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Dawnbreaker
The Newsletter of
AAUW Maine
Fall 2014
Volume 61, Number 1



President's Message

From Kristin Sweeney

Following in Betty-Jane Meader's footsteps is likely to be the greatest challenge I'll ever face. I am quaking in my flip-flops as I write. I am counting on the AAUW of Maine board members, the branch presidents/administrators and all of you branch (and even the rare national) members to continue the momentum of our last two years.

Maine, along with New Hampshire and New York, will be one of the three regions to be continued in the State Organizer Pilot Program. I cannot express how delighted we all are that Kim Pollard will be continuing as our dynamic Regional Field Representative, her new title. She will cover the past and future of the program in Maine in a separate article.

My trip to The County to attend the July 10 Caribou Branch meeting at Northern Maine Community College (NMCC) in Presque Isle was inspiring even if the potatoes had not yet blossomed. NMCC will soon become a C/U partner.

There was an excellent turnout for the summer board meeting on July 12 in Orono at a beautiful and air conditioned location (Foster Center for Student Innovation) in the woods on the University of Maine campus. We are hoping that Mary Cathcart might be able to arrange to have the October 18 board meeting in the same location so as to enjoy any remaining fall color.

A significant change in the State Organizer Program is that the focus has shifted from public policy/advocacy and college/university partnerships to using mission-based programs to increase membership and development/fundraising results at the local level.

AAUW Strategic Plan Goals for 2014 are:

1. AAUW's premier-quality member service, community engagement, and multichannel communications foster a growing, global community of members, supporters, students, and others who advance the AAUW mission.

2. AAUW's powerful advocacy voice helps achieve educational and economic equity and civil rights for all women and girls.
3. AAUW's expanding collaborative network uses mission-based programs and research to empower women with the tools, training, and support they need to become strong leaders and effective advocates for women and girls.
4. AAUW's strategic philanthropic efforts support AAUW programs that provide women and girls with opportunities for a lifetime of success.
5. AAUW's sustainable fiscal strategies and dedicated stewardship meet current and future needs, address challenges, and capitalize on opportunities.

AAUW Board priorities for 2014 – 2015 are:

1. Strengthen member engagement through ongoing interactive dialogue and support to states and branches.
2. Seek proactive opportunities for leadership development at all levels.
3. Build collaborative national, state and branch efforts through advocacy, program outreach and philanthropic support.
4. Enhance the influence of AAUW's diverse communities of members and supporters through inclusive outreach and shared mission values.
5. Increase AAUW's visibility and impact through assertive marketing and communication strategies.

At the July 12 board meeting, we agreed on AAUW of Maine goals for 2014-2015:

1. Enhance participation in public policy activities.
2. Expand AAUW visibility throughout the state.
3. Strengthen the branches in Maine.
4. Strengthen relationship-building with like-minded organizations.
5. Increase college/university (C/U) partners, e-student affiliates and student groups/satellites.
6. Achieve a net gain of 5% in statewide membership.
7. Increase overall fundraising/donations to National by 10%.

In view of the last goal, I wish to describe what I think could be a painless method of significantly increasing fundraising.

A couple years ago, Joan Sanzenbacher, Waterville Branch, described to me a wonderful idea. She said that her children, instead of giving her yet another gift she did not need, made a contribution in her name to AAUW.

I found this concept so brilliant that, when I retired from Unum in late 2014, I requested that any gifts be contributions to AAUW. They listed my name and branch (Bath-Brunswick) when they made the donation and the branch received credit.

Think of all the occasions when you receive gifts: Mothers' Day, birthdays, Christmas, Hanukah, Valentine's Day, Easter and so on. Most of us have way too much stuff and very few of us can afford to eat all that chocolate.

This will reduce clutter at your residence, will not cost you a cent and, best of all, will be a tax deduction for your loved ones if they itemize on their tax returns. This will not, however, get you off the hook for a thank you note!

Here is the link to the donations on the AAUW website:
<http://www.aauw.org/contribute/>.

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Update on the State Organizer Program

By: Kim Pollard

AAUW of Maine was one of 20 states selected to participate in a new 10-month, state-based organizer pilot program in the fall of 2013. Sharing a State Organizer for Region 1 – Maine, New Hampshire, and New York - the goals set forth by the Maine state leadership were to: enhance participation in public policy activities; develop a lobbying program; expand AAUW visibility throughout the state; strengthen the branches in Maine; strengthen relationship-building with like-minded organizations; and to increase college/university (C/U) partners, e-student affiliates and student groups/satellites.

While several of the goals outlined in Phase I of the program are multi-year goals, AAUW of Maine has made great strides toward achieving these goals and building a solid foundation for future generations. Maine has increased participation in public policy activities and developed a statewide public policy team – adding 259 people to the Action Network, receiving more than 50 letters of response from U.S. Senators Collins and King regarding the Paycheck Fairness Act, procuring Equal Pay Day proclamations, procuring nearly 200 signatures for the Computer Science Education Petition, and more. AAUW of Maine has increased visibility and strengthened relationships – garnering more than 15 earned media mentions, recording 874 volunteers and action participants in 2013-14; collaborating with Project>Login on the Hour of Code; and appointing a State STEM Chair to the board. And the number of C/U Partners in the state has more than doubled from five to eleven (with more promising to join).

So what does Phase II of the Regional Field Representative program look like? The program will kick into high gear in September, as the transition phase is completed, and will conclude on July 25, 2015 (the national board will once again meet next spring to determine the next phase of this program).

- New Title: Regional Field Representative;
- New Reporting Structure: The Regional Field Representative now reports to the Branch Relations section of the Membership Department;
- New Focus: with an eye toward state and branch growth, the Regional Field Rep. will focus on using mission-based programming to increase membership and development/fundraising at the local level, working closely with the state president and key leaders in the membership and development areas.
- Public Policy: the Regional Field Rep. will continue to provide assistance with public policy activities. However, the overall objectives will now include membership and fundraising as well.
- New Goals: the goals for Phase II of this program will be derived from AAUW's strategic plan and the specific goals and needs set forth by Maine's state leadership.

The AAUW of Maine state leadership will be working with the Regional Field Representative to outline our goals and priorities for the year and develop tactics for achieving these goals. In the meantime, as an AAUW member, your input is greatly appreciated and we hope that all members – national and branch level – will take ownership of the mission to grow and strengthen our presence and impact here in Maine.

Kim Pollard, Regional Field Representative can be reached by e-mail: pollardk@aauw.org, or by phone: 202.621.3505.

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Why Support The AAUW Unrestricted Fund (#9110): It Matters!

By: Bets Brown

At the last meeting of the AAUW of Maine board of directors on July 12, we had a discussion about why we should support the unrestricted fund of AAUW (#9110) in addition to the endowments and specific programs. I was asked to share my views on this matter because I spoke strongly that this support is important.

First, giving to any fund of AAUW is a huge help and important. Of course, the funds to which you give are your business. Most members opt to give to endowments or specific program funds at the national level and give to branch funds of various types (usually scholarships) at the local level.

The AAUW unrestricted fund (#9110) also needs support. This fund pays for the building in Washington DC, keeps the lights on, the water running, HVAC going, and the facilities clean and updated. The building serves as a focal point for all AAUW activities nationally and an excellent locale for

lobbying our national legislators. The #9110 fund supports the staff that works in the building so that they can help us with all our issues, including funding, membership, addresses, labels, public policy, grants, research, and more. The #9110 funds have directly benefited Maine because they support Kim Pollard's salary as Maine's first staff member. We are lucky to have Kim funded for next year because the funding from #9110 for this purpose has been cut in half. Some states are missing out next year.

So when you or your branch decides where to send your gifts, I hope you will consider part of your donation going to the national AAUW unrestricted fund (#9110).

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2014 State Convention Pictures



Panel Members with Lindsey LaChance



Group Photo

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Call for Nominations

By: Mazie Hough

The University of Maine, Orono, will honor three individuals with the Maryann Hartman Award next spring. This award honors the late Dr. Maryann Hartman, Associate Professor of

Speech Communication. The awards are presented to women whose achievements in the arts, politics, sports, sciences, business, education and/or community service have provided inspiration to others.

This prestigious award provides recognition to Maine women whose successful achievements contributed extensively at the local, national and/or global levels. Recipients have excelled in an area above and beyond their peers. These models of success are trailblazers who have often conquered formidable boundaries to excel in their respective fields.

A presentation ceremony for the awards will be held on campus at the Buchanan House on March 25, at 5:00, with a reception following.

If you know someone who fits these ideals and you would like to nominate her, please go to the website of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program at <http://umaine.edu/womensgenderandsexualitystudies/>, or email mazie.hough@umit.maine.edu or call the office at 581-1228.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, October 31, 2014. Review of applications will begin immediately following.

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Facebook Anyone?

AAUW of Maine has a Facebook site, administrators Jean Lotz, and Bets Brown. Please send contributions to Bets (wilbro@fairpoint.net) for publication. Please visit the site and let everyone know you like it.

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Start \$mart

We at WAGE hope you have had a fantastic summer and that you are gearing up for a great fall semester. The 2013-2014 academic year was our most successful yet! 222 Start \$mart workshops were hosted in 49 states. That's an average of 9,000 young women and men who were educated on the gender wage gap and taught how to negotiate for fair and equitable salaries. We now have 81 3 year licensed schools with many others considering this option.

We hope you will be hosting a Start \$mart workshop in 2014-2015. Now is the time to start the planning process. Please let us know your dates as soon as possible so that we will have plenty of time to help you develop your workshop and promotional materials. We constantly get inquiries from people wishing to attend and observe a workshop, so getting dates on our calendar is very helpful. We are happy to schedule a planning call with you.

We look forward to hearing from you in the coming weeks as classes reconvene, and to once again bringing \$tart \$mart to your campus.

Dorrie Sieburg
Programs Manager
The WAGE Project
dorriesieburg@gmail.com
www.wageproject.org
828-279-7111

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State Directory Updates

By: Joan Sanzenbacher

The 2014-15 directory has been updated with the information all the branches furnished at the summer board meeting and shortly thereafter. If any of the officers or committee chairs have changed since then, please send me the current names.

For most of us the program planning for the year ahead was still in progress this summer. I would appreciate the program vice-presidents sending me via e-mail what is now projected to be the schedule for each branch to include the location and time of the meeting and the topic and speaker (if any). I hope to have the completed directory for the Fall Leadership meeting on October 18th.

Joan (jhsanzen@colby.edu)

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Keep AAUW of Maine Connected in FY 2014!

By: Carolyn MacRae

The Keep AAUW of Maine Connected development campaign helps us keep state dues low while allowing us to continue AAUW of Maine partnering relationships with other state organizations that share our goals and provide financial assistance for AAUW of Maine Board members for travel to regional and national AAUW meetings. Last year (July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014), a total of \$1,162.50 was donated. The following contributors are thankfully recognized for their support.

Bath-Brunswick Branch: Joanne Bollinger, Frances Caswell, Deborah Cravey, Lynda DeHaan, Judy Dinmore, Sally Gray, Charlotte Price, Lucy Stinson, Kristin Sweeney

Caribou Branch: Donna Hurley, Kathy Olmstead

Mid-Coast Branch: Mary Ireland

Penobscot Valley Branch: Mary Cathcart, Marlene Charron, Evelyn Dearborn, Lindsey LaChance, Susan Landry

Waterville Branch: Bets Brown, Jackie Kulik, Pat Lyford, Carolyn MacRae, Betty-Jane Meader

National Members: Judith Brown, Debbie Melvin

Branches: Waterville Branch

This year's Keep AAUW of Maine Connected campaign (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015) is now underway. State board

members Bets Brown, Deborah Cravey, Carolyn MacRae, and Kristin Sweeny have already contributed a total of \$250.00 to help support these activities:

Ongoing partnering and networking with the Maine Women's Lobby, the Maine Choice Coalition, and the Coalition for Maine Women.

Co-sponsorship of a gubernatorial debate with the Maine Women's Policy Center.

Supporting Maine NEW Leadership, a six-day leadership training program for undergraduate college women providing experiential training in many aspects of politics and policy making. All attendees have been invited to join AAUW.

Working with Kim Pollard, our regional field officer, to help increase AAUW membership and participation in public policy activities.

Please send your contribution—above and beyond the \$10.00 state dues that you have already paid—to help AAUW of Maine continue to stay connected. Make your check payable to "AAUW of Maine" and send it to:

Carolyn MacRae, Treasurer
17 Martin Avenue, Waterville, ME 04901

Check for: ()\$10 ()\$25 ()\$50 ()\$100 ()Other _____

Name: _____

Branch: _____

Your support is appreciated. Contributions will be acknowledged in future issues of the *Dawnbreaker* and at the AAUW of Maine annual convention this spring.

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AAUW Funds Report

By: Susan Landry

AAUW FUNDS

Following our annual meeting and convention in May, AAUW of Maine sent a total of \$489 to the Association, to be divided equally between the Legal Advocacy and Educational Opportunities Funds. This money was raised via our wonderful basket raffle; as always, branches donated terrific baskets and members (and friends and families) enthusiastically purchased chances. I'm sure that all of this year's winners have been enjoying their selections. We thank you all for your continued support and hope you will begin planning soon for next year's raffle!

I am extremely pleased to report that in addition to our state funds, members and branches have donated another \$4,546 during the period January 1 through June 30. Funds benefiting from this generosity are NCCWSL Scholarships; Leadership Programs; Educational Opportunities; LAF; and the general

AAUW Funds. This is fantastic -- we have already exceeded last year's total! I hope we'll have more contributions made during the second half of the year, including more corporate matching funds which can boost our effectiveness significantly and assist our efforts to advance equity for women and girls.

Deadlines for Fellowships and Grants

As you know, 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 nonprofit organizations in the 2014-15 academic year. 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 educational and social barriers facing women worldwide. Following are grant and fellowship deadlines coming up this quarter.

American Fellowships: Women pursuing full-time study to complete dissertations, conduct postdoctoral research full time, or prepare research for publication can apply by November 15 for \$6,000-\$30,000.

Career Development Grants: Women pursuing a certificate or degree to advance their careers, change careers, or re-enter the workforce and whose bachelor's degree was received at least five years before the award period should apply by December 15 for grants of \$2,000-\$12,000.

International Fellowships: Women who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents and are pursuing full-time graduate or postdoctoral study in the U.S. may apply by December 1 for fellowships of \$18,000-\$30,000. Do you have such women in your branch neighborhood? Bring this to their attention!

International Project Grants: Alumnae of AAUW's International Fellowships program living in their home countries and pursuing community-based projects to improve the social advancement and economic empowerment of women and girls are eligible for grants of \$5,000-\$7,000. If your branch knows any IF alumnae, get in touch with them to remind them of this!

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

Supreme Court Wrap-Up

On July 15, AAUW members from across the country joined LAF staff to discuss the U.S. Supreme Court's most important cases from this past term. Members heard a breakdown of the *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* decision, which will allow some corporations to restrict their employees' contraceptive insurance coverage. The call also reviewed Congress' attempts to ensure women's access to affordable contraception. LAF staff and callers also discussed the court's rulings on abortion clinic buffer zone laws, prayer in local government

meetings, and affirmative action restrictions. A recording of the call, which includes much helpful background information on court protocol, is available at <http://www.aauw.org/event/2014/07/scotus-wrap-up-call/> This fall, LAF will once again host a preview call to highlight cases the Supreme Court will take up in 2015. Stay tuned for more information.

Good Outcome for LAF-Supported Plaintiff in Discrimination Case

The Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination (MCAD) recently upheld a ruling in favor of LAF-supported plaintiff Lulu Sun in her gender and race discrimination case against the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. In June 2011 an MCAD hearing officer concluded that the University had violated Massachusetts' anti-discrimination laws and ordered the university to 1) promote Sun, with retroactive pay back; 2) pay \$200,000 in emotional distress damages, plus 12 percent interest from the date the complaint was filed; 3) pay the commonwealth of Massachusetts a \$10,000 civil penalty; and 4) conduct an anti-discrimination training for its human resources staff, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the provost, and the chancellor.

After the June 2011 decision, the University promoted Sun to the position of full professor but appealed the emotional distress award, the civil penalty, and the anti-discriminatory training requirements to the full commission. In its most recent ruling the commission upheld the MCAD hearing officer's decision, ordering the university to pay the emotional distress damage award and civil penalty and to conduct anti-discrimination training. The University recently conceded any further appeal, which means that the MCAD's ruling in Sun's favor will stand. AAUW is proud to have supported Sun's case and congratulates her on this final ruling.

Significant Anniversary

July 2 marked the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VII of the Act makes it illegal for employers to discriminate on the basis of gender or race, among other protected classes. In the last half-century we have made tremendous progress toward gender equity in the workplace, but this anniversary should encourage us to take stock of ways in which we still lack equity and areas in which progress lags. Find out more about Title VII at <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/legal-resources/know-your-rights-at-work/title-vii/> and learn what you can do to help fulfill Title VII's promise.

One Thing We Can All Do

Make a tax-deductible donation to LAF to help balance the scales of justice for women. You can start here: https://svc.aauw.org/contribute/index_aauw_donation.cfm?Co rpCode=AAUW&Fundcode=3999

Susan Nolan Landry, AAUW Funds Liaison

email : susan.landry@umit.maine.edu

phone: 207/581-1509 Mon-Fri 9-4

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Letters-to-the-Editor

By: Bets Brown, Public Policy Co-Chair

When I spoke at the annual convention of AAUW of Maine in Bath last May, I was asked to share some of my thoughts on writing letters-to-the-editor (LTEs) in the *Dawnbreaker* so that people not attending the meeting could benefit. LTEs are one of the easiest and most visible ways to spread the word about issues that AAUW members support.

The length of an LTE depends on the criteria of the newspaper to which you are sending your letter. Usually they are limited to 250-300 words.

Several key parts of an LTE written in order make it strong. The introduction (known as the “lede”) should have a hook that grabs the reader to keep reading. The next section is the statement of the argument you are making and should be a short sentence or two. Next, provide evidence and make your argument by stating facts that support your point. Provided you have room, you might include a paragraph that pre-empts your potential critics and points out why their criticism(s) might be misplaced. Lastly, state your conclusion by circling back to your lede and, in many cases, provide action steps for the reader.

LTEs are short, so focus on one or two main points only and put your main point on top. Let readers know why they should care. Offer specific recommendations for solutions to the problem you are discussing. The reader wants to hear your personal voice, so use your own words and describe your opinions. Also, you can “localize” your letter by explaining how the issue will affect people in the paper’s readership area. Making the ending of your LTE strong and convincing helps it stand out. Most importantly, respect your reader in your writing.

Editors are known to edit LTEs for length and content, so don’t be surprised if this happens to you. While writing, be sure to create short sentences and paragraphs. If you don’t do this, the editors will. To keep reader interest, be sure to avoid jargon and tedious rebuttals. If your LTE is too long for the required length, your LTE may be edited throughout to shorten it or worse, chopped off at the end.

Most newspapers now require email submissions of LTEs. If you snail mail an LTE, be sure to type and sign your letter. With either a typed or emailed LTE, you should be sure to include the information requested or else your submission may not be published. Watch the newspaper for publication of your letter. I have had my LTEs published in the online version, but not the hard-copy version. There’s not much to be done in this case.

The opinion pages with LTEs are frequently read parts of newspapers. LTEs are a great way to spread the good news about an important issue.

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Achievement Citation Award

By: Regina Oliver

Wanted:
Nominees for AAUW’s Achievement Citation Award

Criteria:

1. Young leader between the ages of 25 and 50 years of age
2. Eligible to join AAUW
3. Her accomplishments are consistent with AAUW’s missions and public policy positions
4. She is available to speak the spring annual meeting on May 1st

Submission Requirements:

To propose a nominee a branch or an individual simply submits a brief nomination to the committee with the candidate’s name, age, and a short description of the individual’s accomplishments. Further research will be done by the Achievement Citation Committee for each nominee.

Prior candidates may be re-nominated. This information must be received by the committee between now and the closing date of Dec. 31. 2014.

Send nominations to Regina Oliver at rloliver@roadrunner.com.

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Retirement Celebration for Sharon Barker!

A lively and well-attended (well more than 100) party to celebrate Sharon Barker’s retirement from the University of Maine was held August 27th at UMaine. In spite of very warm weather, a crowd that filled the room was present to hear representatives from the University and from organizations across the state speak about Sharon’s significant achievements on behalf of the people of Maine throughout her tenure as the founding director of the Women’s Resource Center. The



event was attended by many from AAUW, including Betty-Jane Meader and an excellent showing of Penobscot Valley Branch members. Sharon’s

contributions are many and varied and she will be missed. Sharon also made comments and encouraged all of us to contact her at home for “face-to-face” conversations and visits. We wish her the best as she embarks on her well-deserved retirement.



Sharon Barker and Ruth Lockhart

leave. AAUW members are watching two bills coming up in Congress, both of which seek to remedy some of the problems facing working families in our country.

The first, co-sponsored by Maine Senator Angus King, is called the *Strong Families Act* and offers a tax credit to companies that provide a minimum of four weeks of paid parental or medical leave. It would not have any sort of compulsive participation. A summary of the bill can be found online here: <http://1.usa.gov/1qHOG05>. While this bill is certainly a step in the right direction, some argue that it does not go far enough, and could still leave many workers deciding between caring for a sick child or going to work and paying the bills.

Another bill, the *FAMILY Act (Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act)*, seeks to provide up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave to all American workers. The bill would be paid for by the establishment of a fund within the Social Security Administration, contributed to by a small payroll tax increase, with wages taxed only up to just over \$100,000 per year. A summary of the bill can be found online here: <http://bit.ly/1pxbN5q>.

The economic insecurity faced by workers without earned paid family and medical leave is large and looming. For those who live paycheck-to-paycheck, one serious illness could lead to the inability to make ends meet or even job loss. Contacting your representatives or writing a letter to the editor to express your support can go a long way toward spurring public dialogue and encouraging elected leaders to take action on this important issue.

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Save the Date: Gubernatorial Candidates Forum

AAUW of Maine is co-sponsoring the Gubernatorial Candidates Forum on October 9, 2014, estimated start time of 6 p.m. This event, expected to focus on women’s economic security, is to be held at Hannaford Hall at Univ. of Southern Maine in Portland. Look to the AAUW of Maine website for details as we near the date. We will have an AAUW display table outside and would love your help at the table. More to come...watch the website.

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Why did you join? Why do you stay? How do you ask a potential new member to join AAUW?

By: Deborah Cravey

Did you join to support the mission of AAUW as a number of AAUW of Maine board members did? Or, because you knew you'd meet women with interests outside house and family? Because a friend invited you or a close relative encouraged you-perhaps gave you a membership? Any and all these reasons are a good beginning to AAUW membership. If we are successful in getting new members, each of us needs to think about why we joined and how we can make the



Sharon Barker and Darylen Cote

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Achieving Fairer Workplace Policies

By: Molly Bogart

The United States joins only Swaziland, Lesotho, and Papua New Guinea, in its denial of mandated paid maternity leave to workers. Workplace policies such as this, and including paid family and medical leave, can greatly affect the health and well being of workers and their families and, as of today, only 12% of American workers have access to this type of paid

argument to a potential new member on behalf of AAUW.

The mission and history of AAUW are strong recruiting tools, each of us should know about them in order to use them. The AAUW Funds were one of the primary reasons I joined, they are a great way to feel part of something bigger than most of us could achieve on our own. For many of us, the friendships we make in AAUW remain with us for many years, a chosen kinship of great value.

Nobody believes this is easy. If you know a person well enough to know they are qualified and they still refuse to join, it's hard to take 'no' for an answer. You can always make it clear that she is welcome as a guest, knows what the programs and events for the near future will be, and has a membership brochure. Ideally, every member should receive a membership brochure-or more if they are likely recruiters-and be encouraged to follow the "each one, reach one" ideal. Every guest, speaker, and event participant should get a membership brochure, a thank you for being a part of an AAUW program or event, and an invitation to another. At the very least, they will know that AAUW exists and about the branch or AAUW of Maine. If you can't be certain that an individual is eligible for membership, a long time AAUW of Maine leader suggested inviting them as your guest to a program or event, anyway. If they receive the membership information, you'll usually hear whether they are eligible. Make sure they know they are welcome, we don't know when a potential member will emerge and we want them to be positive about AAUW when that happens.

Keeping members is not easy, either. Some people want to plunge right in. Some don't. Some pay dues for years just to support the mission of AAUW or friends in a branch. Knowing which are which and why is a leadership skill that can't be overestimated. Too many lapsed members report that they were not welcomed after joining. Most people who are new to an organization need to be greeted with interest each time they attend a meeting and some need that contact and reassurance for some time. A buddy arrangement works for some or branches may find having a greeter or new member liaison essential. The Bath-Brunswick branch is fortunate to have an experienced leader who volunteered for that role, identifying a member or members knowledgeable about AAUW who are enthusiastic and willing to help with recruitment and retention is another of those inestimable leadership skills.

Because AAUW will focus on membership this membership year, there will be new brochures, videos, and resources available. They are only as good as we are at using them. Look at the materials you receive and plan a strategy for their use. Be sure you know them before you use them, make sure a potential member knows exactly how much the dues are, how to pay them, when renewal will be requested, and enough about AAUW to make the dues feel like a good deal. Good luck with our membership goals, I am happy to help if I can.

My email address is:gmcdbc18@comcast.net; telephone: (207)373-1749.

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Losing Ground in Reproductive Justice

By: Molly Bogart

This spring, the Supreme Court handed down two rulings that changed the climate for women's reproductive health access in the United States. While the implications of these rulings are yet to be fully understood, it is clear that they mark a shift in the fight for reproductive justice.

The first decision, in the case *McCullen v. Coakley*, struck down buffer zones around abortion clinics in Massachusetts. A 2009 law installed a thirty-five foot buffer zone around all clinics in Massachusetts with the intent to provide safety to patients who had previously experienced harassment, violence, and threats from anti-abortion protestors. The court argued that the law was unconstitutional because the state had not done enough to prove that less-stringent measures would have resolved the issues with protestors. While the consequences are unclear for buffer zones in other states, the City of Portland has already repealed a buffer zone around the clinic there with the intention to enact a different protective ordinance later this year. An earlier ruling from the Supreme Court, allowing for an eight-foot "floating" buffer zone around individual patients, still stands.

The second decision, in the case *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby, Inc.*, ruled that corporations could deny workers access to certain methods of birth control based on their religious beliefs. The owners of Hobby Lobby challenged a portion of the Affordable Care Act, arguing that providing insurance coverage for specific birth control methods ran counter to their sincerely held religious beliefs. Why is this so groundbreaking? For the first time in US history, a corporation has been declared to have religious beliefs, and those beliefs have been allowed to impact the health of its employees, regardless of the wishes or directions of those employees or their doctors. As Justice Ginsburg put it in her dissent, the court has "ventured into a minefield."

Where do we go from here? It's unclear. We need to ensure that measures are taken to protect women at Maine's reproductive health clinics from protestors whose actions are threatening and prohibitive to their health. Additionally, a measure in Congress, the *Protect Women's Health From Corporate Interference Act*, also known as the *Not My Boss' Business Act*, would mandate that employers "could not disrupt coverage for contraception or other health services that are guaranteed under federal law" (<http://abcn.ws/1jqkDct>). This would attempt to remedy the consequences of *Hobby Lobby* to women employed by such companies. It is currently being filibustered by Senate Republicans, though not completely dead. AAUW Members are encouraged to contact their representatives in Congress and urge them to support this important bill.

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**Campus Safety and Accountability Act:
Write Your Senators Now**
By: Bets Brown, Public Policy Co-Chair

On July 30, a bipartisan group of U.S. senators introduced the Campus Safety and Accountability Act, designed to curb sexual assaults on college campuses and increase accountability and transparency. This act will hold college campuses more accountable for preventing sexual violence and supporting students who come forward. According to the Christian Science Monitor, "Advocates for sexual assault survivors praised the bill, saying it would boost enforcement of current laws and address much of the underreporting and lack of best practices that was identified in a national survey released recently by Sen. Claire McCaskill (D) of Missouri." An important provision of the legislation is a requirement that colleges provide confidential advisers to students in the wake of a sexual assault.

Under this act, all campus personnel who investigate sexual assaults and participate in disciplinary hearings would have to receive specialized training on the nature of such crimes and their effects on survivors. To improve transparency, all colleges and universities would have to administer a standardized survey on sexual violence, and the results would be published online. This step would help parents and prospective students and also help track national progress on reducing sexual violence on campuses.

Colleges would have to follow certain standards for disciplinary proceedings and not allow subgroups such as athletic departments to handle complaints of sexual violence. Campuses would be required to create memorandums of understanding with local law enforcement to clarify responsibilities and better share information. Schools that violate various requirements would face penalties of up to one percent of their operating budgets. The federal government has had the option of withholding all federal aid, but it has not done so. The new provision is considered more enforceable.

Campus violence against women is epidemic in the U.S. and must be addressed. **YOU CAN HELP** by writing your senators and asking them to support the proposed Campus Safety and Accountability Act.

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Branching Out: News from Our Branches

Bath-Brunswick Branch

By: Sophie Whitehouse & Marlise Schwartz

The Bath-Brunswick branch has had a busy spring in 2014: our Annual Meeting in April was followed by a great presentation by Karen Mills, formerly head of the SBA under the Obama Administration.

Both co-presidents stepped into a new role for the next two years: Joanne Bollinger is now our Outreach representative and C/U liaison officer. Joanne Mac Dermott is our new

secretary, replacing Frances Caswell. Marlise and I are presently at the helm for two years. All other officers remain unchanged until next year.

This year our branch hosted the early May state convention in Bath: needless to say this was a very well coordinated affair to host other branches for two days by the Kennebec River. Everything was superbly organized by our members under the guidance of Lucy Stinson, a resident of Bath.

In May we also held our annual May meeting at the High Head Yacht Club in Harpswell and despite the torrential downpours our board had a constructive meeting after a lovely meal prepared by our members.

This fall, the first in our series of exciting speakers is Kathleen Fleury, Editor in Chief of Down East Magazine. We are in the process of lining up other qualified speakers for our late fall and Winter and meetings and will end the year with our Annual Greens Event fundraiser at the Curtis Library in Brunswick to celebrate the holidays with our entire branch. We are also continuing to offer to all our members, interest groups such as the Book Group, the Knitting group, Out to Lunch Bunch, Growstown School's Open House and Bake Sale for October and starting the new STEM group AAUW Bath-Brunswick for the coming year.

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Caribou Branch

By: Carol Pierson

The Caribou branch of AAUW has decided to meet in the



months from April through September to avoid traveling to meetings in the winter. This change has worked well for us.

At our first meeting in April we learned about the mission and founding of Girl Scouts

of America. In May we met to organize our branch archives.

Kim Pollard was a guest at our June meeting where we discussed ways to help keep our branch of AAUW alive.

Northern Maine Community College was the venue of our July meeting where

we toured the new Akeley Student Center and the Rodney Smith Wellness Center, both built to support wellness in the student population.

State president Kristin Sweeny attended this meeting



and gave us valuable information about resources available to branches through AAUW. In August we met at Shirley Ayer's home in Bangor for a luncheon and garden tour. Our branch is pleased to be able to award a scholarship this year to a female nontraditional college student.

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Hancock County Branch

By: Betsy Eggleston

The Hancock County leadership team met in July to plan for the 2014-2015 programs and activities.

This September we are celebrating our 35 years as an AAUW branch. The branch is having a tea on September 17, 2014 at the Ellsworth Library. Former members, National Members and others are being invited to our celebration.

Our October meeting is taking place in Blue Hill where we are hearing a speaker of marine. Later we are collaborating with other groups in having a candidates' forum in Ellsworth. November's meeting will be our annual book meeting where we share the books we have read during the past year. A list then provided with the titles of the books covered. The holidays will be celebrated by our annual potluck and cookie exchange.

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Penobscot Valley Branch

By: Janet Givens

The Penobscot Valley Branch Leadership Team met in August to plan the programs for 2014-2015. In September the branch will hear a speaker from GRR "Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights". A celebration of the branch's 90th birthday will be held in October. Past presidents will be honored. Other programs being planned include Patty Hemmer speaking on the history of Maine farm women at the Page Farm Museum at the University of Maine in November.

There will be a strictly social brunch in January. Linda Robinson will speak in March about her experiences as a midwife in Africa. The month of April will be devoted to the Book Sale and preparation for the AAUW of Maine Convention May 1 and May 2. The annual meeting and dinner will be held in May.

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