Spring 4-1-2017

Dawnbreaker Vol 63 No 3 (Spring 2017)

Dawnbreaker Staff
Maine Division - American Association of University Women

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Message from the President
By Dora McCarthy

I can't wait for Spring and I know it is close. Some days it feels closer than others. I feel Spring will bring about many opportunities for AAUW members to get out there and advocate. I'm sure you have all been inundated with requests to attend meetings, march, call your Representative, and write letters and postcards. This leads me to two big AAUW events. First is our state convention April 28-29 in Waterville where the theme is Equal Pay and the other is the National Convention in Washington D.C., June 14-17. More on both of these later in the newsletter.

I want to use this letter from the President to discuss advocacy, membership, and self care. We are in the middle of exciting times in the area of advocacy. At times it seems there isn't an issue that isn't currently high priority. Some days I have a full inbox on my email, lists of invites to events on Facebook, and multiple pings on my cell from alerts. Thank you to all of you for staying in the fight. Since the election there has been a reinvigoration in advocacy with people of all age groups. What a great time to find people of like minds and interests and show them AAUW.

People are trying to find organizations to join to help them voice their concerns. There are many organizations out there that focus on so many different issues. How do we convince someone that AAUW is the organization for them? AAUW's age – we've been here quite awhile. Our causes – we have a wide array that affects every man, woman, and child. AAUW's research – so respected it is used by other organizations. Our members – one of the most diverse, determined, and fun loving groups out there. This is only a small sample of what makes AAUW great, so when you are out there among your friends or making new ones let them know you are part of a great organization that can help them raise their voice.

With all of these opportunities to speak up and get out there on issues we love, it is equally important to take care of yourself and not get burnt out. Take time for yourself and take a no-politics break. Put down the phone, avoid Facebook, shut off the news and do other things you love that reinvigorate you. I have started painting and finally reading classics I purchased from our Penobscot Valley Book Fair a year ago. I'm also hoping to either take lessons to play a musical instrument or learn a foreign language.

On a personal note, I am starting a new job very soon and I'm very excited about the new opportunity. I will be a Service Manager at Darling’s Honda in Bangor.

See you all at the State Convention** next month!!!

**Program, registration form, and accommodation details are at the end of the newsletter.

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Women’s March on Washington, D.C.
January 21, 2017

By Moira O’Neill, Corresponding Secretary

Moira O’Neill, Hancock County Branch, and Laurie Fogelman. Editor’s note: Maine chose blaze orange as its identifying color for the march.
It was more than just the crowd at the march in Washington, DC. A few weeks before the march I called my old high school buddy, Denise, and said, “we have to go.” We planned that I would drive to Connecticut to meet her and then together we would drive to Washington. An acquaintance shared that her bus was cancelled. I did not really know her well, but when she asked to ride with me, I agreed, thinking she would balk at spending 2 nights in Connecticut and 2 in Washington D.C. with total strangers. But she went for it. Then just days before leaving, a woman I had never met called, having heard I was going. She was seeking a ride for both her and her husband. I ran it by Denise. We agreed this was the essence of the march – bringing people together – so we said, “sure, come on along.”

We met at Pugnuts Ice Cream Shoppe in Surry. They weren’t open, but the owners were there and sent us off with hot cappuccinos. We set out, awed by the likelihood of being part of an historic moment. On Friday we left Connecticut in increasingly heavy traffic. We peered into cars wondering if other marchers were among us. In New Jersey at the Vince Lombardi rest stop, the first pink Pussy Hats appeared. They were an opening: “Going to Washington? Where are you from? See you down there! Drive safe.” Back on I-95 it was clear – cars now had signs in the windows: “DC or Bust!”

On arrival at New Carrollton, we went directly to the Metro station and bought MetroCards for the next day. In the morning there was a line as long as a football field – for the people who had MetroCards already. The line for people without was longer. Still, the Metro Police moved us along swiftly guiding us toward seats on the train – mine across from a young Lady Liberty herself.

The march was extraordinary. Not one for crowds, I found myself swept up and crammed for hours and hours with thousands of other people, no place to turn without touching and bumping human beings - all behaving kindly, generously, with good humor. There were no streets, no lawns, no avenues, no sidewalks, no places at all that were not crammed with people. It took us all day from about 8am to 5pm to be free of the crowd - black, white, brown, yellow, old, new (a stroller with the sign: “I marched before I walked”), pushing walkers (“Now you’ve pissed off Gammie!”) and wheelchairs; straight, trans, gay, wondering. Muslims, Jewish, Christians, Atheists (“Keep your theocracy off my democracy!”), determined women AND men with big-ass AAUW buttons on - we were all there.

The signs were splendid. Many with the most graphic details of female body parts (Viva la Vulva!); Clever turns of phrase (“We shall overcomb!”); (“You can’t combover racism”); Lots of Maya Angelou (“And still I rise”).

“Women’s March” “Join us!” At the Delaware House rest stop there were more. A man rocking a pink hat, mothers and daughters spying others. We were a movement. Literally, a mass movement of people going in one direction. On the highway, 150 miles out from DC, we could feel the momentum of women moving all across the country and we knew then it was going to be big.

Lucy Stinson (on the left), Bath-Brunswick Branch, marched in D.C. with her daughter and a friend. Two members from the Waterville Branch, Karen Kusiak and Charlie Hartman, also marched, but are not pictured.
They made warnings, most commonly with the theme of female anatomy, (“AMERICA’S PUSSY is NOT UP for Grabs”) (“BACK OFF MY VAG, BRO”) (“VAGINAS brought you into this world, VAGINAS will vote you out”) (“Everything is in Jeopardy”) (“You haven’t seen NASTY yet”)

They took stands, (“Cheeseheads 4 Choice”) (“Liberty and Justice for ALL”) (“Resist white supremacy!”) (“No human is illegal”) (“Left or Right We can all see WRONG”) (“Keep your rosaries off my ovaries”) (“NYET”)

They made pleas, (“Open Hearts Open Minds...Just Be Kind!”) (“Resistance is FERTILE”) (“Free the PERIOD”).

They expressed frustration, (“Can’t believe we STILL have to protest this *****”).

The rally filled the entire march route; there was nowhere to go. But we pushed forward, fending through a thick field of chanting humanity. There were a few injuries; I think one person fell from a tree. Then you would see hands raised in the air pointing, pointing. Soon an ambulance would wend its way through the masses and tend to the injured. At one scene I heard the call for help and swiftly picked my way over to offer first aid. I found a woman on the ground, surrounded by at least 7 physician and nurse pink-hatted marchers expertly tending to her injury.

There were lawyers, teachers, students, federal workers, legislators – even, apparently, Cher was there. On jumbotron screens we saw, but generally could not hear, the icons: Angela Davis, Gloria Steinem (really!). The young, driven organizers explaining logistics. Michael Moore gesticulating. The speakers spoke for documentaries; we will hear them later. I think this march has got to go! And the Obama-nostalgic, “Fired up! Ready to go!” And finally: “March, march, march, march!” and off we went.

At 14th Street many continued north to the east side of the White House. We danced to drumming along Constitution Avenue to The Ellipse south of the White House. There we hung our signs on wind fences, a patchwork of graffiti, a powerful statement of the day and days to come. There we lingered.

At the corner of 17th and Pennsylvania Avenue, members of the Metropolitan Police stood leaning against cruisers at intersections, breathing a sigh of relief, showing off that instead of pink hats they had pink handcuffs, thanking us for making their day so easy. Not a single arrest, not a single rude behavior. We used our words and our presence and it was grand.

Then many left immediately on buses back to MDI, Bangor, Portland, Concord New Hampshire, North Carolina, Florida, Kentucky - all across the country - buses that streamed up and down I-95, overflowing parking lots at highway rest stops, flowing into the city early that morning after overnight rides, then turned around and went straight back at the end of the long day, with no time for putting feet up or catching some sleep.

The rest of us spread out through the District's neighborhoods for dinner, coffee, and drinks. Every café and restaurant was crammed with bobbing pink hats. We talked to the people at the table next to us, in the line to the bathroom, waiting to pay at the register - everyone talked, laughed, cheered, planned. At the bars, local federal workers pressed forward to hear our hope. I felt they wanted to believe we would save the missions of their agencies. They looked as though tentatively stepping out of despair. The transition in our nation’s capitol is straining them. We gave them encouragement.

I think the nationwide marching events will bring more action for several reasons. First of all, no one can ignore millions marching. We demonstrated that when women organize, it's civil, purposeful and peaceful. In a time when there are claims of widespread division, we celebrated diversity of persons and interests. We rallied around common ground: respect for all, affordable health care, clean environment, safety and security, economic opportunity. People ask if the many interests and communities represented won't dilute the cause. I think it strengthens it and ensures a future.

In another 3 years we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote. My sense of the Women’s March is that we finally see the power of that vote. For some it may seem a couple of months too late, but regardless of how we got here, women are finding their place at the table, and, as so many signs said, they are not going to turn back now. The beauty is that women will not go it alone. They will bring men and everyone in between with them just as they did at the marches.

Even before I left for the march, people were contacting me to ask what they can do. Since the election there has been an overwhelming sense of need to take action. I think this march grounded us. First, we now know no one is alone. Second, we are all energized to get involved. I expect to see more women running for office in the next cycle. I know already more people will be seeking out opportunities to volunteer in their communities.
Being in such close proximity to so many people was an extraordinary opportunity to learn again not to fear each other. If I could walk in a crowd of half a million variations of the genus human without worry of injury or insult – then I am convinced the social compact endures and we can find ways to work out public policy that satisfies and protects us all.

Despite so much acrimony, I feel hopeful. I was brought to tears early in the day when I realized how many young people were there. I knew I could count on the baby boomers to show up. I know very well that the age group most politically engaged, most likely to vote, has historically been older. I was thrilled to see what I believe to be a shift in who will take the lead now. The millennials have stepped up and I know they will make a difference. They are smart and creative, but pragmatic, and don’t take any bull.

I loved the sense of community. I felt comfortable and familiar with thousands of people. There were no grumps. The generosity was so sweet. I complimented a woman on her pin, a raised rainbow fist. She took it off and gave it to me, then took out a bag of more pins, all with various symbols of power, strength and diversity. Another Maine woman gave a man in our party a hat she had made. It has the outline of our state and reads: March With ME. My friend Mady was despairing not being able to march, so I wore a pair of socks she made as her proxy. I mentioned to Denise that I needed to find a way to take a photograph of Mady’s socks in the crowd. Being so close, others heard me and jumped into action. One took the phone, one held our signs, Denise held my leg and pulled my pants up enough to expose the sock – then further to reveal my unshaven leg – everyone laughing at my expense, but knowing that Mady needed to know that we had her with us – it was a no-brainer. Denise’s expression was so joyous in the moment – I haven’t seen her like that in years. The march brought out the best in us.

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And More....

Carly McCarthy (far right), Waterville Branch, attended the Boston Women’s March on America with friends. Photos courtesy of Dylan Caron.

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AAUW members from Bath-Brunswick (Molly Bogart, Judy Dinmore, Helen Maraghy, Marlise Swartz, Kristin Sweeney and Sophie Whitehouse), Penobscot Valley (Mary Cathcart, Fran Haines and Jocelyn Runnebaum) and Waterville (Martha Arterberry, Patricia Clark, Mary Ellen Dennis, Alison Gagliardi, Jackie Kulik, Carolyn MacRae, Betty-Jane Meader, and Lauren Seganos-Cohen) Branches attended the Women’s March on Maine rally in Augusta. Additional Bath-Brunswick members attended the march in Brunswick.

Maine AAUW endorsed Questions 2 & 4 that were on the ballot in Maine in November 2016. Both questions passed. Question 2 is for a surtax for public education, and Question 4 increases the minimum wage.

As you may know, some members of the Legislature and the Governor are proposing measures that will undermine the intent of these two questions. For example, on March 20 the Taxation Committee held hearings on several related bills that would diminish the effect of Question 2.

Let your own representative know where you stand on these bills. It is likely that the bills heard on March 20 will be combined and condensed into one bill on taxes and school funding. Once the text for the bill that will go forward to undo additional funding for education is released, Maine AAUW will alert you so that you may contact your own legislators.

A minimum wage bill, LD673 - An Act To Restore the Tip Credit to Maine’s Minimum Wage Law –for restaurant workers is controversial. Here is an article about the bill, LD673. Consider writing to your representative and senator about your view on LD673.
Declining AAUW Membership: A Concern in Maine
By Membership Vice President Betty-Jane Meader

In recent years, AAUW of Maine has seen declining membership, even though the potential membership pool has grown. Time and energy appear to be obstacles to joining the organization.

Young adult membership is low despite the fact AAUW supports women and girls. Diane Anderson, assistant director of Career Services at Thomas College and the AAUW college/university representative, comments, “One reason young women don’t join AAUW is because they don’t believe they have the time to join or the energy to investigate an organization unfamiliar to them.”

A gleam of hope is e-student affiliates, who may join AAUW when they graduate. As the immediate past membership vice president of the Waterville Branch, I organized tabling events at Thomas College and the University of Maine at Farmington. I attribute much of the success in recruiting e-student affiliates to the students who assisted me. Student prospects relate to their peers.

Then, when e-student affiliates attended our meetings/programs, they saw few, or no, women their age. Attracting young people is difficult, if young women aren’t in the group. Despite this situation, we must continue to be visible as an organization and positive about the future of AAUW of Maine. Please encourage the young women in your life to join AAUW, because they are the future of our organization.

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News from Maine NEW Leadership
By College/University Chair, Mary Cathcart

We have selected 28 of Maine’s brightest women college students from all across Maine for the University of Maine’s 9th Maine NEW Leadership institute, June 1-6, 2017. This year’s applicant pool of 56 was the strongest ever and choosing just 28 was challenging. AAUW members are welcome to attend our annual networking reception and dinner in Wells Conference Center, Orono, on Friday, June 2. University of Maine Law School Dean Danielle Conway will be the keynote speaker.

Members who would like to attend on June 2 should contact Mary Cathcart (mary.cathcart@maine.edu). Please bring business cards, if you have them, to exchange with the students. There is no charge for the dinner, but AAUW member Sharon Barker will make a persuasive “pitch” for donations.

Maine NEW Leadership is collaborating again with New Ventures Maine on our April 6 legislative shadowing day. We are proud that four of our alumnae are currently employed by the Maine Legislature, including Molly Bogart, who is an aide to House Speaker Sara Gideon!

Dr. Amy Blackstone, Professor of Sociology at UMaine, will join the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center in July, and become co-director of NEW Leadership. Having Amy with us will allow me to reduce my hours to halftime. Amy has chaired the Sociology Department and served as interim director of the Rising Tide Center at UMaine. Her research includes childlessness and childfree families, workplace harassment, and civic engagement. Currently, she is finishing a book on the childfree choice.

Thank you very much to AAUW of Maine and Penobscot Valley Branch for your support!

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Report from the AAUW State Historian
By Betsy Eggleston

Events of the past 18 months seem to be providing tremendous amounts of materials for future historians. How will this historical period treat women’s issues, etc.? The importance of archiving our current history seems greater than ever. Make sure that your branches are doing their part!

In a recent Dawnbreaker article, I discussed a suggested minimum amount of paperwork for archiving for a branch.
- Schedule of Branch Year Activities
- List of Officers for the year/Names of Members
- Secretarial Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Annual Reports
- Your branch’s publications, if any.
- Important Activities, outlined with any publicity
This list is only a partial suggestion, but is a starting point for a branch. Many of these documents are already in existence, so duplicating them perhaps makes it easier to archive your branch’s year. Many of our branches have archived their branch history and have found an archiving location.

If your branch would like more information on the archiving process, please contact me (eggleston62@gmail.com or 667-8518). I will be glad to assist you.

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**Steps to Being Welcoming and Inclusive**

By Diversity Chair Betty-Jane Meader

Is your branch inclusive? Does your group allow members with “multiple backgrounds, mind sets and ways of thinking to work effectively together” (Press and Maak 2004)? If not, please read the following list of suggestions for improvements.

**Planning Meetings/Programs**
1. Hold meetings/events in locations accessible to people with disabilities and comfortable for those from different backgrounds and religions.
2. Organize free events or those with a sliding scale or a suggested donation.
3. Avoid scheduling meetings/events that can conflict with religious and cultural holidays.
4. Serve refreshment options to meet the needs of those with religious, dietary and personal preferences.

**During Meetings/Programs**
1. Encourage members to sit with people they don’t know. Avoid cliques.
2. Arrange chairs in a circle, if possible.
3. Introduce participants.
4. Encourage equitable participation in discussions.
5. Discourage derogatory language.
6. Use inclusive language (ex. say partners rather than husbands).
7. Include diverse speakers.

How does your branch rate on these suggestions from the AAUW Diversity and Inclusion Tool Kit available online? This tool kit provides resources to assist your branch in becoming welcoming and inclusive.

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**AAUW FUNDS**

By Funds Chair, Susan Nolan Landry

In calendar year 2016, our total branch and state contribution was $5,698.47 (compared to $5264 in 2015 plus $14,600.73 from the Mid-Coast Branch dissolution). Branches sent $2350, with the rest attributed to individuals – well done, members! Most donations were unrestricted, but about $1675 went to the Charting the Course campaign and lesser amounts to public policy, LAF, and educational opportunities.

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As a reminder, Maine state dues were increased to $15 starting this June.

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We will have our usual BASKET RAFFLE at convention. I’m sure our generous branches will put together some stunners as always. Be sure to sell chances within your membership and greater community! It’s easiest to use a two-part ticket (available at discount and office supplies stores) so you can leave one part with the buyer and bring to convention the piece with buyer’s name and branch name at minimum (and a phone number if you wish, that may be helpful). Cost: single tix $1; 6 for $5; 13 for $10.

Suggestions for new fundraisers, including reports of already successful campaigns that could be adopted on a statewide scale, are always welcome.

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As a reminder, Maine state dues were increased to $15 starting this June.
National Convention: Meet Our Reps, Explore D.C. and be at the Center of Politics
by President Dora McCarthy

AAUW’s National Convention is June 14-17 in Washington D.C. I am so excited about this convention. I have heard the best national convention happens in D.C. Opening night starts with Judy Woodruff, Co-Anchor & Managing Editor of PBS NewsHour. We have more speakers, roundtable discussions, and classes throughout the week.

The highlight of the week, in my opinion, is the AAUW Lobby Day when everyone marches on the Capitol Building to visit with their representatives. Carly McCarthy has agreed to be our State Delegation Chair and will set up the meetings. Luckily we only have two so the task isn’t as huge as states like California. One of the many times it is a good thing to be from a small state. AAUW is setting up appointments for us to meet with our Senators.

During our recent conference call we heard that over 650 people have registered for national convention so far! The hotel where the convention is being held has been booked, but there are still rooms at hotels nearby and there are Airbnb’s nearby too. The Early Bird Discount runs out March 31st.

If you can’t attend then you need to vote!! There are going to be a lot of very important issues to decide. One change is an increase in dues at the National level from $49 to $59 that if agreed upon would go into effect June 2018.

Another item that has been debated for years is taking away the degree requirement for membership. The Maine Board voted to support this change and I was asked to sign on to the amendment that was put forward for approval. There are also board members to vote on. Dot McLane, who will be coming to our convention, is running for reelection. She will be bringing some materials with her and, hopefully, you will all get a chance to speak to her while she is here.

I hope every branch follows up with all of their members to make sure everyone votes. The percentage of AAUW members nationally who voted two years ago was dismal. As an organization we are fighting to make sure women have a voice and then we don’t use it when it affects us!?! VOTE!!!!

I hope we can have a strong contingent of members attend convention. I also want Maine to have the highest percentage of members voting. Either in person or long distance, have your presence felt in Washington D.C.

Here is a link to frequently asked questions about the election: http://www.aauw.org/resource/faq-national-election/.
Update on Bylaws
By Bylaws Chair Judy Dinmore,

Bravo and thanks to those who have submitted their revised/compliant bylaws to AAUW national. Recognition is due to Waterville, Caribou, and Maine state. Bath/Brunswick is in the final stages. Encouragement is sent to Penobscot Valley and Hancock County.

An AAUW governance webinar was held on February 28, 2017. The chair was Sandy Camillo (sandycamillo@gmail.com), AAUW Compliance Officer. The topics were based upon questions submitted to Sandy.

A synopsis of points made is below:

Importance. The session was opened on an historical note. “Bye-laws” (Bye is an Old Norse word for a settlement) have been in existence since the 4th Century. Pertaining to current use, bylaws are legal documents that require the affiliate to comply with AAUW mandated provisions as well as specific provisions mandated by the statutes of their state of domicile. Poorly drafted bylaws can damage an organization, e.g., a quorum set so high that it impedes the ability to make decisions, or lack of process to curb disruptive behavior.

Correlation. Bylaws establish the rules and regulations of the organization, while Articles of Incorporation contain certain information mandated by state statute that legally documents the creation of a corporation and are filed with the appropriate government agency, commonly the Secretary of State. Not everything contained in the articles is required in the bylaws.

Flexibility. It’s best to allow for flexibility in the wording of bylaws provisions and to include specific directives in policy and procedures, which do not require membership vote. In this way procedural steps can be fine tuned as needed without necessitating a vote of the membership. Articles in the affiliate bylaws that are mandated by AAUW or the statutes in the affiliates state of domicile do not require membership vote. All other substantive provisions in the affiliate bylaws do require membership vote. An affiliate’s board must approve all AAUW mandated changes unless they directly conflict with state law.

Guidelines. 1) Bylaws must be consistent with Federal, State, and local laws, AAUW mandates and the organization’s articles of incorporation. They must also be internally consistent. One section of the bylaws can’t contradict another section.
2) Permission, not requirements: Actions should be permitted, but not required, e.g., requiring an annual meeting is a permission and should be in the bylaws. Stating that the annual meeting must be held on March 1st of each year is a deadline and does not belong in the bylaws.
3) Importance: Include only the most important rules of the organization in the bylaws. Management procedures don’t belong in the bylaws. The bylaws are the framework of the organization. They are meant to outline major purposes and governance structure not to delineate the steps involved in the daily operations of the organization.
4) Currency: Make sure the provisions of the bylaws are current with the mission and activities of the organization and with the changing realities of time and law.

IRS revocation. Organizations whose tax-exempt status was automatically revoked by the IRS because they did not file required Form 990 series returns or notices for three consecutive years can apply for reinstatement of their tax-exempt status by following one of four procedures as listed in IRS Revenue Procedure 2014-11. Revocation of a 501(c)4 affiliate’s tax-exempt status by the IRS removes them as a participant in the AAUW group tax exemption.

Revisiting One Member One Vote.

Convention Debate - Debate is an intrinsic element in the foundation of democracy. Democracy, as we know, implies control of an organization by a majority of its members. AAUW’s One Member One Vote process ensures that each member has the right to vote on the operations and management of AAUW with the majority vote having the final say. This is democracy. If we authorize debate on issues on the AAUW convention
D. C. Nonprofit Corporation Act The D.C. Nonprofit Corporation Act as revised in 2010 recognized the importance of providing an equal right to vote to all members of nonprofit organizations. The code states that, except as otherwise provided in the Articles of Incorporation or bylaws, each member shall be entitled to vote on each matter voted on by members.

Suggestions to Facilitate Open Debate One member suggested development of a process to promote debates at state conventions. The timing of these debates would be early enough to engage a large number of members in the voting process prior to voting. The state of New Jersey was successful several years ago in providing remote video access to members who could not attend the state convention. In addition, a pre-voting webinar that can be accessible to all members can be created to provide a forum for member debate and education. This could be in addition to the One Member One Vote comment site on the AAUW website.

2015 Task Force - The question of voter apathy was discussed prior to the 2015 election. The AAUW board of directors tried to brainstorm ways to stimulate voting. Their efforts resulted in a task force comprised of staff and board members. This task force worked diligently to discover ways to entice members to vote. The result was a large increase in voters for the 2015 election. The Governance committee will begin a long-range study of the One Member One Vote process to research ways to improve the effectiveness of the process.

Differences between 501(c)3 and 501(c)4 nonprofit organizations. There are differences in purpose, advocacy, lobbying, tax treatment, and recordkeeping. For a summary of differences, please email Judy Dinmore (jdinmore603@maine.rr.com). More information is available at www.irs.gov. A comparison chart can be found at https://www.nbaa.org/advocacy/regional/library/structure-templates/501c3-4-6-comparison-SA.pdf.

AAUW 501(c)3 Affiliates as stand alone legal entities - The best way to explain this is by example. XYZ branch of New York is a 501(c)4 affiliate of AAUW. They decide to form a 501(c)3 branch, fund or foundation (the type doesn't matter as AAUW's structure only recognizes them as an affiliate). The new 501(c)3 entity also is named XYZ branch. They have not dissolved their (c)4, so now they have two branches with the same name. However, these two branches each require separate recognition by the IRS, affiliate agreements, bylaws and all other required legal documentation since they are separate legal entities. This is also applicable to any entities that XYZ branch forms under a different name. AAUW is in the process of assigning individual identification numbers to these types of affiliates.

Indemnification. There is still a bit of confusion regarding the term, indemnification. There is no liability insurance available for affiliates through AAUW. The company that provides AAUW indemnification insurance offers a group rate to AAUW affiliates, but AAUW neither endorses this insurance product or agency nor in any way benefits from any coverage purchase. The affiliates must contact the agency directly and all transactions are between the agency and affiliate.

AAUW indemnification insurance is only for the national board members, committee members, CEO, employees or agents of AAUW. Each affiliate, whether they are a state, branch or YWTF, must obtain their own indemnification insurance. This is not mandated by AAUW but is a good thing to have if you can afford it. Check with a local insurance agency for more information on this.

Composition/eligibility of Affiliate’s board. AAUW requires its affiliates to have an administrator and finance person. One of these officers must either take minutes of meetings or supervise such action. State statutes may regulate what comprises a board and qualifications. Other than these dictates, the board’s composition and eligibility is determined by what is in your bylaws. Example: if your state bylaws don’t specify that state board members also be members of a branch, then a national member may serve on the state board.

Gender Identity.

Definition of Gender Identity - The District of Columbia Human Rights Act of 1977 was amended on March 8, 2006 to add “gender identity or expression” to the list of illegal forms of discrimination. Gender identity or expression refers to a gender-related identity, appearance, expression, or behavior of an individual, regardless of the individual’s assigned sex at birth. Example: Simply put, if a person is born a boy but considers himself a girl, then his gender identity is that of a girl.
Application of the District of Columbia’s Act regarding AAUW’s Scholarships/Programs - AAUW and its affiliates must comply with the District of Columbia Human Rights Act directives regarding gender identity. Many states, such as California, have gender identity statutes. An affiliate must also comply with additional directives contained in the statutes of their state of domicile if these statutes impose more stringent regulations regarding preventing discrimination because of gender identity. All criteria used as a basis for AAUW scholarships and eligibility for programs and activities must adhere to the regulations concerning gender identity.

The D.C. Act states that in situations where an applicant is asked for their gender and the selected gender is not consistent with presumed gender, it shall not be considered fraudulent for the purpose of the application. Perceived gender identity is to be used for awards of all AAUW scholarships and eligibility for programs and activities.

Example: A person applies for an AAUW scholarship. The person’s name is John, but the person has checked the box for woman under gender. The person’s school is contacted for clarification and the response is that the person looks like a male. Can the person qualify for the AAUW scholarship that is awarded to women only? The answer is yes, since the person has perceived their gender identity as a woman, as indicated by their choice of gender.

States that have statutes prohibiting discrimination based on Gender Identity - Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Connecticut, Hawaii, Rhode Island, New York and the District Of Columbia. Wisconsin and New Hampshire prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation not gender identity.

Definitions

Sexual Orientation is an inherent or immutable enduring emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to other people.

Gender Identity is one’s innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither – how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. One’s gender identity can be the same or different from their sex assigned at birth.

Diversity Policy - AAUW has revised its Diversity Policy to include the following language: AAUW’s diversity policy prohibits discrimination by reason of perceived gender identity in compliance with regulations established in the District of Columbia’s Human Rights Act of 1977, as amended on March 3, 2006. All affiliates must comply with applicable affiliate state statutes established to prevent discrimination regarding gender identity. The perceived gender identity of an individual cannot be the basis for any form of discrimination in any membership eligibility, program or activity of AAUW or its affiliates.

2017 Proposed Bylaws Amendments:

Responsibility of the Governance Committee - The Governance Committee is an AAUW standing committee. Its specific charge is to oversee the bylaws and governance polices of AAUW. AAUW's process provides for the Governance Committee to review all proposed bylaws amendments after the member comment period closes and present the proposed amendments to the membership for their vote. Neither AAUW’s Articles of Incorporation, bylaws, policies nor D.C. Code mandate a process that requires board approval of proposed bylaws so the presentation to the board after the comment period and prior to presentation to the membership is based on custom, not mandate.

The final review by the Governance Committee determines which amendments are presented to the Board with the understanding that the Governance Committee is charged with receiving all bylaw amendments and then sending them out to the members. Member comments are taken into consideration in the Governance Committee’s final decision regarding the presentation of proposed amendments to the membership. Proposed amendments are reviewed for compliance with D.C. code, IRS requirements, conflicts with bylaws provisions, affiliate agreement and all governing documents, appropriateness of content in bylaws, repetition of material in other governing documents, whether prohibitive due to cost and amount of resources required to implement and/or detrimental to AAUW's mission, goals and organizational structure.

Amendments Proposed by the Governance Committee

1. Change the date of the appointment of the AAUW Nominations Committee from January 1 to March 31. This amendment was presented at the request of the Board to insure new boards would have time to become familiar with their role before appointing the Nominations Committee. This amendment will go forward to the membership as presented.
2. Delete the specific method of voting in AAUW elections and on resolutions, bylaw amendments and the public policy program. If adopted, this amendment would provide the board with the flexibility to provide the most economical and effective methods of voting, while still insuring that every member has the ability and opportunity to vote in AAUW elections. This amendment will go forward as presented.

3. Permit Board Members as well as the general membership to serve as chairs of standing committees. The existing bylaw requires non-board members to be appointed to serve as standing committees chairs, except the Finance and Investment Committees, which are chaired by the Finance VP. On advice of legal counsel, the amendment adds flexibility to ensure that the best-qualified member candidates serve as chairs of standing committees without regard to their status on the AAUW Board of Directors. New language that maintains the intent, but cleans up the sentence structure, is being presented. It is as follows: “The chairs of standing committees may be chosen from the Board of Directors or the general membership and are appointed by the Board of Directors . . .”

4. Delete “Public Policy Program” from the list of items that members vote on. The amendment was forwarded to the membership on advice from legal counsel. The concern was that giving the vote on the Public Policy Program to the membership took a responsibility from the Board of Directors—approval of AAUW Programs—and put it in the hands of the membership. However, it was pointed out by members of the Governance Committee, as well as in the web-based discussion, that the Public Policy Program is a “platform” or a list of priorities. It should not be compared to programs such as “Elect Her” or “Start Smart.” A member proposed amendment to the amendment to delete only the word “program” and insert “priorities” was accepted by the Governance Committee. The amended amendment will read as follows: “Such votes may include election of the Board of Directors and adoption or amendment of the Public Policy Priorities, resolutions, and amendments to these Bylaws.”

5. Lower the threshold for quorum and countable votes from 5% to 3%. This amendment was presented on advice of legal counsel. D.C. code permits the lower percentage. In 2013, only 5.4% of the membership cast votes. AAUW was dangerously close to being unable to count the vote. Although much of the web-based discussion has opposed this recommendation, it will go forward as presented with a statement in the rationale to clearly explain the importance of the lower quorum.

Amendments Proposed by the Membership and will be sent to the Membership for their vote

In addition to the Governance Committee presented amendments, members proposed nine amendments through the web-based discussion. Of those, three were accepted and will go forward for member vote.

1. Create a new category of membership—Advocate. Advocates are not required to have college degree and there are limitations on voting rights and positions that they may hold.

2. Eliminate the degree requirement for membership.

3. Move the bylaw subsection on membership appeals from where it is embedded in the Section on Individual members to its own Section so that it will apply equally to all categories of membership; and delete unnecessary verbiage.

Amendments Proposed by the Membership and rejected by the Governance Committee

The six proposed amendments that were rejected are as follows:

1. Create a special dues rate of $19.20 for individual members who are older than 60 years of age. This proposal is contradictory to D.C. Code as there is no separate membership class of “senior.” Moreover, it would take a responsibility from the Board of Directors and invest it in the membership; therefore the proposal is out of order.

2. Add the word National throughout the bylaws before the words “Board of Directors,” to clarify AAUW Board of Directors from affiliate boards of directors. A footnote will be added to the Bylaws to make that distinction without adding unnecessary verbiage throughout the bylaws.

3. In Article X AAUW Affiliates, insert “If an affiliate has individuals as members, they must also be members of AAUW.” This language is included in the affiliate agreement and is not necessary in the bylaws.
4. Add a new Associate category, Community Associates. Community Associates would not be members of AAUW, just as Student Associates are not members. There would be no degree requirement for Community Associates. Affiliates would set their own dues structure. Community Associates would have no vote on AAUW matters and there would be limitations on positions they could hold within the affiliate. This proposal was rejected as (a) being sufficiently similar to the Advocate proposal as to be unnecessary, and (b) bringing in a category of “member” that would receive benefits of AAUW membership without contributing to the greater organization.

5. Create a new Associate Category, High School Associates, which parallels Student Associates. This amendment was rejected due to concerns about the required resources to support a program of this nature and the liability issues associated with working with minors.

6. Create a new membership category that parallels College/University member—High School Member. As with the high school associate proposal, this amendment was rejected due to concerns about the required resources to support a program of this nature and the liability issues associated with working with minors.

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Branching Out: News from Our Branches

Bath-Brunswick by Sophie Whitehouse, Branch Secretary/Communications

Last December, branch members gathered for our Annual Greens Event fundraiser and a Holiday Buffet in the 1904 Fireplace Room at the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick. With this fundraiser, AAUW Bath-Brunswick members contribute to AAUW Funds and now support two local scholarships: one to a non-traditional student working towards a Bachelor’s degree and, new for this year, two STEM scholarships for local junior high girls to attend summer camps at Coastal Studies for Girls in Freeport.

Our next winter event was the annual January luncheon, this year held at Lemongrass Restaurant in Brunswick. The luncheon featured member Rosalind Harris, who related her experiences as a State Department consultant in the creation of the UN. At our March 18th Brunch, we will gather at Thornton Oaks to hear Mattie Daughty, a young, dynamic Representative to the Maine Legislature and lifelong Brunswick resident.

The branch Annual Meeting will take place in April. Our interest and community groups -- Knitting Group, Book Group, and Home to Home -- all meet on a monthly basis, weather permitting. The Growtown School children’s visits will resume in April.

We continue to hold monthly board meetings. Since our board is running well with a Leadership Team this year, we have decided to give it another try for next year. Treasurer Helene Maraghy has agreed to a second term and we are looking for two new program chairs. We now have a membership of 70.

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Caribou – does not meet during the winter

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Hancock County by Betsy Eggleston, Branch Liaison

January’s meeting found the members planning for the rest of the year through June. In February, members and spouses enjoyed our annual AAUW Cabin Fever Reliever. Our members lovingly prepared the French cuisine menu and the evening was another success as in previous years.

In March, we again joined BPW and Delta Kappa Gamma for dinner and a speaker in a new venue. Ellsworth now has a very busy community center and we enjoyed the catered meal there. After the meal, Judy Bragg asked each of us to talk about a woman who was important in their lives. Many talked about their mothers as having a strong impact on their lives. Moira O’Neill, recent Democratic challenger for the state senate, was the speaker for the evening. After introducing her mother, Moira talked about continuing to be strong as we were in the past, in order to proceed in our many issues in the future.

In April, the branch members will travel to Blue Hill and have a guided tour of the historic Holt House by Ann Durgin. We are also planning to hand out pamphlets to promote pay equality. The annual state convention in Waterville on April 28-29th will end a busy month.

We close out our year in June with our annual meeting and potluck. Our group will meet and set our year’s schedule for 2017-2018.

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Penobscot Valley Branch  
by Susan Landry, Branch Liaison

In January we had a lovely potluck brunch, which was well attended and included several prospective members and a couple members who had recently joined. Susan Wishkoski coordinated the event, which was held in a nice large room at Dirigo Pines on a wonderfully sunny Saturday. We determined that setting a snow date is the magic that ensures a snow-free original date! We were well fed and enjoyed good conversation while getting to know some new friends.

Our March program was presented by Judi Coburn-Harris, our diversity chair, who talked about challenges faced by women with disabilities. Ironically, Judi was unable to attend the February 15 leadership team planning meeting for March, because campus snow removal had not been sufficient to allow her to get into the building in her wheelchair. (I trust that date rings a bell snow-wise.) This was but one of the many challenges Judi has faced; she had many personal anecdotes to relate as well as research statistics and social services information to discuss.

On April 8 we will hold our 66th annual book sale (all are invited!) at the Church of Universal Fellowship in Orono. In recognition of our personal physical limitations as well as safety concerns with layout and aging props (shelving, bookends), we will try out new collection, sorting, and display methods. We owe a huge debt to Susan Wishkoski for coordinating this effort and proposing many helpful innovations. We hope to realize a good profit to donate to Maine NEW Leadership.

Our final activity for the year will be our May annual meeting.

In accordance with our networking goal, we’re working on a letter to UMaine administrators in support of the efforts of the Student Women’s Association to have the Women’s Resource Center reinstated.

Peggy Hallee keeps the general membership informed and inspired by turning out info-packed issues of our newsletter Branching Out. Fran Haines assists in that effort and pretty much all inter-branch communications. Our usually perpetually on-the-go membership co-chair Janice Osgood has been on enforced R&R after breaking her leg in February; we’re sure she’s keeping tabs on us from home!

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Waterville Branch Happenings  
By Carly McCarthy and Carolyn MacRae, Co-Presidents

Waterville Branch is looking forward to a busy spring to end our program year. In March and April, we have arranged for two excellent speakers on very pertinent issues. Gilda Nardone, executive director of New Ventures Maine, spoke at our March meeting about women in today’s workplace, and Elizabeth Ward Saxl, director of the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, will talk in April about current issues and new approaches to help decrease the incidence of sexual assault. We have invited the Colby College Feminist Alliance to this meeting. Waterville Branch members will march with them later in April at their Take Back the Night event, in support and solidarity with their efforts to decrease sexual assault on the Colby College campus. We will end our program year with our annual May Gala potluck dinner. In addition, we are thinking about a couple casual social gatherings during the summer as one way to stay in touch with each other.

On the public policy front, Waterville Branch was well represented at the January 21 Women’s Marches. Two members marched in Washington, DC, one member went to Boston with several friends, and eight of us were among the enormous crowd gathered in Augusta. As a follow-up to the marches, we have continued to encourage our members to become 2-Minute Activists, as we have continued to work on increasing our branch activism in support AAUW’s public policy positions.

Waterville Branch has, for the past several years, had a difficult time finding members willing to be nominated for branch elective positions. This year, the board has discussed succession planning at all of our board meetings, with a goal of finding nominees for all of the elected positions, while at the same time shifting the majority of our elected officers from our elderly and retired members to our younger members. These conversations helped guide the Nominating Committee and we are pleased to announce that there are nominees for all elected positions. The nominees’ ages span about fifty years, increasing the age diversity of our branch board and providing an invigorating mix of life experiences. We are looking forward to their new ideas and enthusiasm.

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A January 2017 graduation for Darlene Taylor, 2015-2016 AAUW Career Development Grant recipient in Maine, who received her Stonecoast MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Southern Maine.

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March 17, 2017

Last week, the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education released the third chapter, titled “Women and STEM” from its upcoming report, “Title IX at 45.” The chapter takes a look at the gender representation gap in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields; ways to encourage women and girls to pursue STEM careers; and best practices for ensuring gender equity in undergraduate STEM programs.

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IMPORTANT DATES

- March 31, 2017  Deadline for Early Bird national convention registration
- April 4, 2017  Equal Pay Day
- April 22, 2017  March for Science, Washington, D.C.
- April 28, 2017  AAUW of Maine spring board meeting, 2–4 PM, Waterville
- April 28 – 29, 2017  AAUW of Maine Annual Convention, Waterville
- May 10, 2017  Women’s Day at the State House, Augusta
- May 31–June 3, 2017  NCCWSL, University of Maryland, College Park
- June 1-6, 2017  Maine NEW Leadership, University of Maine, Orono
- June 14-17, 2017  National AAUW Convention, Washington
Report from the Nominating Committee
By Kristin Sweeney, ex officio member

Carolyn MacRae (Waterville Branch), Kathy Olmstead (Caribou Branch) and I (Bath-Brunswick Branch and ex officio as immediate past president) soldiered on in spite of incomplete participation. We propose the following slate of candidates:

**President Elect**
2017-2018
Carly McCarthy
Waterville Branch

**Program VP**
vacant

**Recording Secretary**
2017-2019
Kristin Sweeney
Bath-Brunswick Branch
(second term)

**Treasurer**
2017-2019
Marilyn Leimbach
Waterville Branch
(second term)

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Kathy Kilrain del Rio
Achievement Citation Award Recipient

(remarks by Andrea Irwin, Executive Director of Mabel Wadsworth Women’s Health Center)

Kathy has spent her life working to educate and empower others while trying to build a more just world. Originally from upstate New York, she began her career as an educator—teaching people of all ages from preschool to GED programs in a NYS correctional facility. She moved to Maine in 2006.

Kathy served as Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers of Greater Saco-Biddeford and taught English classes for New Mainers in adult education programs. She also worked on adult literacy issues at Literacy Volunteers of Maine, where she helped create the Easy-to-Read Voter Guide with the League of Women Voters of Maine.

In 2012, Kathy joined the staff of the Maine Women’s Lobby and Maine Women’s Policy Center, where she oversees program, outreach, fundraising, and communications efforts. She and her colleagues work to ensure that Maine women have a voice at the State House and in other places where decisions are being made.

Some of her key accomplishments include – organizing two iterations of the Maine Women’s Summit on Economic Security, developing training materials and programs for advocates and partner organizations, and coordinating press conferences and rallies on key issues affecting women in Maine.

She also co-chairs the Alliance for Maine Women, of which Mabel Wadsworth Center is a member, and helps engage Maine Women’s Lobby members, the public, the media, and legislators on issues involving violence, discrimination, health care, and economic security.

Kathy is also an organizer where she resides in Portland. She worked extensively on Portland’s recent ordinance raising the city’s minimum wage and the ongoing fight to protect General Assistance for immigrants in Maine. She is proud to serve as part of the Maine Immigrants’ Rights Coalition and support its ongoing communication efforts on a wide range of issues impacting the immigrant community.

Kathy serves on the board of Emerge Maine and is a 2010 graduate of the program. She has been a part of many leadership training programs such as the Sigma Class of the ICL Leadership Intensive. Additionally, she has volunteered on several ballot initiative campaigns, including the effort to reinstate same-day voter registration. She was a trainer for the Speakers Bureau for Marriage Equality in 2012 and served as the team leader for the York County team.

Kathy leads several statewide coalitions and alliances with tremendous skill and organizational ability, always acting with diplomacy and poise.

Working as an organizer and an activist in times like this, with increased division and animosity, is challenging and we need more people like Kathy. She makes our state a better place and is relentlessly optimistic about our ability to stay the course when all signs are pointing us in another direction. She inspires us on a daily basis to do better, work harder, and fight longer.

Kathy is a true social change agent. A fearless feminist. An organizer. A leader.

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Kristin Sweeney, Editor
sweeneykg@gmail.com
207-209-0643
Shrinking the Pay Gap for All

FRIDAY, April 28, 2017
2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Board meeting, Thomas College, location to be announced
4:00—5:30 p.m. REGISTRATION - Summit Room, Spann Student Commons, Thomas College
5:30—6:15 p.m. Welcome reception - Summit Room, Spann Student Commons
6:15—8:00 p.m. DINNER - Summit Room, Spann Student Commons
7:00 – 7:40 p.m.
   Welcome: Dora McCarthy, President
   Achievement Citation Award presentation and address by awardee
   • Kathy Kilrain del Rio – awardee
7:40 – 8:00 p.m. Presentation of Branch Members of the Year Awards: Dora

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017
Summit Room, Spann Student Commons, Thomas College
8:00 – 8:30 a.m. REGISTRATION
8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast and AAUW of Maine business meeting
9:00 – 9:30 a.m. National Update: Dot McLane, AAUW National
9:30 – 10:00 a.m. What is Pay Equity: Dot McLane
10:00 – 10:15 a.m. Break
10:15 – 11:00 a.m. Equal Pay in Maine: Representative Eloise Vitelli and Senator Cathy Breen with Moderator Molly Bogart
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Pay Equity Activity
12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Break and Lunch
   Smart Start participants invited to share lunch and afternoon program with AAUW members
1:00 – 1:15 p.m. Start Smart Info: Diane Anderson
1:15 – 2:00 p.m. Pay Equity and Her Experience: Senator Shenna Bellows
2:00 – 2:15 p.m. Break
2:15 – 3:00 p.m. Pay Equity and Me: Lisa Rideout, retired bank manager
3:00 – 3:30 p.m. Raffle and wrap-up
Convention Accommodations

The convention hotel is the Best Western Plus hotel, located at 375 Main Street in Waterville, just off Route 95 at Exit 130. Rooms are available with either one king-sized bed or two double beds. More information about the hotel, including the indoor heated saltwater pool, is available online at http://www.watervillemainehotel.com/.

The special convention rate of $70 per room includes breakfast. For this special rate, please make your reservation by calling the hotel at 207-873-0111 and be sure to reference the AAUW State Convention.

Come early, visit the Colby Museum of Art and downtown Waterville

The Colby Museum of Art is the largest museum in Maine. It is free and open to the public Tuesday –Saturday, 10:00-5:00 and on Sunday from noon until 5:00. For more information about the museum and the current exhibits, check out the museum website at https://www.colby.edu/museum/.

If you arrive early on Friday, you might like to get some lunch and browse in some of the shops in downtown Waterville. For sandwiches and salads, try Jorgensen’s Cafe (103 Main Street) or Selah Tea Café (http://www.selahteacafe.com/). For a more substantial lunch, The Last Unicorn offers sandwiches, salads, and hot entrees (http://thelastunicorntaurant.com/). Places of interest for browsing include Common Street Arts at 93 Main Street, open from noon to 5:00, Wednesday through Friday; Napoli’s Italian Market at 74 Main Street; and (if you are a knitter) the Yardgoods Center (60 West Concourse). For a much more complete list of good eating and browsing places, look at the Waterville Main Street website (http://watervillemainstreet.org/).

Directions

Thomas College is located at 180 West River Road in Waterville, Maine. From Interstate 95 exit 127 (formerly 33), go east on Kennedy Memorial Drive (Route 137). In approximately 1.5 miles, turn right onto West River Road (Route 104 South). Thomas College is 1.5 miles on the left. Please follow these directions instead of those provided by your GPS for the best route to campus.

Here is a link to a printer friendly map of the Thomas campus: https://www.thomas.edu/wp-content/uploads/TC-campus-map.jpg.

Here is a link to an interactive campus map: https://www.thomas.edu/campus-map
Registration Form
AAUW of Maine 2017 Convention
April 28-29, 2017
Thomas College, Waterville, Maine

Name: ________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________

Branch: ______________________________________________________

Email: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________

1. Friday – Summit Room, Spann Student Commons: Welcome reception and dinner
   Choose one entrée (entrees are the same price):
   _____ Chicken Marsala
   _____ Vegetarian Lasagna $30.00 ______

2. Saturday – Summit Room, Spann Student Commons
   Continental Breakfast, Morning Break, and Lunch $31.00 ______

3. Registration Fee $21.00 ______

4. Optional Donation to Keep Maine Connected Campaign
   __________________

Total Enclosed _______________

Do you have any special dietary needs? ____________________________

Please mail registration form and check payable to AAUW of Maine
by Tuesday, April 18 to:
Marilyn Leimbach, 9 Wilson Park, Waterville, ME 04901

All registrations must be received by Wednesday, April 19.