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Message from the President

Happy fall, everyone! I'm so excited to be writing the first "Message from the President" of my term; thank you so much for trusting me to lead our state for the next two years. These past few months have proved to be very educational for me and I hope that we can continue to learn and grow together.

To begin, I have reformed the Strategic Planning Committee and we are hard at work, shaping the future of our state's organization. I can't wait to share the completed strategic plan with you all later this month, after Board approval. I believe that this plan will help to focus our efforts and make us a more powerful voice for women in Maine.

National has also recently launched its new strategic plan. I highly recommend reading it, which you can do so [here](#). Each of the focus areas of the plan comes with several goals and indicators of success. One of the most exciting goals is **achieving pay equity by the year 2030!** Proposed steps to achieving this goal are to champion pay equity federally and in all U.S. states and territories and to lead the nation in providing salary negotiation programs for employers and employees.

We have a lot of work to do, to reach the goals that National and our own Strategic Planning Committee have set. I cannot imagine a more wonderful group of women to be working with to achieve those goals. Even in these trying political times, there is nothing we cannot accomplish if we work together.

In the meantime, please call or email me if you'd like to chat about anything I've mentioned above, or about anything else! My cell phone number is 207.286.7985 and my email is carly.r.mccarthy@gmail.com. I do work full-time, so I might not respond immediately, but I promise to return your calls and emails as quickly as I can. I'm here to work for you!

Yours in Joyful Defiance and Radical Optimism,
Carly McCarthy
President, AAUW of Maine

2018 State Convention Wonder of Women Conference Focusing on Health

By Dora McCarthy, Immediate Past President

To kick off our yearlong focus on women's health, we held our State Convention on April 27-28 in Brunswick at The Daniel. We were hosted by the wonderful women of the Bath/Brunswick Branch. Friday night we gathered at the Curtis Memorial Library for some great food and conversation. It's always nice to see members from different branches mingling and talking to each other as though no time has passed since the last time they saw each other.

The following day we opened our conference with a video from National AAUW with hints of where AAUW is planning to go in the future. And the future looks bright with a focus on mission and advocacy. AAUW's new strategic plan is on the website; you should definitely take a look. We then had our business meeting where we elected new members to the State Board, approved our budget, and a few other items.



Photo by Betty-Jane Meader.

Incoming President Carly McCarthy and
Outgoing President Dora McCarthy.

To start our focus on women’s health we heard from Melanie Sachs, Director of the Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine. Melanie spoke to us about the work they do at SARSSM, the 24-hour hotline, their outreach to schools, and some of the statistics. Some of the statistics are: every two minutes in America a woman is sexually assaulted and one of every six American women has been a victim of attempted or completed rape in their lifetime. Melanie understood that the information she delivered would be difficult to hear and for some it would bring up other emotions, so she shared pictures of puppies and kitties throughout her presentation to give our minds and emotions a reprieve. We are so fortunate to have a woman like Melanie supporting the people of Maine with her passion, strength, and humor.



Photo by Betty-Jane Meader.
Maddy Magnuson & Melanie Sachs

Our next presenter was Maddy Magnuson, Director of LGBTQ+ and Harm Reduction Services at the Health Equity Alliance. Maddy’s presentation was an education. For a majority of the audience there is so much about the LGBTQ+ community we didn’t know. The knowledge Maddy shared barely scraped the surface and our eyes were opened to a wide array of vocabulary, including how the male or female boxes to check that we grew up with is such a small version of the world in which we live. The world is bigger than just him and her. There are broader terms such as the pronoun their, new terms like cisgender, what the letters in LGBTQIA+ mean, and much more. After Maddy’s presentation there were many questions. I highly recommend that branches invite Maddy to come speak. Maddy’s knowledge and openness to share their experiences were moving and inspiring.

Achievement Citation Award Recipient Emily Cain and Mary Cathcart.



Photo by Betty-Jane Meader.

During lunch we got to hear from our own Emily Cain, Executive Director of Emily’s List. Emily spoke of her journey from college graduate, to being asked to run for office, then winning her race for the House and then running for the Senate. Now she is leading the charge with Emily’s List to get more pro-choice women elected to office around the country. Emily was awarded our Achievement Citation Award for 2018, presented to her by Mary Cathcart and nominated by the Penobscot Valley Branch. We are proud of Emily for all the work she is doing and being brave enough to say, “Yes” when Mary said, “Run!”

Last, but not least, was the venerable Dr. Dora Anne Mills, who at the time of our conference was the Vice President for Clinical Affairs; Director of the Center for Excellence in Health Innovation and Interim Vice President for Research and Scholarship at the University of New England. Dora talked to us about the opioid crisis and the important work being done around the state, including by her sister, Janet Mills, delivering naloxone to towns all over Maine. Dora told us about the statistics of the opioid crisis with most deaths coming from fentanyl. Every year the number of deaths increases. In 2016 it was up 40% and in 2017 it was up 27%. She also told us that the solution is not jail, but services to fight the addiction.

Our speakers really kicked off our year of focusing on women’s health, be it supporting each other through difficulties, being open to new ideas, standing strong

against adversity, and taking care of ourselves so we don't get burned out.

Thank you to everyone who made our convention a success, including the Bath/Brunswick Branch, our speakers, everyone who helped make our raffle baskets, and members of the State Board. Now we have our next convention to look forward to. The Penobscot Valley Branch will be hosting us in Orono.

**Maine NEW Leadership
Program Networking
Reception & Fundraising
Dinner**

June 1, 2018

**Celebrating Our 10th
Anniversary & Honoring
Our Founder**

The Hon. Mary Cathcart

By Kristin Sweeney, *Dawnbreaker* editor

There was an excellent turnout for the reception and networking event, as well as the dinner and fundraiser for the endowment fund, including many Penobscot Valley AAUW Branch members. Judi Coburn-Harris, Susan D'Angelo, Moriah Geer, Janet Givens, Fran Haines, Susan Landry, Dora McCarthy, Janice Osgood, and Susan Wishkoski attended the event, but most had left before we got around to photos!



Photo by Marci Sorg.

After the party: Dora McCarthy, Penobscot Valley Branch; Kristin Sweeney, Bath-Brunswick Branch; Mary Cathcart, Penobscot Valley Branch honoree with her Margaret Chase Smith bobblehead; Rena Heath, Waterville Branch; and Molly Bogart, Bath-Brunswick Branch.



Left to right: two Maine NEW Leadership students, Penobscot Valley Branch members, Moriah Geer and Dora McCarthy, and Dora's son, Keegan.



Photos by Zhen Zhang, UMaine Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center.

At left, a student engages Rena Heath, Waterville Branch member, during the lively networking reception.

#MeToo in Science

By Cathy Bevier

Like many industries right now, science is reckoning with sexual misconduct problems. Recently, Dr. Julie Libarkin (Michigan State University) has compiled and made public a list of over 700 cases of Academic Sexual Misconduct and Violations of Relationship Policies. In many of these, the faculty member or administrator is named, and the outcome of the investigation is highlighted: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CCfcCKmBqyrMbD6fEQ8Lit3eD9MpnUd5eVm2DaIrUKo/edit#gid=0>.

The scientific societies that I belong to are creating or updating codes of conduct and the world of social media is playing a big role in influencing members to do the right thing. Last July I attended the annual Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in Rochester, NY. The plenary session kicks off four full days of scientific presentations, workshops, and networking.

This year's plenary, though, was one for the history books. After the typical welcome remarks, the four participating societies took turns presenting awards to members who have contributed significantly to different aspects of research, teaching, and conservation.

The recipient of The Herpetologists' League "Distinguished Herpetologist Award" is invited to give a presentation in the plenary and this year's choice, Dr. Richard Vogt, cast quite a shadow on this opening event. I later found out that many members boycotted the session altogether to protest Vogt's recognition and others walked out of the session when Vogt's presentation got underway. I was surprised and disappointed that he was being recognized with such a high-profile award because I'm familiar with his disposition and his reputation. But the president of The Herpetologists' League has had, up to now, the sole responsibility for selecting the recipient of this award, even if the rest of the Board of Trustees (essentially the executive board) do not support the choice.

I sat through Vogt's talk if only to learn more about his research on turtle vocalizations. The first several slides effectively illustrated the turtles he has worked on and the kinds of habitats in Mexico and Brazil where he does his research.

But then came the first of several slides with photos of female graduate students or research assistants working in the field and wearing bikinis...and their bodies were overlaid by a big blue box! Vogt was surprised at these censored images, but continued through to the end of his

talk. It was clearly unprofessional to include such revealing images of these female scientists (Why couldn't he just focus on the turtles and his data?!).

Apparently someone on the meeting planning committee and employees of the AV company running the projection system had taken on the task to censor Vogt's slides. That evening and the next day I found out that the twitter feed from this event had exploded; many society members (of all genders), and even non-members, were posting testimonials of Vogt's past inappropriate behavior, as well as their disgust with his award and the controversial slides in his talk.

The Board of The Herpetologists' League held an emergency meeting at noon the next day, where they unanimously decided to rescind the award and change the process by which the awardee is chosen; drafted a new code of conduct; and formed a new committee on Diversity and Inclusion. The other participating societies were relieved to hear about these actions and praised The Herpetologists' League for their quick response to a distressing situation.

There have been several other initiatives by these scientific societies in the aftermath of this event, all for the better in light of the importance of gender equity in academia and across scientific fields. The press swiftly picked up this event—there are many articles out there, including one in the New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/16/us/turtle-researcher-women-bikinis-richard-vogt.html>.

I appreciate the following excerpt by Tanya Basu, who published a story on this for The Daily Beast (<https://www.thedailybeast.com/turtle-scientists-award-pulled-after-bikini-shot-controversy>): "The Vogt story is a sign of the #MeToo movement's far-reaching consequences beyond Hollywood and media into the STEM fields, where men have traditionally dominated research and leadership roles, with casual commentary and uncomfortable situations like Vogt's often not only making researchers feel unworthy but scaring them away outright. In the months after the #MeToo movement's launch, women in science emerged with their own stories of harassment, how trusted and often celebrated mentors moved from being icons and idols to demeaning comments and behavior that ultimately led many female scientists to leave the field."

I personally have always felt supported and have never experienced overt harassment, but we all need to stay alert and take action to continue our progress toward equity and inclusion.

Newsy Notes and Events Related to Diversity

By Diversity Chair Betty-Jane Meader

1. The Maine Women's Lobby "continues to build a world free from discrimination." The organization is celebrating its 40th anniversary on Thursday, October 4, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at UNE's Innovation Hall, 772 Stevens Avenue, Portland. Two of the five honorary co-chairs are Mary Bonauto, state and national champion for LGBTQ+ rights, and Fatuma Hussein, champion for refugee and immigrant women and girls.
2. On Monday, October 8, the Maine Film Center is participating in the statewide "Making Migration Visible: Tracks and Pathways." Railroad Square Cinema in Waterville will be hosting activist Titi de Baccarat and screening the powerful "Black Girl" (1966).
3. From October 3 to November 3, 2018, "Face to Face" portraits by Rabee Kiwan will be on exhibit at the Common Street Arts (CSA) Art Gallery, 10 Water Street, Waterville. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 5 p.m.
4. "Painter and Poet: The Art of Ashley Bryan" is the "first major art museum exhibition in Maine for this pioneer of African and African American representation in the children's book medium." The exhibition will be on view at the Portland Museum of Art until November 25, 2018.
5. During the 2018 Camden International Film Festival, half or more of the selections were directed or co-directed by women.
6. "Lucky Broken Girl" is a memorable young (and old) people's multicultural novel about a Cuban-Jewish immigrant girl adjusting to her new life in NYC. Cuban-American author Ruth Behar received the 2018 Pura Belpre Author Award. She is a member of We Need DIVERSE Books.

Achievement Citation Award

By Debbie Melvin, Chair

Each branch should consider nominating an individual for the 2018 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 who 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 May 4, 2019.

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: deborah.melvin@rsu29.org.

Deadline for submissions is Dec. 31, 2018. Since the Achievement Citation Award Committee has to do additional research on each individual, early nominations are greatly appreciated.

Help Shape AAUW's Future! Apply to the National Board of Directors Today!

By Carly McCarthy, President

Applications for the AAUW National Board of Directors is now open! With the new strategic direction for AAUW laid out in the recently launched [AAUW Strategic Plan](#), it's an exciting time to join the new slate of AAUW national leaders.

Self-nominations, recommendations, and referrals are accepted for all elected positions on the board, which include board chair, vice chair, and ten directors-at-large.

If you are interested, or would like to nominate someone, please review the information on [responsibilities and expectations](#) and forward the [application](#) to any potential candidates.

Applications will be accepted through November 30. If you have any questions or a referral, please contact us at nominations@aauw.org.

STATE DEPARTMENT HERE I COME

By Dora McCarthy

I am very happy to announce that I have accepted the position of Office Management Specialist with US Department of State Foreign Service. I am sad to say I will have to step away as Webmaster and Membership VP. I have loved the opportunity to participate in this organization and meet all of you. A big thank you goes to Mary Cathcart, who invited me to come speak to the Penobscot Valley Branch about Maine NEW Leadership in October 2012 and introduced me to this organization. And I thank all of you for your friendship, mentoring, and help while I took on different roles in AAUW. I will miss you all and if you are on Facebook, friend me so you can see pictures from what I'm doing.

**Congratulations to AAUW's 2018-19
Fellowships and Grants Awardee in Maine!**



Name: Jenessa Ables
Award Year: 2018-19
Award: Career Development Grant
Institution: Maine Maritime Academy
Location: Castine, Maine
Discipline: Business administration and management
Degree and Specialization: M.S., Maritime management and international logistics

Jenessa Ables is the operations manager at the Port of Valdez, Alaska, specializing in container, military, and project cargos and working to bring opportunity and economic sustainability to rural Alaska. She is pursuing an online master's degree and plans to contribute to the identification and implementation of solutions in logistics and transportation and to the diversification of trade commodities within the region.

A Message From Our 2015-16 Awardee

How are the ladies of AAUW Maine? Please share my regards. I want to share a recently published short story. <http://www.kwelijournal.org/fiction/2018/5/30/pipers-march-by-darlene-taylor>



Name: Darlene Taylor
Award Year: 2015-16
Award: Career Development Grant
Institution: University of Southern Maine
Location: Portland, Maine
Discipline: Arts
Degree and Specialization: M.F.A., Creative writing

**IMPORTANT
DATES**

- **October 20, 2018** 10 AM – 2 PM
AAUW of Maine **board meeting**
Grossman Building, Room 209
Colby College, Waterville
- **October 21, 2018** (Sunday) 5:30-6:30 reception
6:30-8:00 program
University of Southern Maine
Hannaford Hall, Portland
Maine Gubernatorial Forum on Economic Security for Women and Their Families
organized by the Maine Women's Policy Center
- **November 6, 2018** Election Day



- **November 15, 2018**



SAVE THE DATE

**Women Mean Business –
Investing in Women at all Levels**

Thursday, November 15, 2018; 4:30 – 6:30 pm
University of Southern Maine Hannaford Hall

- **May 3-4, 2019** AAUW of Maine convention
Dirigo Pines, Orono

Branching Out: News from Our Branches

Bath-Brunswick

By Sophie Whitehouse, Secretary/Communications

Our branch hosted the State Convention at The Daniel in Brunswick at the end of April. It was a well-attended event featuring several speakers such as Emily Cain, Director of Emily's list, and Dora Mills, Vice President for Clinical Affairs at UNE. AAUW members from near and far Maine branches enjoyed the time to reconvene, see old friends and make new ones during one of first nice spring weekends.

Our last branch meeting before the beginning of summer took place mid-May at the Brunswick library. The theme for the evening was "Opioid Addiction in our Community: What is working to fight it?" Catherine McConnell, director of Outpatient Behavioral Health at Mid Coast Hospital led the presentation. Joining in the discussion were other local specialists and counselors, recovery coaches from Lincoln County, and two individual who have struggled with substance abuse.

We finished the month with a meeting and potluck dinner at the Bath home of our board administrator, Lucy Stinson. Our board resumed its duties as a Leadership Team at the end of August with another meeting to finalize our programs for the year. We have a new Program Coordinator, Karen Bragaw, who moved to Topsham from Massachusetts last year.

Our meetings resumed on September 19 when Mary Cathcart came to talk about the Maine NEW Leadership Program and also brought along two past participants in the Leadership Program from Bowdoin College. We have several other enticing programs planned for the rest of 2018 such as Nicole Clegg from Planned Parenthood of Northern New England (PPNNE) in October, an evening dedicated to our Veterans in November, and our annual Holiday Party in December.

Our scholarship committee awarded two scholarships for non-traditional students. Kathy Carroll, our Scholarship Chair, recognized these students at our September branch meeting. As of now the Bath-Brunswick branch has 52 members with several ladies who recently moved to the Mid Coast area.

Caribou Branch

By Carol Pierson, Secretary

The Caribou branch of AAUW is continuing its tradition of meeting in the spring, summer and fall months to save members having to travel in the winter to our meetings.

Our first meeting of the year in April was held at the Francis Malcolm Science Center where Larry Berz, Planetarium Director, presented a program entitled "Using New Digital Equipment to Explore the Universe. In May we met at the University of Maine in Presque Isle, where Dr. Ray Price gave us information on trends in the cost of higher education.

Our annual meeting took place in June, when we had an election of officers, presentation and adoption of our budget for 2019, and our annual reports. Members were encouraged to bring a guest to our next meeting - our popular book review meeting where members give a 3-5 minute presentation about a book they are reading. This meeting took place in July. Our August meeting, which was to be held at the Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge Center, had to be rescheduled as a program for next year.

In September we hosted one of our two recipients of the MSSM (The Maine School of Science and Mathematics) STEM summer camp scholarship, who told us about her camp experiences. All of the young ladies we have sponsored in these camps have relayed their excitement over the whole experience. We also planned our programs for our next program year.

Our last program in October will be in Bangor, where we will travel to a member's home to hear "Hot Topics in Public Health" presented by Patty Hamilton.

We look forward to meeting once in the winter months after Christmas for a Yankee Swap of books we have read and loved.

Hancock County

By Betsy Eggleston, Liaison

We are celebrating our 40th year as an AAUW branch. We have received a congratulatory letter and certificate marking our anniversary from National.

Branch members met in June for the annual meeting and potluck at a member's home. This year, unlike many, the weather cooperated and we were able to eat outside on a screen porch and enjoy the wonderful food!

We voted to continue the branch for another year and have paid our dues. We have a new treasurer - Judy Fuller of Bar Harbor.

Since then we have met for a planning meeting for the upcoming year and have an informative and interesting schedule. Our September meeting was at KoT, a new business in downtown Ellsworth. Cara Romano LaValle, owner of the business, spoke about the "Heart of Ellsworth," an organization working to make downtown Ellsworth a destination. This is done by organizing events in the downtown area during the year and providing flower boxes during the summer months.

Diann Bauersfeld, a long time member, died quite suddenly in September and many members attended her funeral in Ellsworth on September 22nd. Her hard work and good humor will long be remembered.

The October meeting will be an outing to Leonard's Mill, a living history museum, in Bradley, ME. Our Christmas meeting will round out 2018 for the branch.

Penobscot Valley Branch

By Janet Givens, Liaison

In May our annual meeting and dinner was held at Dirigo Pines in Orono. Recipients of our scholarships spoke about their educational experiences. Evelyn Dearborn was honored as a 50-year member of AAUW, and Susan Wishkoski was honored as the outstanding branch member of the year.

Plans for 2018-2019 include the September 19 meeting at the University of Maine with Carly McCarthy, president of AAUW of Maine, as speaker. A Saturday forum on October 13 at Dirigo Pines will include speakers Amy Fried, Matt Dunlap and The League of Women Voters. In January there will be a brunch and in March another Saturday forum to be announced. Our annual meeting and dinner is scheduled for May. Pizza and Politics will continue to meet.

The Penobscot Valley Branch will host the AAUW of Maine convention on May 3 and 4, 2019 at Dirigo Pines.

Addendum from Mary Cathcart: Penobscot Valley Branch members Andrea Mercado and Moriah Geer have been selected to attend Emerge Maine.

Waterville Branch

By Cathy Bevier, Co-President

Cathy Bevier and Jen Olsen continue as co-leaders for the Waterville Branch and have worked with Program VP Lauren Seganos Cohen and other members to develop a great line-up of programs for the year. We're sorry to report that Lauren has moved to California; we wish her well and will miss her! Margo Beach has thankfully stepped into the role of Program Chair for the rest of this year. We have a new Membership Chair (Kelsey Gilbert) and Jen Olsen will take over internal communications.

For our programs, we started with our September Souper Supper potluck hosted by Marilyn Leimbach, and then will enjoy programs this year following the general theme from the 2018 state convention, Women's Health and Wellness. In October we will hear from Betsy Peters, who has helped developed a consortium of individuals interested in helping to create respectful, safe, and inclusive workplace cultures. The website resource is #MaineCanDo (<http://www.mecando.org>).

Our presentation in November, by Becky Judd from the Maine Children's Home, will focus on the challenges for teen parents. Our annual auction fund-raiser happens in December, and we return to women's issues with a program on being a female hunter and outdoorswoman from Erin Merrill (check out her blogs-- <http://www.andastrongcupofcoffee.com>).



Selfie by Jen Olsen, Waterville Branch, on Equal Pay Day, April 10, 2018. It got 87 likes on Facebook and 21 on Instagram!

Kristin Sweeney, Editor
sweeneykg@gmail.com