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Message from the President

Dora McCarthy

First of all I want to congratulate Marlise Swartz, Kristin Sweeney, the Hancock Country Branch and Maine Maritime Academy for putting together a great convention and the first Girls' STEM Day. I wasn't able to attend because of a family emergency, but I heard great reports both during and after about the speakers, the venue, and the food.

I would also like to say thank you for allowing me the chance to be your President. I look forward to continuing the ongoing work of AAUW here in the State of Maine. My focus as President is to work with members and branches to keep increasing our membership through community engagement, great programming, and public policy.

Since there are a lot of members whom I have yet to meet, I would like to introduce myself and tell you a little about me.

I am the mother to three boys: ages 10, 17, and 20. I have been married for 20 years to my high school sweetheart. I ran the Cub Scouts in Hermon, Maine for 7 years in various positions (Cubmaster, Committee Chair, Den Leader, and Webelos Leader), also helped on the Boy Scout side for two years, and was on the Hermon Fire Dept. Women's Auxiliary.

I graduated from Eastern Maine Community College with an associate's degree in Business Management in 2010, ten years after I started the degree. I then transferred to the University of Maine in Orono, where I double majored in English (Creative Writing) and Political Science. While at UMaine I was the President of the Non-Traditional Student Association, Rush Coordinator for Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, joined the honor fraternities for English and Political Science, and became a member of AAUW. I also participated in Maine NEW Leadership and Emerge Maine, both programs training women to run for office.

Since leaving UMaine I became a member of the City of Bangor Planning Board, participated in Elect Her!, and started a new career with a financial advising office in Orono. I have started my master's degree in Business Administration at UMaine, but have put that on hold

while I work towards my licensing in financial advising. Some of you may have heard of the dreaded Series 7 and 66. It's horrible!

In the coming months I hope to meet many of you through events or at branch meetings. My passion in life is connecting people and I want to closely connect our branches and members so we can help one another grow. I also want to expand and deepen our connections with other groups fighting for the same causes we are because together we are stronger and louder.

College/University Relations

Mary Cathcart, Chair

Maine's third Elect Her conference will be held Saturday, October 1, 9:30-4:00, at the University of Maine's Wells Conference Center in Orono.



Mary Cathcart asks AAUW members to nominate students from their local colleges and also to contact faculty and staff you know and ask them to nominate students. We thank Dean Robert Dana of UMaine's Office of Student Life for providing a light breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snacks for the program, so that it can be free for students. The AAUW facilitator is Katie Shorey, and the program features Maine legislators Rep. Ellie Espling (New Gloucester) and Rep. Michelle Dunphy (Old Town). We will show the video NextStepRUN! and filmmaker Pam Maus of Owls Head

will lead the film discussion, along with the two Representatives.

The day will also include a panel of students currently serving in student government and an afternoon networking reception to which local legislators, municipal officials, and AAUW members are invited (3:30-4:00 pm).

Please help us recruit students for this exciting conference! AAUW will enroll all the attendees as e-student affiliates, and we have invited state president Dora McCarthy and other Penobscot Valley branch members to attend. All AAUW members are welcome.



AAUW State Convention: May 20-21, 2016
Maine Maritime Academy Campus, Castine, Maine
Marlise Swartz, Program VP

For the effort involved in preparing a statewide convention, there is great reward--- 2016 was no exception. Dr. Elizabeth True, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management for Maine Maritime Academy, issued the invitation centered around the STEM theme: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Nearly 50 high school girls and 50 AAUW members attended the convention: *STEM to Stern. Making Waves into the Future.*

Dr. Dot McLane, representing the National AAUW Board, gave a succinct presentation of AAUW's efforts via her talk and slide show and made a special effort to



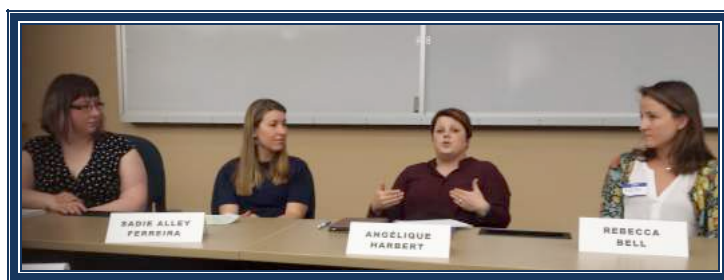
participate in the Maine Public Broadcasting Network's live discussion (May 20, 2016) with MPBN host Jennifer Rooks on *Maine Calling*, along with Dr. Elizabeth True and Dr. Kerry Whittaker, Bates College. These highly credentialed women involved in STEM careers

shared their experiences and knowledge during the hour-long program (available on MPBN podcast: <http://www.tinyurl.com/hmchl82>) and served on panels during the convention.

Additional interesting experiences were shared by: Jocelyn Runnebaum, Ph.D. candidate, School of Marine Sciences, from the University of Maine, who discussed *Women in Fisheries*. Would it surprise you that it was fishing with her grandfather that sparked her interest? Dr. Anne Applin, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Southern Maine Community College, posed this question, *Technology is Everywhere, but Where are the Women?*

Dr. Cathy Bevier, Associate Professor of Biology at Colby College and AAUW State Chair of STEM, moderated a panel on *Outreach Education Opportunities in STEM*, including: Marie Beckum, Summer Programs Director of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics (MSSM); Dr. Jan Mokros, Senior Research Scientist at the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance (MMSA); Veronica Young, STEM guide for MMSA; and Dr. Kerry Whittaker, Visiting Professor of Maine Ecology at Bates College and Marine Science faculty at Coastal Studies for Girls.

Dr. True moderated *The Future of STEM, Featuring Maine Young Women Engaged in STEM Careers*. Panelists were: Sadie Alley Ferreira, B.S., Power Engineering Technology, Sundog Solar; Sarah Frisk, B.A., Computer Science and English, Senior Software Developer at Vets First Choice; Angélique Harbert, B.S., M.B.A. and Systems Engineering Certificate, Senior Manager of Configuration Management, Propulsion Systems, Orbital ATK, and also the daughter of AAUW member Mary Ayers; and Rebecca Bell, B.A., Biology, Research Assistant, Jackson Laboratory.



The Future of STEM panel: L to R - Sarah Frisk, Sadie Alley Ferreira, Angélique Harbert, and Rebecca Bell.

Dora McCarthy, President-Elect, AAUW of Maine, prepared the details for recognizing AAUW members in STEM careers and Betsy Eggleston introduced those members: Cathy Bevier, Mary Ellen Dennis, Bets Brown, Carly McCarthy, Theo Kalikow, Nancy Williams, Jackie Kulik, Robin Shafer, Louise Smith, Betty Fitzjarrald, Carolyn Bryant, Deborah Schall, Joanne McDermott, Sharon Ashworth, Jocelyn Runnebaum, Margaret Radke, Lee Davis, Brenna Thornton, Judy Tredwell, Mary Tedesco-Shenk, Sharon Ouellette, Carol Pierson, Dale Gordon, and Moira O'Neill.

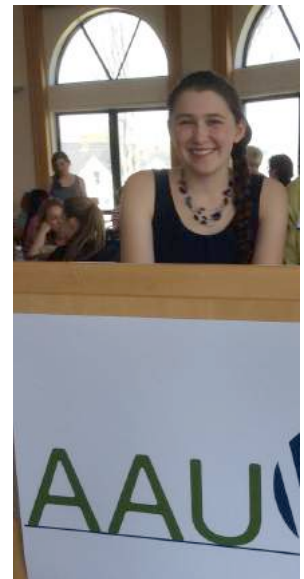


Engineering lab with Professor Barbara Fleck, also an AAUW C/U Rep at Maine Maritime Academy.

While AAUW members attended breakfast and the brief annual meeting prior to the program, the high school girls were on a campus tour with the option of experiencing an Engineering Lab, a Marine Science Lab or Navigation Exercise and meeting on the waterfront to board the floating lab, *Susan Clark*. During the annual business meeting, a discussion about fundraising prompted Bets Brown to pass around a donation basket, which netted \$308.



During lunch, the acclaimed Bangor High School senior, Paige Brown, gave a brief, but specific, talk about her research, for which she won the 2016 First Place Medal of Distinction for Global Good in the national Intel Science Talent Search, the nation's most prestigious pre-college science competition, as well as a \$150k scholarship. After lunch, she continued on to Bar Harbor to speak at TEDxDirigo (The Algal Crisis: Finding Curious Solutions Through STEM Education:



<https://www.tedxdirigo.com/talks/the-algal-crisis-finding-curious-solutions-through-stem-education/>).



The students were joined by AAUW members for a bountiful buffet in the Alford Dining Room, creating a bustling, energetic atmosphere as the 50 freshmen and sophomore girls from seven high schools in proximity to Castine visited with AAUW members and among themselves.



Kristin Sweeney (President), Paige Brown, and Marlise Swartz (Program VP)

The final Saturday event was a raffle for theme-filled baskets contributed by the Maine AAUW branches; proceeds of \$653 was contributed to AAUW unrestricted funds, as previously voted upon by the AAUW of Maine Board.



The elegant awards dinner on Friday evening was the opportunity to present the Achievement Citation Award to Abbie Strout, Director of Education and Community Engagement at Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center in Bangor. She was nominated by the Penobscot Valley Branch and introduced by branch member, Ruth Lockhart. In addition, Kristin Sweeney honored Branch Members of the Year with certificates and snack bars from Bixby & Co., a successful women-owned and award-winning, craft candy bar manufacturer in Rockland, Maine. Attendees had the opportunity to review displays and bios of all the awardees during the Welcome Reception.



Abbie Strout and President Kristin Sweeney

I personally would like to express appreciation to: Dr. True and her staff: the dining room staff at MMA; Kristin Sweeney, who presided over the Board Meeting and convention; Debbie Schall, Bath-Brunswick Branch, for her computer skills; Sophie Whitehouse, co-president, Bath-Brunswick AAUW; and Betsy Eggleston and the

Hancock County Branch, who collaborated with Dr. True in arranging the combined STEM convention on the MMA campus and managed numerous other details.

Thank you to everyone who completed the convention evaluation. Your comments and suggestions will be useful for planning the next convention. You may not be surprised to know that Paige Brown's succinct and meaningful talk was highly rated, followed closely by Joyce Runnebaum's *Women in Fisheries*.

Here are a few quotes from the evaluations regarding the programming; the convention planning committee will take under advisement suggestions for changes and improvements.

- "I wasn't the most excited or interested in holding a STEM –related convention, but this turned out wonderfully. Thank you for all the hard work to make it happen."
- "Paige Brown, perfect for students as well"
- Another rated Paige a "100" instead of 5 (the highest) commenting that Paige "was amazing; she embodies all the qualities STEM is trying to promote. It was very inspirational as she explained what she did on her own, how she was helped by others, how she learned from her research."
- A perfect setting...easy to attend...lodging convenient to program location...
- Dining—"excellent" "good variety"....impressive presentation...
- This was a great convention (underlined twice), inspiring, informative!

I sincerely hope that I have not missed thanking or crediting anyone or otherwise omitting information that should have been included. I am indebted to the guidance provided by Kristin, Dora and many others who supported, assisted, and guided me. ...For me it was a very satisfying convention and, I hope, will result in inspiring and encouraging our young student guests as they make career decisions. Just maybe they will be the future AAUW members and leaders who continue to pave the way for the women's place in the workforce.

Branch Members of the Year



Branch member of the year for **Hancock County Branch** is **Karen Dickes**. She has hosted for many years our annual meeting and potluck and has been supportive and hard working during her years as a member.

The **Caribou Branch** of AAUW nominates **Mary Ayers** as its outstanding member for the second year in a row.

- Mary continues to provide strong leadership and representation for our branch.
- We have added new members this year as she encourages us to invite potential members to programs that focus on organizations in the community.
- Mary holds the group together with her reminders of meetings and of who has agreed to do what.
- Meetings start and end promptly and she conducts the business efficiently, adhering faithfully to her printed agenda.
- She makes the six+-hour round trip to attend state meetings and is meticulous in adhering to rules and procedures.
- She continues compile our program booklet on time, often paying for materials herself to preserve the branch budget.
- She assures that our scholarship materials reach all of our County institutions and coordinates communications with scholarship recipients.
- We are proud that our branch is growing with Mary at the helm, and we are pleased to recognize her as our member of the year.



Penobscot Valley Branch wants to recognize **Margaret**



Anne (Peggy) Hallee as member of the year for her fierce loyalty and devotion to the branch evidenced by ongoing service despite increasing health challenges. Peggy does a great job with our branch newsletter, filling it with news from the

Association and AAUW-Maine, tidbits about branch members, particularly those newly joined, events of interest, AAUW and women's history trivia to keep us on our toes, and more. She's indispensable to our annual book sale: a month or so in advance she phones virtually every member to secure her commitment of time, money, food, or whatever is possible; she then arrives in Orono the day before the sale to spend hours in the kitchen preparing for the food sale, and oversees the whole extravaganza on sale day. And oh by the way she left Orono years ago and now operates from

Cathance Lake (Cooper) in lake season and Topsham in winter! This is true dedication for which Penobscot Valley Branch is so very grateful.

The **Bath-Brunswick Branch** enthusiastically honors **Molly Bogart** as the Bath-Brunswick AAUW Member of the

graduate of Leadership the Emerge program. branch in been AAUW. brought



Year. Molly is a the Maine NEW Institute and of Maine training Since joining the 2013, Molly has immersed in Molly has public policy to

the branch in a way that has never been done before," says Deborah Schall, former Bath-Brunswick Branch president. "As a young career woman working on behalf of women, she is very succinct in presenting reports to the board and the branch."

Molly has a presence within the state and is often at the statehouse, dealing with issues. She is absolutely a joy to work with: always positive, an incisive mind, a strong commitment to all public policy issues that affect women, excellent writing skills, and leadership qualities that belie her youth, says Joanne Bollinger, a former branch president. With her advocacy in the public space and through her work with the Maine Women's Policy Center, she has contributed to the advancement of AAUW's initiatives in Maine and, in the process, has heightened the visibility of Bath-Brunswick AAUW in the wider community. And did we say that she has an irrepressible smile and a delightful sense of humor? Our branch is so fortunate to have Molly as a member and as Chair of Public Policy.

Experienced AAUW leader **Carolyn MacRae** and 2014 Thomas College graduate **Carly McCarthy** teamed up to serve as co-presidents of the **Waterville Branch**. The two of them have revitalized the branch, which has had no official leadership for several years.



Carolyn and Carly have conducted business meetings together by taking turns presenting items on the agenda

distributed to members and have promoted interactive programs, including panel discussions followed by questions and answers. They have initiated social events, such as a visit to the Body Worlds exhibit at the Portland Science Center and lunch at Flatbread Company, and formed a group of members who knitted hats, scarves, mittens and slippers for the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter in Waterville. Their positive attitudes, consistent leadership and innovative ideas have moved the Waterville Branch forward. Consequently, they are deserving of the 2016 Branch Member(s)-of-the-Year Award.

Membership Matters

Betty-Jane Meader, Membership VP

Fall is here! That means membership vice presidents and/or treasurers/finance officers are scurrying to collect the 2016-2017 dues from those who were members last year. Several people have opted to pay their dues online—a simple process that requires one to use her membership number to access her information on the national website. Once on the AAUW website, one should click on member services database (MSD), enter the MSD, login, and enter member services database. Under my profile/my membership card on the left, she should click on renew my membership. The process is that easy!

Because membership is the lifeblood of AAUW, retaining members is critical. If membership drops, action must be taken to identify why members are losing interest in the organization. In attracting new members, we must remember when people join AAUW, they want to know how membership will benefit them. Members should be prepared to respond to that inquiry when recruiting new members.

Achievement Citation Award

Debbie Melvin, Achievement Citation Award Chair

Each branch should consider nominating an individual for the 2017 Achievement Citation Award. We all know a woman in our area or in the state at large who possesses leadership qualities and whose accomplishments are consistent with the AAUW mission and public policy that deserves to be nominated. Additionally, the nominee must be eligible to join AAUW and be between 25 and 50 years of age. She will be expected to speak at the annual spring meeting. Date to be determined soon.

It is easy to propose a candidate; the branch only needs to provide the candidate’s name, age, and why they think the individual merits the citation. Names of prior nominees must be resubmitted for consideration. Send this information to Debbie Melvin at deborah.melvin@rsu29.org. **Deadline for submissions is Dec. 31, 2016.** Since the Achievement Citation Award Committee has to do additional research on each individual, early nominations are greatly appreciated.

AAUW Publishes Voter Guide for Second District Congressional Race

Molly Bogart, Public Policy Co-chair



The fact that Election Day is now just about two months away is inescapable! As active and engaged voters, I am sure many of you are paying attention and likely getting involved in local, state, and national elections! For those of you in Congressional District 2 (or close enough to be actively engaged!), AAUW has put out a voter guide for the Bruce Poliquin/Emily Cain Race.

You can find it online here: bit.ly/PoliquinCain. (You need to copy and paste the address into the search line.)

If you have questions about how you may be involved in elections in your capacity as a member of AAUW, don't hesitate to reach out to State Public Policy Co-chairs Molly Bogart (mollybogart@gmail.com) and Karen Kusiak (kkusiak@colby.edu).



**A Letter from Darlene Taylor, our 2016-2017
AAUW Career Development Grantee**

Kristin,

I hope you and AAUW-Maine members have had a great summer. I wanted to share with you and the ladies from our winter lunch some of the progress I made this semester during my July residency. I was awarded a graduate scholarship to participate in Stonecoast's residency in Ireland. I spent ten days in Dublin and Dingle with a small group of American writers from Stonecoast and Irish writers. I submitted three short stories in which I experimented with dialogue, language, images, and compression.

Stonecoast professor and author of *The Sweet Relief of Missing Children*, Sarah Braunstein, traveled from Maine and led workshops and seminar, which added to the cultural exchange between American and Irish authors. Sarah has always led me to a greater awareness of sentence and structure and added great titles to my reading list. I started reading Angela Carter's *Saints and Strangers* in the quiet time during my travel in Bristol, England after Ireland.

In Dingle, poet, Kate Newmann, presented a seminar on the social boxes writers confront in their work. Kate and her mother, Joan, were a dynamic mother-daughter team. Their inter-generational sisterhood, and the power they share in shaping image and word, inspired me. We talked about the voice of women in literature and the connections of writers from the Civil Rights Movement in America and Irish and feminist writers in Europe. I'm sure our AAUW-Maine lunch group would have loved sitting over a bowl of fish stew and brown bread with them.

Kate's latest collection, *Grim*, began with: "Work Sets You Free" and the line: "The time it takes to read these sixteen poems is approximately the time it takes to die in a gas chamber." Her poems made bare suffering by digging painfully deep into history, knowledge and witness. In "The Hand that Feeds You," her poetry exposed the horror through a recipe as an Auschwitz Cook began with "hogs' heads boiling five hours to make Head Cheese. Then, "But it was not easy making food to undernourish so many." If you haven't read Kate's work, please add this to your book list.

Hugo Hamilton, author of *The Speckled People*, and Ian McDonald, a fantasy fiction writer, spoke about craft from their perspectives of writing the human condition that is used to create settings in fantasy, memoir, and any literary genre. Hamilton, McDonald, and the Newmanns brought to life the literary tradition of Irish writers. Over the week we discussed craft, the writer's

journey, the Easter rebellion, protest in literature, women in literature, and the world events that swept the news coverage in the US and the European Union. It was an incredible time to be in Europe and reflect and write.

I led a seminar on Colum McCann's novel *TransAtlantic*. If you haven't read it, add this one to your reading list. The book shared crossings through the stories of individuals who touched Irish and American history in their journeys. I recall George Mitchell being mentioned in our lunch conversation in January. McCann wrote of the Senator's work in Ireland. I lectured about McCann's use of fiction craft that brought historical figures to contemporary readers. Specifically, I focused on Frederick Douglass' historic visit to Ireland in 1845, a visit that had tremendous impact on his work as an abolitionist. Douglass had written and published his first narrative in the US and traveled to England. An edition was also published in Dublin during Douglass' visit, and I visited the National Library and held a copy. Preparing for this seminar I discovered many literary connections between US and Ireland that I plan to continue to explore in the months to come.

The Dingle week also featured nightly readings at the Dingle Book Store. Sarah, Kate, Joan and the other writers read from their works. The residency concluded with the Stonecoast students reading at the Dingle Book Store. It was my first book store reading, and I enjoyed sharing the evening with a group of talented writers whose works you should look out for!

Returning to the US, I worked at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia and was there in the convention hall when Hillary Clinton accepted the nomination. At the Democratic Women's Caucus meetings, equal pay was front and center!

I return to Maine in January for a graduate presentation, reading of my work, and graduation. Graduation is January 14th. I hope you can attend. I will send more details on the reading and ceremony in Freeport.

Thank you for the support and sisterhood,

Darlene



**STONECOAST IN IRELAND
AND
THE DINGLE BOOKSHOP
PRESENT
THE STONECOAST GRAND FINALE**



**A lively evening of writers from the
Stonecoast M.F.A. Programme reading from their work.**

**David Arroyo, Ryan Brod
Steve Cave, Gregory Martin
Kelsey Olesen, Suri Parmar
Stella Skordalellis, Darlene Taylor
Stacie McCall Whitaker & Heather Wilson**

Wednesday, 13 July 2016, 7:30 p.m.

“Invite an Expert” Pilot Program to Begin this Year
Carolyn MacRae, Strategic Planning Chair

As part of AAUW of Maine’s strategic planning process, a pilot program to help branches is currently in the planning stages. Through this pilot program, branches will be able to “Invite an Expert,” who will provide training and assistance to the branch board and/or the whole branch. AAUW of Maine will identify and provide leaders from among state officers and experienced branch members with specific expertise to help branches in the areas of organizational strengthening, strategic planning and goal setting, membership growth, and mission-based programming and public policy action. A draft implementation plan has been developed and circulated to state board members and branch presidents or administrators for feedback.

The pilot program proposes that branches would be able to request a maximum of one visit per year from a state

AAUW leader with expertise to address an identified branch need. The leader/expert and the branch leadership will work together to determine the general area, type of assistance, and other planning details to ensure a visit that will best suit the branch’s goal in requesting this assistance. The length of a visit will generally be no longer than a day; it could occur at a regular branch meeting, a special daylong workshop, or other suitable format.

You can help make this pilot project a reality.

- As a branch member, you can provide input and suggestions to your branch leadership regarding the types of expertise that might be especially helpful to your branch.
- If you are a current or former state board member with expertise in the areas described above, and you are willing to share your expertise with one of Maine’s branches, you can volunteer to be among the panel of AAUW of Maine experts.

The current development timeline is to refine the implementation plan and develop a list of experts this fall, and to be ready for branches to “Invite an Expert” in 2017. To request a copy of the pilot project draft implementation plan, provide feedback and suggestions for the pilot project, or volunteer to be an expert, please contact Carolyn MacRae at 207-873-1244 or Carolyn.macrae@yahoo.com.

AAUW FUNDS

Susan Nolan Landry, AAUW Funds Liaison

Yes indeed, it’s that time again – start planning your branch baskets for spring 2017! Although we’re currently unsure what shape our Maine state spring meeting will take, the Leadership Team has already decided we will plan for a raffle and we will once again earmark the proceeds for “unrestricted funds.” Let’s see if we can outdo ourselves once again, both in basket quality and interest and in ticket sales!

Here’s an interesting video about the importance of giving to unrestricted funds:
<https://aauw.app.box.com/s/jzlxvgwewjk6q91ja5tmqyle4g51ply/1/7557354913/62047268833/1> and here’s the “diagram” and descriptions of the various funds:
<http://www.aauw.org/files/2014/11/The-AAUW-Fund-Diagram.pdf>

If you wish to benefit from some of those contributions, apply now for 2017-2018 [fellowships and grants](#). The first deadline is November 15.

And don't forget that the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) is still important to AAUW! From the most recent LAF update: Cases decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in its latest term will significantly affect the rights of women and girls across the country. Access to reproductive health care, TRAP (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers) laws restricting women's access to legal abortion, and affirmative action hung in the balance. AAUW members across the country tuned in on July 19 to hear analysis of the court's most important cases. Couldn't make the wrap-up call? Follow this link to listen to the recording!

And PLEASE: anyone with suggestions for alternate or additional ways of raising funds (and friends!) at the branch or state level, I would love to hear from you any time!

email susan.landry@umit.maine.edu
phone 207/581-1509 Mon-Fri 9-4

Promoting Diverse Membership
Betty-Jane Meader, Diversity Chair

When promoting diverse membership, we must use correct terminology and understand the customs of other cultures. Amy Robach's recent use of an offensive term on "Good Morning America" reminds us to use appropriate terminology. For example, the term colored people is no longer used. The preferred term is people of color OR blacks or African-Americans, if applicable.

In addition to using correct terms, we need to be aware of the customs of other cultures. For example, many Muslims fast during Ramadan. They spend the holy month praying, reading the Quran and listening to religious lectures. During this month, Muslims abstain from eating and drinking from sunrise to sunset.

AAUW values and seeks diverse membership. Consequently, understanding other cultures is important when recruiting members.

MEETING THE LADIES OF BILLINGS, MT AAUW
Dora McCarthy, President, AAUW of Maine

Through my work at the financial advising office I travel to Billings, MT once or twice a year. This time I reached out to the local branch of AAUW in Billings, hoping I could join in an event, a meeting or have dinner with some of the members.

Like most of our branches here, they were on hiatus for the summer and were planning on starting up their

meetings in August. We were able to grab dinner at a local Thai restaurant. I met with 5 of their members and most of them worked for Montana State University – Billings or MSUB, as most call it.

We talked about many things from politics, the economy, to family. We also talked a lot about AAUW and what Maine is doing to attract new members. Like Maine, Montana is very rural and there are big gaps between big cities where branches are. From Billings, Bozeman (the next closest city) is over 2 hours away and there's not a lot in between.

I told them of the different groups different branches had started to broaden their base and bring in members with different interests. I also spoke of branches trying new things to reconnect their members and introduce programming that had an action attached.

They were excited about the young members we have in AAUW taking on leadership roles and I encouraged them to reach out to women's groups on campus. AAUW of Maine is lucky to have programs like Maine NEW Leadership and Elect Her!, which have connected us with smart, focused, strong, and driven young women. Neither of these programs is available in Montana and I shared the links with them, hoping someone will want to bring them to Montana.

Montana has been bringing \$tart\$mart and Work Smart to campuses across Montana through a grant. They have been working with 8 different campuses across Montana to bring this programming. I didn't get to hear all the details, but I hope to learn more in the future.

While talking with them I wondered about our own meetings. Many branches have been meeting at the same time and place for many years. I suggest taking a moment to consider if it is the best time and location for new members to learn about you and to join. Is there another women's group that meets at the same time so someone can't do both: is your location easy to find; is the meeting time conducive for a college student, young professional or mother to attend?

Also, take a moment to consider your action plan. At the end of your meeting; be it book club, guest speaker, fundraiser, etc., what do you want your members to do? Do you want them to go home and say, "That was a nice meeting, glad I got to see some people" or "What a great speaker. I hope to hear him/her again" or do you want them to do something? If you want them to do something, then make sure you tell them what you are hoping they do: write their representative; write an op-ed; call a friend; donate their time; plan an event, etc. Every meeting should have a meaning; at the end of it there should be an action and you need to ask your members to do it.

I look forward to seeing the women of Billings AAUW again and to continue sharing ideas with each other.

Branching Out: News from Our Branches

Bath-Brunswick Branch

Helene Maraghy and Deborah Cravey,
September and October Team Leaders,
assisted by Kristin Sweeney

One thing that will be different for our branch this year is the face of leadership at our monthly gatherings. This past spring, when the nominating committee was unable to find someone willing to take on the role of president, members of the board voted to share the responsibility as a "Leadership Team". A different board member will be responsible for the executive board and membership meetings each month.

The September meeting will be dinner at the China Rose with speaker Milena Banks, author of *Riding the Tiger*. The Growstown School has had a busy summer and the Annual Harvest Sale and Open House on October 8 will be part of a special Growstown Celebration this year.

The meeting in October will be an open meeting. Our speakers from the Frances Perkins Center are wonderful presenters: the Honorable Leah W. Sprague, retired justice of the Massachusetts Trial Court and Treasurer, and Michael Chaney, Executive Director. Frances Perkins was FDR's Secretary of Labor and the first woman appointed to a President's cabinet. She served with grace and grit and great effectiveness at considerable personal cost. Her Maine connection is an intriguing part of her life history and a source of pride for our area. Anyone who benefits from Social Security or unemployment benefits or remembers or knows about working conditions before child labor laws and workplace safety measures were passed can appreciate her vision, determination, and ability to work with her allies and her opponents to make change for the greater good. Frances Perkins went fearlessly where no woman in the US had been before.

Plans for the rest of 2016 include: Lily King, author of *Euphoria*, in November; and the annual fundraising Greens Event in December.

News from the Caribou Branch of AAUW

Carol Pierson, Secretary

The Caribou branch is continuing our tradition of meeting from April through October to spare members from possible hazardous driving to meetings during the winter months. This change has worked well for us.

The venue for our April meeting was the Maine School of Science and Math where we were given a tour and the

history of MSSM by Executive Director Luke Shorty. In May we met at a member's home where we discussed the book "Being Mortal" by Artur Gawanda. Also on the agenda was a discussion of how we can increase our membership. We all suggested names of potential members and agreed to invite these women to meetings where we were having special programs that we felt other women might enjoy. May also was a fundraising month where we participated in Caribou's citywide yard sale. We agreed to continue with this yard sale as a fundraiser next year with a change in the types of items we would offer. In June we had our annual meeting where we voted on a slate of officers, adopted a budget for 2017, and discussed the updated Caribou Branch bylaws. "Fate of the Bees" presented by Steve Miller, local beekeeper, was the topic of the program at our July meeting.

In August we traveled to Bangor to the home of the daughter of one of our members who gave a very informative talk on Medical Marijuana. Because of its central location, this meeting was also attended by members of other Maine branches of AAUW.



Betty-Jane Meader, Waterville Branch; Shirley's daughter, Kristi; Shirley Ayer, Caribou Branch; and Dora McCarthy, Penobscot Valley Branch and President, AAUW of Maine

Our September meeting will center around a potluck dinner and program planning for 2017. We will also choose candidates who will be running for office in the upcoming election for each member to research and discuss at our October meeting. Prospective members will also be invited to this meeting. At our last program in October we will also review and approve the AAUW Caribou Branch meeting schedule for 2017.

Hancock County Branch

Betsy Eggleston

In March, we again joined BPW and the other women's organizations for dinner and a report from Ellsworth's only woman police detective, who has over 30 years' experience in law enforcement.

In April and May, we put our energy into preparing for our part in the State Convention at Maine Maritime Academy in Castine. Our annual convention was combined a successful STEM day for high school girls from Down East Maine.

We closed out our year in June with our annual meeting and potluck. Our group met and set our year's schedule for 2016-2017.

Penobscot Valley Branch
Susan Landry, Branch Liaison

Our goal this year is to increase membership by developing mission-based and action-oriented programming, while collaborating with like-minded local women's groups. We'll begin the year by inviting a number of such groups to our opening meeting where Dora McCarthy will speak, setting the tone for an initial attempt at coordinating needs and resources among the groups, and determining best ways of working together. The hope is to follow up in various ways throughout the upcoming year. Our October meeting will focus on several referendum issues; we'd like to provide pros and cons to help members sift through the layers of media blitz and extract some kernels of fact. (Is this possible??) Our first "Mobilizing Women" follow-up to the September meeting will occur in November, with the next one planned for March. Until we've experienced the September collaboration and sorted through the feedback collected there, we can't shape the two outgrowth efforts. In January we'll have our annual brunch. Our book sale is scheduled for April 8 and we'll wrap up the program year with an annual business meeting in May. Throughout the year we'll be watching for ways in which to retain members, attract new ones, and work with others in the area who find themselves in similar situations and/or those with similar missions and goals. Even though we have no formal programming during the summer months it would be nice to continue that networking year-round.

Waterville Branch Happenings
Carly McCarthy and Carolyn MacRae
Co-Presidents

Over the last year or so, Waterville Branch has endeavored to increase branch programming and activities to include a balance of mission-based, informative monthly programs, occasional social activities, and public policy events in the greater community. Our program year begins in September with our annual Souper Supper, where members and prospective members will enjoy a meal together, get better acquainted, and honor two Lifetime Honorary Members – Barbara Wilson and Regina Oliver.

In October, our program will focus on one or more state referendum issues and we hope work with one or more local colleges on Get Out the Vote activities. November will feature a panel discussion on leadership development, featuring young women who have graduated from the Maine NEW Leadership program; in conjunction with this meeting, all those present will receive a copy of AAUW's new research report, "Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership." Our annual fundraising auction will take place in December. Tentative program topics in the new year include memory and elders, women in the arts, current issues for women in the workplace, and new approaches to decrease sexual assault. Again this year, we plan to walk with Colby students in April at their annual Take Back the Night campus event.

In addition to the regularly scheduled monthly programs, we are planning a variety of casual get-togethers – occasions that are fun and relaxed, and give us time to get to know each other better. Last year, we tried out a new restaurant in town, went to a museum to see a special exhibit, and formed an ongoing knitting group that will donate hats, scarves, and mittens to those who need them this winter. We have another new restaurant to try out this fall, and we're looking at other local events and activities of interest to members for our further exploration.

Last but not least, we are incorporating the use of national AAUW resources in our programming and activities. We order appropriate materials from AAUW to complement our monthly programs and public policy Get Out the Vote and Equal Pay Day events. We have also begun to embed links highlighting national AAUW news and information in the monthly newsletter emailed to members. Last spring, for example, we included the link to the AAUW implicit bias test on women and leadership. The use of these materials helps us all realize that we are not alone in our work to increase equity for women – we have a whole national organization backing us up and encouraging our efforts.



Marlise Swartz, Bath-Brunswick Branch, wants share this easy way to donate to AAUW.

You shop. **Amazon** gives. **Amazon** donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice when you shop.

<https://smile.amazon.com/gp/aw/ch/homepage>



OUR RIGHTS AT RISK

**Thursday, September 29
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Bangor Public Library
145 Harlow Street**

Hosted by the Maine Women’s Lobby, the Mabel Wadsworth Women’s Health Center, and Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights (GRR)

A discussion of what is at risk with the delays in appointing federal judges, the current Supreme Court vacancy, and with additional Supreme Court nominations on the horizon.

[Join and share the event on Facebook](#)



Massachusetts: Leading the Way on Equal Pay
By Jackie Cooke on August 4, 2016

<https://blog.dol.gov/2016/08/04/massachusetts-leading-the-way-on-equal-pay/>

Massachusetts passed an Equal Pay Act in August.

Important Dates

September 29 Our Rights at Risk, Bangor

October 1 Elect Her!, UMaine, Orono

October 22 AAUW Board meeting, Orono

November 8 Election Day



November 18 New England Women’s Policy Conference, UMass, Boston

https://www.umb.edu/news_events_media/events/2nd_newpc_conference

June 14-17, 2017 AAUW Convention, Washington DC

Remember Lucinda Pins?



You can still purchase items from our vintage collection. If you are interested, contact Marilyn Leimbach (meleimbach@gmail.com), Treasurer, AAUW of Maine, and make her an offer.





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