation on CHiPS. Two Salem branch members volunteered to conduct information-gathering interviews with two Salem school districts. Peggy was also asked to speak about CHiPS at the Salem League of Women Voters Fall Brunch on Saturday the 27th.

Salem branch member, Gloria Holland, suggested branches put together an Age-

Appropriate CHiPS Booklist. She will start a list for the Salem branch – a low-keyed contribution for an otherwise busy gal. Anyone who is so inspired to do this for Eugene-Lane – just let Peggy know.

Salem branch president, Micki Varney, suggested contacting the House Rep in representing W. Salem some of S. Salem, Monmouth & Independence, Paul Evans. Kappy and Peggy hope to get appointments on September 29 during Legislative Days with him and Jennifer Williams House Majority Leader to chat with them about increasing civics requirements for graduation.

Val Hoyle's photographer, Mary Walston, was also at the branch meeting. Mary happens to also be a member of the 4J School Board. After the meeting, she asked Peggy to make a 3-min info speech about CHiPS to that Board at the September 23rd board meeting.

Wendy Cook is hosting a meeting of CHiPS committee members, Carene, Marian, Kappy and Peggy, to share suggestions for putting our CHiPS activities on the branch website.



AAUW PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

October 2015 — Kappy Eaton

STATE OF THE STATE

Education is not on the radar screen for the upcoming 2016 Legislative session. It also is not part of the growing list of possible initiative proposals. While the 2015-17 Biennial Budget provides \$7.4 billion for public K-12 educational services and programs, an additional \$2 billion is needed. About 25% of that could have been available if the Kicker law had not been activated (see below). That will be political fodder for the 2026 election from both parties, and perhaps the Independent party which is now the third major party. The agendas for the various Interim committees during Legislative Days (see below) have not been released so there is no information available yet as to whether K-12, community colleges and four year institutions will be discussed.

Oregon's Fiscal Curse:

The Kicker strikes again – this time for \$402 million at the close of the 2013-15 biennia June 30. State personal income taxpayers can claim a share of the “tax surplus” as a tax credit when filing their Oregon 2015 tax return. However, the corporate surplus of \$79.1 million will go into K-12 education funding as now provided in the Oregon Constitu-

tion by a vote taken in 2012. However, by returning the personal tax dollars, almost a half a billion dollars is lost for education, human services and public safety programs.

The Kicker law was enacted by the 1979 Legislature in response to citizen pressure regarding income tax revenue received above the estimated economic forecast for the ending biennial General Fund budget. The statute mandated that when personal and/or corporate income tax dollars collected were 2% over the forecast, the money was to be returned to the tax payer. Voters approved the law in 1980. Between 1985 and 2015, the 2% threshold was breached except in 2003 and 2009. The Legislature suspended the kicker return in 1991 and 1993. In 2000, through the initiative process, the kicker was put into the Constitution and can only be suspended by a two-thirds affirmative vote in each legislative chamber.

Refund checks were sent to personal income tax payers until 2011 when legislators put in place the current practice of giving a tax credit. In 2012, voters approved putting any corporate

income tax surplus into the General Fund for K-12 education funding. Many proposals have been drafted and discussed during legislative sessions for repealing the kicker law and placing surplus tax dollars in the reserves. As a constitutional issue, there must be a vote of citizens for the repeal, but legislative leaders haven't supported a referral to voters, and the cost of a citizen initiative has thus far thwarted that approach.

Oregon's Economic Status:

The September economic and revenue forecast for the 2015-2017 biennia was labeled as stable, with modest expansion expected in the next 21 months, according to the state's economist, the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis, and the Legislative Revenue Office. Comparisons are made globally, nationally, and with appropriate states. Oregon has not yet reached the traditional growth of 4% since the end of the Great Recession, but employment is up 3% and stocks and capital gains are strong. In the near term, employment is up, but that will flatten in the future because of an aging workforce. Personal income tax collections have been strong this spring while corporate collections have flattened. Lottery income, video in particular, has increased faster than other states. Looking at 2017-19, personal income collections are expected to decline while corporate collections will be up. Over the next 10 years, General Fund growth will be lower. The ending General Fund balance for 2015-17 is forecast at \$19 billion.

In discussing the Kicker tax dollars return during the presentation, the following scale for the \$402 million in personal credits was projected:

- * top 1% — \$4,614
- * bottom 20% — \$10
- * median income of \$53,900 — \$244
- * average income of \$30-35,000 — \$124

Oregon 2016 Session Planning:

During the months between the two Oregon Assembly's sessions during a biennium, the Legislature creates Interim Committees which meet three times to discuss issues and to prepare draft bills in preparation for the formal session. The Legislative Days, as they are called, are scheduled for September 28-30, November 16-18, and January 13-15, 2016. The December Revenue Forecast will be presented December 2. Bill drafts must be turned by November 24, with the formal "bill drop" on January 19. The 2016 session starts February 1 and will end by March 6, the allotted 35 days.

At the 2014 "short session", more than 200 bills were introduced – way too many for consideration. When the voters adopted annual sessions, it was expected that the short one would primarily make any necessary changes to the biennial budget adopted nine months earlier and consider any emergency measures. Rumor has it that the subject of minimum wages will be the main topic this time around, perhaps some ethics review, with major concerns held for 2017. The House Rules committee will not meet, and the Senate Rules committee will meet only to consider any Governor's appointments. There is always the possibility that ideas for 2017 will be "floated", and since the May Primary election will be only two months away, there will be a more "political" atmosphere.

Consider going to the Capitol to see your own Representative and Senator during these times when they have less frantic schedules.



MCDOWELL ENDOWMENT COMPLETED IN RECORD TIME



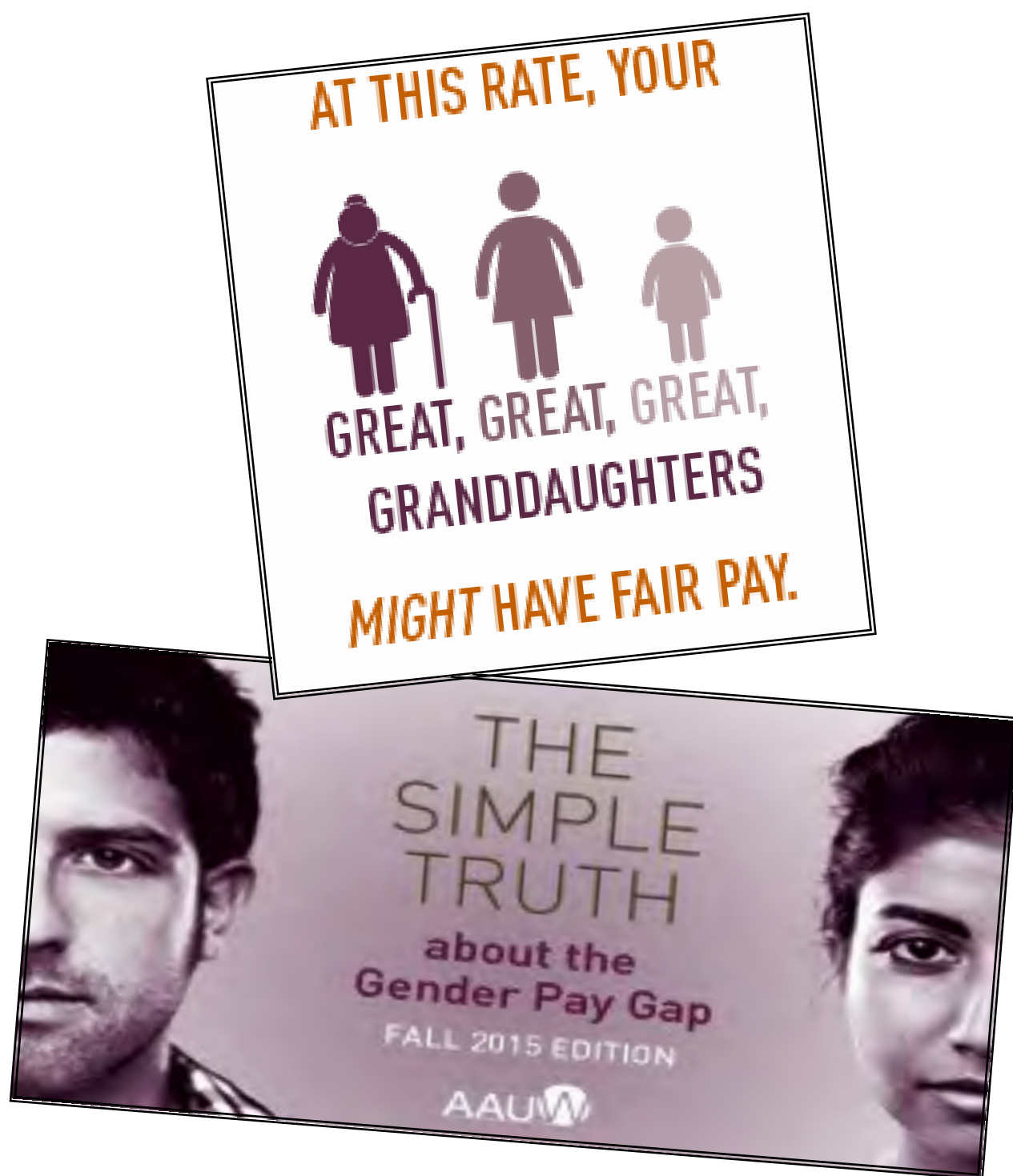
Betsy McDowell

An endowment to honor Betsy McDowell of the Salem Branch was begun in the spring of 2011. The goal was to reach \$75,000 in 10 years, to establish a Research and Projects grant.

Thanks to generous donations at the July AAUW of Oregon leadership retreat, that goal was reached – in only 4 years!

Betsy is a past AAUW of Oregon President, and an immediate past member of the national AAUW Board of Directors, having served two terms.

Donations in Betsy's honor were received from branches and individuals all over Oregon, and from her many friends in other states. We are all so proud of her, and happy that we could honor her in this way!



A full report is available online at www.aauw.org

BRANCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Board Officers

President:	Carene Davis-Stitt
Program Vice-President:	Cindy Parker
Membership Vice-President:	Jo Brew
Finance Vice-President:	Stephanie Winsor
Communications Vice-President:	Elleen Levy
Co-Recording Secretaries	
Branch Meetings:	Jill McCleary
Board Meetings:	Gail Goshert
AAUW Funds Co-Chairs:	Ardith Hinman
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Member Chairs

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Historian:	Gorgie Hofma
Hospitality:	Jill McCleary
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Looking Glass Outreach:	Board members
Newsletter:	Gail Goshert
Nominating Committee:	Ardith Hinman Carol Hildebrand
Website Manager:	Wendy Cook
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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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 Cindy Parker, 541-344-4572

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

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

Monday Bridge Group at 1:00 p.m.

Contact Barbara Gault, 541-746-0916

Out-to-Lunch Bunch

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

Readers' Theatre

Contact Kappy Eaton, gopher44@comcast.net, 541-968-0143

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 6	March 8
November 10	April 5
January 5, 2016	May 10
February 9	June 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 10, 2015 — Eugene Public Library Levy with Carol Hildebrand

November 14, 2015 — TBA

December 12, 2015 — Holiday Brunch

January 9, 2016 — TBA

February 13, 2016 — TBA

March 12, 2016 — TBA

April 9, 2016 — TBA

May 14, 2016 — Annual Meeting

June 11, 2016 — Readers' Theatre



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