



Message from the President

Kristin Sweeney

In spite of one of our few snowstorms this year occurring overnight, we had an excellent turnout at the Tuscan Bistro in Freeport on January 13, 2016 for a invigorating lunch with Darlene Taylor, a woman of many talents and careers, and the only **AAUW Career Development Grant recipient in Maine** this year.



Betty-Jane Meader, Darlene Taylor, Carolyn MacRae, Susan Landry, Lucy Stinson and Judy Dinmore. Also attending were: Kristin Sweeney and Joanne Bollinger.

Ms. Taylor is a Stonecoast MFA candidate in creative writing at the University of Southern Maine. She is a graduate of American University and lives in Washington, DC.

She is a fellow of *Callaloo*, *A Room of Her Own*, Kimbilio, the Roothbert Fund, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts, as well as writing workshops at North Country Institute for Writers of Color and the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation. Her work has appeared in the literary journals, *Kinfolks*

Quarterly and *Blackberry*: a magazine, and the magazine of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. She is an advisory editor of *Callaloo* Visual Arts journal.

A cultural advocate/activist and communications and government relations advisor, Taylor has served as a senior aide in the US Congress and Fortune 100

companies in North America, Europe, and Africa. She is Managing Director of the Waterman Steele Group.



Kristin Sweeney & Jennifer Strode at Tabling Event.

January 21, 2016, **Maine Women's Day at the State House**, was well attended, in general, and by AAUW members, in particular. Nine AAUW members (five from the Bath-Brunswick Branch and four from the Waterville Branch) were there. The AAUW table was active and we signed up a full page of Two-Minute Activists.

Girls' Day at the State House was March 1, 2016. Three AAUW members volunteered to be mentors. It was an exhilarating and exhausting day.



Mentors Betty-Jane Meader, Dora McCarthy and Kristin Sweeney

The **Virtual Branch Committee** pressed on this winter and hosted three marginally attended live events in Bangor (January 19, 2016), Augusta (January 25, 2016), and Portland (February 16, 2016) and a conference call on March 9, 2016, which had much better participation.

Participants are enthusiastic about a public policy focus and creating a voice for AAUW around the state at events and with organizations where they are already involved. Those who responded were urged to join: the Facebook group, AAUW as a national member and the AAUW Action Network (Two-Minute Activist). When there are at least 10-12 committed virtual branch members, we plan to proceed with virtual branch formation. The virtual platform to be used is still being researched.



There is progress on the **College/University partners** front. Bath-Brunswick members, Joanne Bollinger and Diane Erb, who are working on developing our C/U partnership with Bates College, had breakfast on February 15, 2016 with Catherine Hill, AAUW VP for research and author of *"Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing"* (2015) and *Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership* (2016), who was at Bates College to give a lecture: Power and Digital Innovation: Intersectional Approaches to Computational Studies. I joined them for the lecture and then we had a mini AAUW tabling event afterward.

A new C/U representative, Anne Applin, has been recruited at Southern Maine Community College (SMCC), in addition to which she will be speaking at annual convention. On February 16, 2016, I met with the new C/U rep at Bowdoin College, Professor Rachel Beane, and on March 11, 2016, I met with a prospective C/U rep, whom I'd briefly met at Women's Day at the State House, at the University of Maine at Augusta.

The New England premiere of *La Loi /The Law* (2014, France), presented in association with UMaine Law and Justice for Women, was screened at the Maine Jewish Film Festival on March 16, 2016 in Portland. The film follows the strategic and, ultimately, successful fight for legalization of abortion in late 1974, led by Simone Weil, the French Minister of Health and one of the few women in the French government at the time.

There was an informative post-film panel discussion, which I also attended. University of Maine School of Law Dean Danielle Conway moderated: *Abortion Rights Today, A Global Update*. Panelists included: Judy Norsigian, co-founder of Our Bodies Ourselves and executive director of the organization, 2001 to 2015; Meagan Gallagher, CEO, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England; Alison Beyea, Executive Director of the ACLU of Maine; and Demet Gral, VP of Programs, Pathfinder International.

Equal Pay Day (April 12, 2016, a Tuesday) is rapidly approaching. I am aware of plans for AAUW events at Bowdoin College, SMCC – Brunswick campus, and the University of Maine at Augusta. Equal Pay Day is the date that symbolizes how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous calendar year.

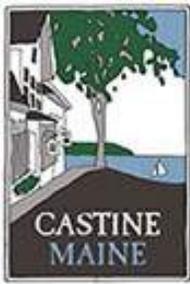


Bets Brown, our public policy co-chair, reminds us, "Be sure to wear **RED** on Equal Pay Day to symbolize how far women and minorities are 'in the red' with their pay!"

The **Maine Women's Fund 2016 Leadership Luncheon** (Celebrating Maine Women in the Arts) will take place on May 18, 2016 at 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland. Last year they sold out (<http://2016mwleadershipluncheon.bpt.me>).

Final details are being tweaked for our **annual convention at Maine Maritime Academy (MMA) in Castine on May 20/21, 2016**. The program and forms for registration, meals and lodging are at the end of this newsletter.

The focus of the convention program is science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). With MMA we will cosponsor a concurrent STEM exploration workshop on May 21 for up to 50 high school freshmen and sophomore girls from Hancock, Waldo, and Washington Counties and more. They will join us for lunch and the final panel of the day.



This promises to be an exciting program in spring, glorious spring, in Castine, a charming coastal village famous for its streets still shaded by American elms (Remember them?).

Be there for a rendezvous **Under the Elms and By the Sea:**
[http://castine.me.us/welcome/!](http://castine.me.us/welcome/)

Finally, I must once again remind you that your gift of unrestricted funds to AAUW's **Charting the Course** campaign is very important to achieve the goal of \$1 million by the end of the year. Challenge yourself and your branch!

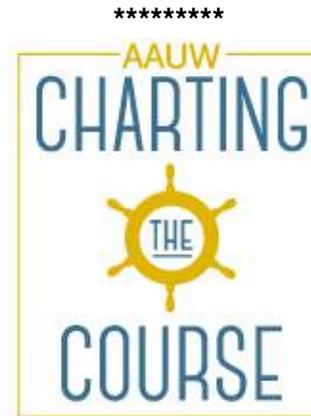


AAUW 'Charting the Course' Campaign at 72% Completion Making Progress; Every Dollar Counts
 Carolyn MacRae, Funds Chair

Our two-year Charting the Course campaign to raise \$1 million by December 2016 is nearly three quarters of the way toward reaching our goal. This unrestricted fund will ensure that AAUW is well prepared to meet the issues facing us today and into the future. They will be used wherever the need is greatest to help empower women in our communities, schools, workplaces, and positions of leadership. Key priorities include promoting gender parity in leadership positions, closing the gender pay gap, and overcoming barriers to women's participation in STEM careers.

Please help AAUW reach its goal. You can give a tax-deductible donation, make a pledge, and encourage your branch to give a branch donation. Please help us meet the \$1 million goal for funding this campaign and

promoting equity for girls and women. Inequality has persisted far too long—let's help end it now and make equity for women become a true reality in our generation.



Maine Contributions to AAUW Funds in 2015 Year-end Results
 Carolyn MacRae, Funds Chair

Branch and state contributions to all defined funds for the calendar year 2015 have been finalized. AAUW of Maine, its branches, and individual members have given a total of \$19,864.73.

Contribution amounts are as follows:

- Bath-Brunswick Branch: \$2,010.00
- Mid-Coast Branch:* \$14,600.73
- Penobscot Valley Branch: \$740.00
- Waterville Branch: \$1,482.00
- Caribou Branch: \$150.00
- Hancock County Branch: \$142.00
- AAUW of Maine: \$740.00

*Mid-Coast Branch donation includes funds disbursed as a result of its disbandment.

Bath-Brunswick Branch gave a branch contribution of \$750.00; in addition, 17 branch members gave additional contributions totaling \$1,260 (an average of \$74.12 per contributing member).

In addition to the Mid-Coast Branch contribution of \$14,425.73 upon their disbandment, four individual members also gave a total of \$175.00 (an average of \$43.75 per contributing member).

Penobscot Valley Branch gave a branch contribution of \$200.00; in addition, 8 branch members made additional contributions of \$540.00 (an average of \$67.50 per contributing member).

Waterville Branch gave branch contribution of \$1,200.00; in addition, 8 branch members gave total individual

contributions totaling \$282.00 (an average of \$35.25 per contributing member).

The Caribou Branch contributed \$150.00 in the form of a branch contribution.

Three Hancock County Branch members made individual contributions totaling \$142.00 (an average of \$47.33 per contributing member).

AAUW of Maine contributed the proceeds from the annual Basket Raffle at the state convention, a total of \$740.00. These individual and branch contributions are very much appreciated; they strengthen AAUW and the work that we do to expand and support equity for women.

State and branch awards for highest total donations and highest per-capita donations will be awarded on the basis of all funds donated during the 2015 calendar year. Individual member donations are included in the totals for their branches.

Abbie Strout
2016 Achievement Citation Award
Regina Oliver, ACA Chair



The 2016 Achievement Citation Award winner is Abbie Strout, who was nominated by the members of the Penobscot Valley Branch. Abbie is the director of education and community engagement at Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, as well as a reproductive rights activist, sexuality educator and a successful community organizer. In those roles, she is able to live out her passion and commitment to educating about sexual and reproductive health by leading multiple projects designed to reduce abortion stigma and to increase awareness of feminism and the

cultural shifts that need to happen in order to assure true equality for all people.

Abbie is a member of the Maine Coalition for Women and the Maine Alliance for Reproductive Freedom. She created the Restore MaineCare Funding Initiative, which seeks to bring back Medicaid funding for abortions in Maine. She is the host of Reproductive Left, a podcast/radio show focused on sexual and reproductive health and is on Community Radio WERU's board of directors. Abbie also created the Inter-generational Project that brings feminists of all ages together to discuss similarities and differences within the feminist movement among "older" and "younger" feminists.

In 2014, Abbie received a Spark! Award from the Maine Women's Lobby in recognition of her work as a young activist. She grew up in Waterboro, Maine, in a supportive family that valued independence and feminist principles. Abbie got her B.A. in sociology at the University of Maine at Orono. She loves to travel and explore new places, but is equally committed to doing work in her own community.

Maine NEW Leadership
Mary Cathcart, C/U Chair

Maine NEW Leadership will be held at the University of Maine, Orono, June 2-7, 2016. We have accepted 28 outstanding undergraduate women from all across Maine. Our keynote speaker on Friday, June 3, will be Oklahoma State Rep. Cyndi Munson, a dynamic 30-year-old who won in a special election last Fall. Cyndi is featured in the film, *Next Step RUN!*, by Maine filmmaker Pam Maus of Owls Head. We thank AAUW of Maine for your support and ask that you contact Mary Cathcart if you would like to attend our June 3 networking reception and dinner, to be held in Wells Conference Center, Orono: Mary_Cathcart@umit.maine.edu.



Identifying a Diversity Chair in Your Branch

Betty-Jane Meader, Diversity and Inclusion Chair

As another year of AAUW approaches, a diversity and inclusion chair should be identified in each branch.

Donna Hurley volunteered to assume this role in the Caribou Branch. If your branch currently doesn't have a diversity chair, please find someone who is knowledgeable and/or interested in diversity and inclusion issues.

How does one become knowledgeable about diversity and inclusion? One suggestion is to attend conferences related to diversity. On February 2, Colby College e-student affiliate **Chloe Powers** and I attended the Diversity/Disability Conference at Thomas College; the featured speaker was Travis Mills, a quadruple amputee. Other topics related to the theme "Disability: Understanding and Overcoming the Obstacles" included brain injuries, learning styles and ADA law. The day ended with Attorney Peter D. Lowe informing attendees about the rights of employees with disabilities.

Attending college/university lectures is another way to comprehend diversity. For example, AAUW student member **Bonnie Maldonado** from Colby and I attended Dr. Nell Irvin Painter's commemorative Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. lecture on "The History of White People: A Conversation about Race Relations" at Colby College on January 18; AAUW member **Dr. Tashia Bradley** introduced her. That morning, AAUW member and Colby Assistant Professor of Psychology **Allecia Reid** served as the speaker at the MLK celebration at the Muskie Center, which several AAUW members attended.

Viewing exhibits is a means of understanding diversity and inclusion. On February 19, I traveled to the Michael Klahr Center on the University of Maine at Augusta campus to see the exhibit "Yearning to Breathe Free: The Immigrant Experience in Maine." According to the American Immigration Council, Maine is home to 44,687 immigrants.

Special events are educational as well. On February 18, I attended an event hosted by the Colby Museum of Art's new initiative "Building Community Through the Arts." Dr. Gilkes and Professor Weisbrot each selected and talked about a work of art that addressed conceptions of race. AAUW student member **Bonnie Maldonado** introduced the speakers. On February 27, Bonnie performed in "Sounds of Blackness: For Colored Girls."

As mentioned in the last *Dawnbreaker*, conversations about race continue on college campuses and in Maine communities. In addition to discussions about race at Thomas College on September 30 and at Colby College

last year, a community discussion on race was held on February 10 at the REM Center in downtown Waterville.

Attending conferences and lectures, viewing exhibits, attending special events, and engaging in conversations about race are ways to become knowledgeable about diversity and inclusion. If interested in serving as the diversity chair of your branch, please contact your branch president and **Betty-Jane Meader** at meaderb@gmail.com or 872-7895.



Betty-Jane Meader and Travis Mills at the Thomas College Diversity/Disability Conference

Membership Matters

Deborah B. Cravey, Membership VP

Most Membership VP's and other leaders will recognize the title and will agree that membership matters a great deal to AAUW and to us. The Association communicates that to us regularly. AAUW of Maine has had some successes with recruitment, retention, and engagement this year as evidenced by some branch stories. Three branches increased membership and four added new members, for a total of nineteen new branch members. We can all enjoy the success stories of what worked and use their ideas with hopes of similar results.

Recruitment for Bath-Brunswick has been most successful through member-to-member recruitment. Joanne Bollinger, membership VP, reported that there were a total of seven new members by the AAUW reporting date of February 1. Two of those were through the website. The branch has a couple more members joining in March. This is a reflection of efforts by members and Joanne's tireless work. Joanne and Kristin's persistence succeeded in getting the C/U relationship with Bowdoin to a working level. There will be a tabling event with branch members at Bowdoin on

Equal Pay Day in April. The program chairs put together a series of excellent programs, which will be detailed in the branch Annual Report. All efforts came together for an increase in membership.

Carolyn MacRae reported eight new members in Waterville at the February 1 date. Her report emphasized the strong programming, the efforts to offer different meeting times and venues, and activities beyond programming. Again, the branch will have details in the Annual Report. Read it with the idea of using what worked and adapting the ideas for your own branches. Strong commitment to AAUW, a willingness to be creative, and energetic leadership made for fine results in Waterville.

The branch with the greatest percentage of increase was Caribou with two new members. Congratulations to Caribou on growing the numbers. Penobscot Valley is rebuilding this year, and we wish them increased numbers. Most branches go through cycles. Penobscot Valley has dedicated AAUW members, a team of long-time members, and the new State President. Hancock County had very good retention, losing just one member. We wish them happy recruiting of some new members through hosting the State Convention this year.

Good luck to each branch and thanks to all the members and leaders who work for AAUW. Membership really does matter and you are the keys to our continued strength. gmcdbc18@comcast.net [207-373-1749](tel:207-373-1749)



AAUW of Maine Facebook Page

Bets Brown, Public Policy Co Chair

We've all heard that using social media is a great way to communicate these days. We have an AAUW of Maine Facebook page, set up by Molly Bogart. Its URL is: www.facebook.com/AAUW-Maine-111981222163193/.

Let's use this as a way to share goings-on in our branches and ideas about women's issues. You can choose to be notified when someone posts on the page, so you won't miss a thing.

Give it a try and help get out the word about AAUW of Maine.

A Great Summer Opportunity for Girls in STEM

Marie Beckum, Summer Programs Director
Maine School of Science and Mathematics

Every summer the Maine School of Science and Mathematics (MSSM) welcomes nearly 600 students ages 10-14 who participate in our MSSM Summer Camp. The summer offerings challenge the mind and develop student interests in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.



Academic classes traditionally offered include Robotics Challenge, Physics of Ballistics, Rocketry Design, Animal Medicine, Mathematical Origami, and Real Life CSI. Through our summer programs, students develop the skills to be life-long learners and leaders. When not in class, a variety of recreational activities are offered, enhancing the summer camp atmosphere.

For more information or to apply online, please visit our website: www.mssm.org.

Jessica Meir

Susan Landry, Penobscot Valley Branch

Some of you may know that the leadership team hoped that for our spring convention we would have as a keynote speaker or panelist and STEM mentor to the students attending, Caribou native, Jessica Meir, who is now an astronaut. This didn't work out, unfortunately. However, on January 27, I had the opportunity to join an auditorium full of grade school children at Collins Center for the Arts, at the University of Maine, Orono, to hear Ms. Meir, who was brought to Maine by the Challenger Learning Center to observe the thirtieth anniversary of the Challenger disaster.

Meir completed the two-year NASA training program in summer 2015, graduating from astronaut candidate to

full-fledged astronaut-- fulfilling a dream she first voiced at age 5! She mentioned that during her trip to Maine she visited the first grade teacher for whom she'd drawn the "what I want to be when I grow up" picture of an astronaut on the moon – suit, American flag, and all.

Meir, a marine biologist, began applying for the astronaut program as soon as she became eligible. She had her first interview in 2009, but was not selected as part of that class.

In 2013 she WAS successful, along with seven others: a class of four women and four men, six military and two not.



The two years of training focus on five primary areas: flight training (seven weeks with the Navy at Pensacola); space station systems (learning every aspect inside out, as everyone going to the ISS/International Space Station must know all the systems and how to fix whatever may break); robotics (since much that happens in and on and surrounding the ISS is done by robotics); Russian language (NASA partners with Russia, Japan, Europe, and Canada for space station missions); and spacewalking (EVA-- extravehicular activity, any time an astronaut leaves the cabin).

Meir expanded on all of these training activities, with great photos and even some videos showing herself and her classmates during jet pilot training, simulation in the neutral buoyancy lab (a huge "pool" in which they work on a full-scale ISS model while dressed in space suits using the same tools used in space, which must be tethered to their suits so as not to float away - just as in space), studying ISS electrical and plumbing systems schematics, etc. She mentioned that each candidate is assigned a personal Russian instructor who is a native speaker. In addition to training in the five focus areas, there's an emphasis on team-building: the group was shown

in survival training in Rangeley, geology camp in New Mexico, backpacking in Wyoming with NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School), and in other ways honing their expeditionary skills and ensuring they can "play well with others" – an important factor considering space station missions are six months in duration for crews of six! To prepare for the effects of weightlessness there is not just the buoyancy lab, but also that 35 seconds of zero gravity in the "Vomit Comet"; learning to work with a specialized resistance device since lifting weights is not possible in space and it's important to fight muscle atrophy and other physical deterioration; and spending time in the Soyuz trainer.

Currently the new astronauts are in "proficiency maintenance" mode. No two days are alike. They each have an assignment such as Meir's role as CAPCOM (capsule communicator) at the Johnson Space Center; they brush up on biology basics since ISS crew members carry out experiments on behalf of earth-bound scientists (including those in elementary and high schools!); and they work out and practice good nutrition to remain in good health and physical condition.

Meir pointed out that her NASA class members represent very diverse careers and avenues into the program. To illustrate maybe her most important message: there are many paths to achieving one's dreams. She told the children to make it a priority to "find your passion, expand your viewpoint, broaden your perspective."

Support Gender Equity In Education

Bets Brown, Public Policy Co Chair

Many people don't know what Title IX is really about – ending sex discrimination in schools, and not just on the playing field! Even officials who are responsible for following the law, often called Title IX coordinators, don't always understand the full scope of the law and how it can be a valuable tool to make campuses safer and more equitable for all. Title IX is more than just athletics: Title IX coordinators should



be, among other things, monitoring the gender ratio in STEM courses, working to end sexual harassment and violence, and supporting pregnant and parenting students.

We know:

- Around 28 percent of women are targets of attempted or completed sexual assault while they are college students.
- Nearly half of students in grades 7-12 report facing sexual harassment.
- Just 36 percent of athletic dollars go to women's teams.
- Women and girls are still seriously underrepresented in STEM classes at all levels.

You can help!! Help your school's Title IX coordinator get a jump-start on these issues. Please deliver brand new resources from the U.S. Department of Education to your school's Title IX coordinator. Find them at www.aauw.org/2015/04/24/title-ix-coordinator-resources/. AAUW has published a how-to guide to help you accomplish this task (see www.aauw.org/resource/TitleIXDelivery/).

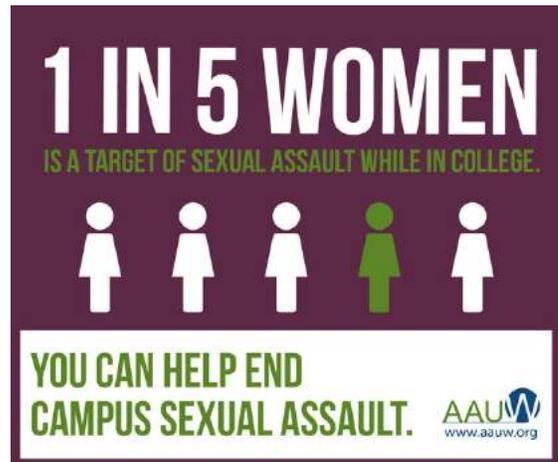
AAUW Speaks on Troublesome Campus Sexual Assault Data at the National Press Club

"When campus environments are hostile because of sexual harassment and violence, students can't learn. It's that simple and it's that devastating. Schools have an important and necessary role to play in addressing this epidemic," said AAUW Vice President of Government Relations **Lisa Maatz at the National Press Club's Newsmaker Conference on January 14.**



Along with Maatz, AAUW Government Relations Manager Anne Hedgepeth spoke to a full audience of press and local AAUW members on much-needed

legislation to help end sexual assault on college campuses. They also described AAUW's recent analysis of sexual violence data released by the U.S. Department of Education as required by the Clery Act.



Maatz pointed out that "campus sexual assault is not new, but the heightened attention to it is." Many are familiar with the disturbing statistic that 1 in 5 women is sexually assaulted during college, but less well known is that more than 1 in 5 college women experiences physical abuse, sexual abuse, or threats of physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner. Newly reported data indicate that the annual statistics collected by colleges and universities still do not tell the full story of sexual violence on campus. Our own analysis found that 91 percent of colleges reported zero incidents of rape in 2014.

Since the Clery Act was updated with the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, schools are also required to report dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking incidents on campuses nationwide. But in these categories as well, **only about 10 percent of college campuses disclosed a reported incident in 2014.** "Zeros are the red flag in how schools handle sexual assault. Having a high number of campuses reporting zero doesn't match with information AAUW hears about campus sexual assault," said Hedgepeth.

The reauthorized law's campus safety provisions — sometimes called Campus SaVE or the VAWA Amendments to the Clery Act — are supported by final regulations that went into effect in July 2015, which require colleges and universities to take new and better steps to end sexual violence.

AAUW remains committed to fighting for equitable climates free of harassment and bullying, as well as freedom from violence and fear of violence in schools.

This commitment will continue into the current Congress as we advocate for legislation to finally end campus sexual assault nationwide. For more information on how you can influence the debate, visit AAUW's Action Network (<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>).

Victory for LAF-Supported Plaintiffs in Two Sex Discrimination Suits

Carolyn MacRae, Funds Chair

Whistle-blower lawsuit. After a decade of litigation, educators [Michelle \(Jaureguito\) Henley](#) and [Laurel Wartluff Henley](#) have successfully settled their cases against Feather River Community College in California. Along with another LAF-supported plaintiff, Paul Thein, they filed whistleblower lawsuits in 2006 against Feather River. They alleged that the college violated Title IX by retaliating against them for complaining about sex discrimination, among other claims. All three cases were eventually referred to California's State Personnel Board. In August 2009, a California State Personnel Board judge issued a decision in favor of all three plaintiffs, ordering their reinstatement and awarding them back pay and damages. Feather River appealed the judge's decision. After a lengthy appeal, the full State Personnel Board upheld the judge's 2009 decision in the plaintiffs' favor. Their cases highlighted Title IX's important role in protecting faculty and staff who advocate for gender equity. Thein is still pursuing his case.

Sex discrimination and unlawful retaliation lawsuit.

In January 2016, the plaintiffs in the LAF-supported case [Moshak v. University of Tennessee](#) successfully settled their Title IX lawsuit against the university. As part of the settlement, the university will pay more than \$1 million.

Jennifer Moshak, Heather Mason, and Collin Schlosser are former employees of the University of Tennessee's women's athletic department. In 2012, they filed suit against the university, alleging sex discrimination and unlawful retaliation under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the Equal Pay Act of 1963. The plaintiffs claim they were unlawfully discriminated against and eventually forced out of their positions during a university-led merger of the men's and women's athletic departments.

Gender discrimination in sports remains a significant problem for athletes, as well as for coaches and administrators who support women's athletics. The *Moshak* plaintiffs shared a professional commitment to women's athletics at a university that has a rich history

of excellence in women's sports. Their allegations show just how pervasive discrimination against women's sports and women athletes can be.

Update on the Supreme Court Vacancy

Molly Bogart, Public Policy Co Chair

The AAUW cohort in Washington, D.C. has close eyes on the Supreme Court vacancy and has worked tirelessly to keep state and local branches abreast of developments. As many of you likely know, President Obama has nominated Chief Judge Merrick Garland of the US Court of Appeals. He is fairly non-controversial and was unanimously confirmed for his current position by the Senate. This should, theoretically, have allowed for an expedited vetting process and have made it difficult for the Senate to not confirm him. However, that doesn't seem to be the case.

If you've been watching the news (It's fairly hard to avoid!) you've likely heard that several Republican Senators have pledged to obstruct the nomination process so that the next President can fill this seat. However, we know that there is plenty of time within the President's term to fill this vacancy and there is significant historic precedent that demonstrates this. We have already seen some Republican Senators, especially those with upcoming elections, bend to public opinion and soften their pledge to block a nomination. Our own Republican Senator, Susan Collins, has agreed to meet with Garland and has said she is urging her colleagues to do the same. She has come out publicly against her peers' obstruction, but so far they have not budged.

The fact of the matter is that the President and Congress not only should, but are required, to do their jobs and carry out a nomination, a hearing, and vote, as they have when faced with every previous SCOTUS opening.

AAUW National has been a standard bearer for good process, and the promised obstruction *is simply not* good process. As Judge Garland waits for a hearing, it is imperative that AAUW members contact Senators Collins and King (especially Senator Collins, as she holds greater weight with the Senate Republicans) and ask them to urge their colleagues to hold a hearing and a vote. It is clear that this is a political game to deny President Obama the ability to do his job. Were it an issue with the nominee, the Judiciary Committee would hold the hearing and not grant consent for the nomination. It's time for the game to stop and a hearing to be held - we must continue to express our discontent - really, outrage - at this miscarriage of justice.

If you have questions about the nomination process, or what you can do, please contact Molly Bogart at mollybogart@gmail.com

Annual Reports

Joan Sanzenbacher, Corresponding Secretary

The annual reports for officers, committee chairs, and branches are **due to me via e-mail by May 10th** so that I can prepare a Maine State Annual Report for 2015-16 before convention. Last year the compiled reports ran 25 pages. Therefore, I am asking for brief reports so that the final document will be more easily read by those interested and more easily sent via e-mail. Last year the file was so long that some did not get it and many did not read it.

I do understand that in some cases members are waiting for more information before sending me their report.

Please send what you have, i.e. numbers from National and the like, by the 10th of May and we can update those reports when information becomes available.

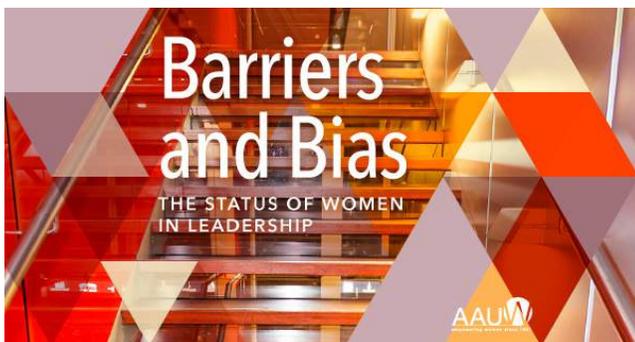
Branches do not need to send full descriptions of each meeting, but rather focus on highlights of the year like anniversaries or special events. Please e-mail me if you have any questions (jhsanzen@colby.edu).

Thank you for your assistance.

AAUW Public Policy Issues

Bets Brown, Public Policy Co Chair

Advocacy isn't just about AAUW lending our name to an issue or speaking up on Capitol Hill in Washington DC or at the State House in Augusta. Advocacy is about AAUW members and all citizens concerned with equity being knowledgeable and aware of the current status of important issues.



For more information on our advocacy efforts, see AAUW's Public Policy Program (<http://www.aauw.org/resource/principles-and-priorities/>).

For further information on how you can influence the debate, visit AAUW's Action Network (<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>).

For information about our federal legislative priorities for the 114th Congress, download our legislative priorities document (<http://www.aauw.org/resource/priorities-for-women-in-114th-congress/>).

Branching Out: News from Our Branches

Bath-Brunswick Branch

Sophie Whitehouse and Marlise Swartz

This winter we gathered on December 9th, as has been the tradition for many years in our branch, for our Annual Greens Event fundraiser and an elegant buffet in the old Fireplace room at the Curtis Library in Brunswick. With this fundraiser, AAUW Bath-Brunswick members support both our local scholarship and our annual donation to the national AAUW Funds. Our next winter event was our annual luncheon at Henry and Marty's. This year's luncheon featured Sarah Brown and Jessica Flaherty, who talked about the financial literacy grant and program for women and low-income families being implemented by the Curtis Memorial Library in the Brunswick community. Since November, we have held 3 board meetings and our Annual Branch Meeting will take place on April 16th at Thornton Oaks, along with a presentation by the Coastal Studies for Girls in Freeport.

Our interest and community groups: the knitting group, the Out to Lunch Bunch, the book group, and Home to Home are still meeting on a regular basis weather permitting. The Growstown School children's visits will resume in the spring after some repairs were done. Thirteen visits have been scheduled between April and June.

Our nominating committee is working on replacing our two co-presidents and secretary for next year. Our Bylaws Chair, Deborah Cravey, has volunteered to take over AAUW funds since Joy Baldwin had to step down. So far this year we have 76 members. Two of our members come from the Lewiston area and one new member belongs to a northern Massachusetts branch and joined ours, as well, since she is now living in both states.

Joanne Bollinger, our membership and outreach chair is working hard to renew our C/U partnerships between our branch and Bates and Bowdoin colleges.

Hancock County Branch

Louise Storer

The Hancock County Branch met in November for our annual book-sharing. Each member recommends two or three books she has read in the past year and which she thinks others might enjoy. In December, we had what has become our regular holiday and pizza gathering. This year we voted to give \$750.00 to our local site of the University of Maine in Ellsworth. The money is to be used at the discretion of the site director to help women students in temporary need.

In February, as a cabin fever-reliever, we held an Italian-themed dinner for the members and their spouses. The March meeting was held jointly with BPW and Delta Kappa Gamma to hear Ellsworth's only police detective speak about her experiences as the first – and for many years, the only – woman on the force.

Our April meeting will be taken up with preparation to host our annual AAUW State Convention at Maine Maritime Academy in Castine, ME. We will end the year with our Annual Meeting in early June.

Waterville Branch Happenings

Carly McCarthy and Carolyn MacRae

The Waterville Branch program year is in full swing. After several very successful fall programs, we began the New Year with a presentation by Terry Hayes, Maine State Treasurer, on the role and functions of the Maine State Treasury, and her role as Treasurer.



In February, the Title IX Coordinators at Colby College and Thomas College provided background and discussed implementation of Title IX on their respective campuses. Attendance was high for this meeting, and included a number of Colby College students.

In March, a panel of local woman entrepreneurs will describe their businesses and describe their motivations in starting their own businesses and the challenges they

faced. Our April meeting will take a look at the ongoing problem of campus sexual assault and include intergenerational discussions between branch members and Colby College peer counselors.

Between our regularly scheduled branch meetings, we are getting together this year in small groups for casual events and activities of interest to our members that help us get to know each other better. Recently, a group of us met for dinner at the new Indian Restaurant, the Dancing Elephant, in Fairfield. In November and December, a small group of knitters got together weekly to make hats, scarves, and mittens for residents of the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter. The group's donations were much appreciated and we have now begun meeting twice a month to work on our knitted donations for next winter. We are planning some other activities in the next couple months, and looking forward to visiting Pineland Farms in the late spring.

We have also begun to make better use of available national AAUW resources. We are ordering program-related brochures and handouts to distribute to interested attendees at our meetings. These materials provide background about the topics under discussion and highlight AAUW's research and public policy objectives and successes. We are now also including links in our monthly newsletter to articles and resources on the national AAUW website. The use of these resources is helping to connect Waterville Branch members to the larger organization.

AAUW logo with text 'empowering women since 1881' and a blue scroll graphic containing the text: 'WANTED: A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR ANNUAL CONVENTION Contact Marlise Swartz (mswartz@maine.rr.com) if you are willing and able.'

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Kristin Sweeney

The following slate has been proposed for two-year terms:

- President Dora McCarthy
- Membership VP ?????
- Corresponding Secretary ?????

It's Basket Raffle Time!

Carolyn MacRae, Funds Chair

The AAUW of Maine spring convention is coming in May and with it comes our annual Basket Raffle. Wonderful baskets full of goodies and surprises from all our branches are auctioned off at the end of the convention. The funds raised support national AAUW funds, including the Educational Opportunities Fund, the Legal Advocacy Fund, and many other AAUW initiatives that benefit women and girls.

You can help! Suggest themes for your branch's baskets and contribute items to put in them. Branches are encouraged to donate several smaller baskets, rather than one large basket, so that more of us can share in the fun of winning.

Buy tickets for the raffle—tickets cost a dollar each, or six tickets for five dollars. Even if you are not able to attend the convention, tickets can be purchased from your branch president or branch AAUW Funds chair. All tickets will be put into the basket for the raffle. If yours is a winning ticket and you are not present, another member from your branch will choose a basket for you. If you are present, even better—you can choose your own basket!

With your support and participation, AAUW will continue its strong work to achieve equity for women and girls, and that will benefit all of us!

A PROPOSED INCREASE IN DUES

Kristin Sweeney

On August 1, 2015, the AAUW of Maine Board accepted the Budget Committee's recommendation that dues should be raised \$5 (from \$10 to \$15), effective in the fiscal year 2017, which begins on July 1, 2016.

After the following analysis, the recommendation was that state dues should be used for normal operating expenses (estimated at \$3500), and the amount of state dues should be an amount that essentially covers these operating expenses.

State dues in 2005 were \$6, and had been \$6 since at least FY 1995. Dues were raised to \$8 for FY 2006 and to \$10 for FY 2007. They have remained at \$10 since FY 2007. In the meantime, membership has decreased by more than 50%. In 2002, the state had 481 members; by 2005, there were 381 members. In FY 2012, however, membership stood at 195. AAUW of Maine membership was 210 in FY 2015 and 204 in FY 2016 (per the February 1 counts from national).

Thus, in FY 2002, with 481 members and state dues of \$6, the state dues would have raised approximately \$2886. In FY 2015, the state dues raised \$1967 (discrepancy between expected amount of \$2100 for 210 members and \$1967 collected is due to honorary life members, who pay no state dues, and student members, who pay dues of \$3). The result is that AAUW of Maine has not only fewer actual dollars in dues revenue, but also those dollars buy less in today's economy.

Important Dates

April 12, 2016	Equal Pay Day
May 18, 2016	Maine Women's Fund Leadership Luncheon, Portland
May 20/21, 2016	AAUW Convention Maine Maritime Academy, Castine
June 2-4, 2016	NCCWSL, College Park, Maryland
June 3, 2016	Maine NEW Leadership reception University of Maine, Orono



ACT!
FOR WOMEN

SAVE THE DATE

for
Act for Women's 2016 advocacy day. Join advocates, health care providers, and other leaders from around the country as we educate lawmakers about the Women's Health Protection Act.

May 11 - 12, 2016
Washington, DC

Advocacy training and cocktail reception on May 11
Breakfast and Hill visits on May 12

Registration and travel information will be available in February on actforwomen.org.

Please email info@actforwomen.org for more information.

UPDATING BYLAWS

Judy Dinmore, Bylaws Chair

Some branches are working on updating their bylaws. **Converting existing bylaws to the national model takes time. Please start your process early to meet the May 15, 2016 deadline.** Please send your updated bylaws to AAUW national at connect@aauw.org and a copy to Judy Dinmore, Maine state bylaws chair, at: jdinmore603@maine.rr.com.

Five bylaw changes were discussed at the January 30, 2016 AAUW of Maine board of directors meeting. **Three bylaw changes were approved by the board and will be voted on by the membership at the annual business meeting on May 21st.** They are listed below. The proposal to combined the offices of recording and corresponding secretaries was not approved. The proposal to have co-presidents elected in alternating years was postponed for additional discussion. (To view all the bylaws go to the Maine state AAUW Web page at <http://aauw-me.aauw.net/> and click CONVENTION, then see 'Items to be voted on Changes to Bylaws – Bylaws (current)' click on the second word “Bylaws”.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES to be voted upon at the AAUW business meeting on May 21 are:

1. To match officer positions to current practice:

These sections would be affected:

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1. Officers and Directors, b. Appointed Officers and Directors. The appointed officers and directors shall be AAUW Funds, public policy, newsletter editor, historian, and other officers as may be considered advisable to carry on its business.

2. Annual report due date and submission clarification:

These sections would be affected:

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 2. Duties. The Organization's officers and directors shall perform the duties described by these bylaws, by rules of procedure and policy adopted by the Organization's board, and by the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*. **All officers shall submit annual reports of their work to the Organization's corresponding secretary thirty (30) days before the annual meeting.** The elected and appointed officers and directors shall facilitate and promote the purpose and mission of AAUW.

ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES

Section 3. Reports. **All committees shall provide written annual reports for the Organization's board thirty (30) days before the annual convention, sent to the corresponding secretary,** and such other times as requested.

3. The annual business meeting and the convention are used interchangeably in the bylaws. Separation of references to the annual meeting and the convention is appropriate and will provide flexibility. The annual meeting is required.

These sections would be affected:

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES, Section 5. DUES, a. Amount.

(1) The annual dues for individual members shall be established by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the AAUW Board of Directors. Dues for the Organization or comparable AAUW-affiliated entity members shall be established by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Organization's members present and voting at the **Annual Meeting**. Members shall be notified of the intent to consider a change in the dues, the proposed amount, and the rationale for the change at least thirty (30) of days prior to the vote. Organization dues for student affiliates shall be established by the Organization's board.

ARTICLE V. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS, Section 2. Nominations.

a. (1) Organization members may submit names for elected officers to the Nominating Committee at least forty-five (45) days prior to the **Annual Meeting**. The chair shall report to the members of the Committee all names received.

(2) Nominee Publication. The names of nominees for elected office shall be published and sent to every Organization member with the call to convention or **Annual Meeting**.

Section 3. Elections., b. The elections shall be held at the Organization's **Annual Meeting**.

ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES, Section 3. Reports. All committees shall provide written reports to the Organization's board for the **Annual Meeting** and such other times as requested.

ARTICLE XIII. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION, Section 1., d. The Organization's annual budget and financial report shall be prepared at the direction of the board of directors for presentation at the **Annual Meeting**.

ARTICLE XIV. MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP,

Section 1. **Annual Meeting.** The Organization shall have at least one regular meeting each year to be known as the Organization's **Annual Meeting** to conduct the business of the state organization. The **Annual Meeting** may include electing of officers, establishing dues, reviewing the budget, amending bylaws, receiving reports, and the transaction of any noticed business that may properly come before it. The time and date of the **Annual Meeting** shall be set by the Organization's board of directors. **The Annual Meeting may be held at the convention.** All Organization meetings, including meetings of the board, shall be open and may be attended by any member of the Organization. If circumstances prevent the holding of the Organization's **Annual Meeting**, the board shall provide for the conduct of necessary business.

Section 5. Voting.

a. Each member of the Organization in good standing on the date of the **Annual Meeting** shall be entitled to one vote on any item of business.

ARTICLE XVII. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

AAUW-mandated amendments shall be adopted by the Organization's board of directors without a vote of the Organization's membership. Provisions of the Organization's bylaws not mandated by AAUW may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) (unless otherwise stipulated by state law) vote of members voting after a quorum is attained. Proposed bylaws amendments shall be sent to the entire membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the **Annual Meeting**. Prior to being voted on, proposed changes to the Organization's bylaws shall be sent to AAUW Bylaws chair for concurrence. Any amendment to the Organization's bylaws shall become effective and binding on all its branches.



**AAUW of Maine State Convention
May 20-21, 2016
Maine Maritime Academy, Castine, ME**

Friday, May 20

**Early Friday
afternoon**

Activities (optional) – to be announced

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Board Meeting – location at MMA to be decided

No passes required for parking

Campus map: <http://mainemaritime.edu/about-mma/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2014/09/2015-Map-FINAL.pdf>

Parking map: <http://mainemaritime.edu/campus-safety/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2015/09/2015-Parking-Map.pdf>

**Alfond Student Center
Dining Room**

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Registration

5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

Welcome Reception

6:15 – 8:00 p.m.

Dinner (Program will begin during dessert)

7:00 – 7:20 p.m.

Welcome and presentation of Achievement Citation Award

Kristin Sweeney, President, AAUW of Maine

Introduction of Abbie Strout – Ruth Lockhart, Penobscot Valley Branch

7:20 – 7:40 p.m.

Remarks by Abbie Strout,

2016 Achievement Citation Award Winner

7:40 – 8:00 p.m.

Presentation of Branch Members of the Year awards

Kristin Sweeney

**Saturday, May 21
Alfond Student Center
Dining Room**

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Sign-In

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast and Business Meeting (members only)

National AAUW Legacy Circle Team – Bets Brown
Elections
Voting on proposed bylaws changes
Voting on proposed dues increase

Saturday, May 21
Alfond Student Center
1954 Lecture Hall

- 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.** **National Update and AAUW STEM Initiatives**
Dot McLane, National Board of Directors and longtime leader of AAUW
- 10:00 - 10:15 a.m.** Break
- 10:15 – 10:45 a.m.** Recognizing our AAUW members in STEM careers
Dora McCarthy, President-Elect, AAUW of Maine
- 10:45 – 11:15 a.m.** **Women in Fisheries**
Jocelyn Runnebaum, Ph.D. candidate, School of Marine Sciences,
University of Maine
- 11:15 - 11:45 a.m.** **Technology is Everywhere, but Where are the Women?**
Anne Applin, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Southern
Maine Community College
- 11:45 – 12:45 p.m.** Break and lunch with STEM exploration students (**DINING ROOM**)
- 12:45 – 1:30 p.m.** **Outreach Education Opportunities in STEM**
Moderator: **Cathy Bevier**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology at
Colby College and AAUW State Chair of STEM
Panelists: **Marie Beckum**, B.S., Summer Programs Director for the
Maine School of Science and Mathematics (MSSM)
 Jan Mokros, Ph.D., Senior Research Scientist at the Maine
Mathematics and Science Alliance (MMSA)
 Kerry Whittaker, Ph.D., Visiting Professor of Marine Ecology at Bates
College and Marine Science faculty at Coastal Studies for Girls
- 1:30 – 1:45 p.m.** Break
- 1:45 – 2:15 p.m.** Raffle
- 2:15 - 3:15 p.m.** **The Future of STEM Featuring Maine Young Women Engaged in STEM Careers**
(attended by STEM exploration students)
Moderator: **Elizabeth True**, Ed.D., Vice President for Student Affairs and
Enrollment Management, Maine Maritime Academy
Panelists: **Sadie Alley-Ferreira**, B.S., Power Engineering Technology, Sundog
Solar Store and Independent Consultant
 Paige Brown, Bangor High School ('16), winner of the 2016
First Place Medal of Distinction for Global Good in the national Intel Science
Talent Search
 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
 Rebecca Bell, B.A., Research Assistant, Jackson Laboratory
- 3:15 p.m.** Closing remarks: Kristin Sweeney



**AAUW of Maine 2016 Convention
May 20-21, 2016
Maine Maritime Academy
Castine, Maine**

ACCOMMODATIONS

1. At Maine Maritime Academy

Curtis Hall – Lodging per room, per day (Elevator)

Shared Bath with other room, 2 Twin Beds _____ \$60.00*

Leavitt Hall – Lodging per room, per night (Elevator)

Private Room _____ \$85.00*

Double Room, 2 twin beds or 1 double bed _____ \$95.00*

Suite _____ \$110.00*

Graduate Commons – Apt. Style Housing

Double Room with 2 twin beds or 1 double bed with kitchenette _____ \$125.00*

*Price does not include taxes.

TO RESERVE AND PAY FOR:

Please call Rachael IANNOLI (convention coordinator)

Office phone: 207 326-2283

Cell phone: 207 702-5062

Phone only from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Pay by **credit or debit card** at the time of reserving a room.

Pay by **check** after reserving the room by phone; room will not be secured until check is received.

Refunds are available for cancellations up to 7 days before the event.

2. Other Accommodations in Castine

Manor Inn - B & B in 100+year old summer home. Eight minute walk to MMA.

76 Battle Ave., Castine, ME 04421

Phone: 207 326-4861

<http://www.manor-inn.com>

Pentagöet Inn – Queen Anne Victorian B & B.

26 Main St., P.O. Box 4, Castine, ME 04421

Phone: 207 326-8616

stay@pentagoet.com

<http://www.pentagoet.com>



**AAUW of Maine 2016 Convention
May 20-21, 2016
Maine Maritime Academy
Castine, Maine**

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Branch Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Friday, May 20 – Alford Student Center:

Welcome reception and **Dinner**

Choose one entrée (all entrées are same price) _____ \$ 29.00

_____ Salmon

_____ Chicken

Please check if you need a vegetarian _____ or other special diet entrée _____

Please explain special diet entrée _____

Saturday, May 21 – Alford Student Center:

Full **Breakfast** _____ \$ 12.50

Buffet **Luncheon** _____ \$ 14.50

Registration Fee: _____ \$ 15.00

Total Enclosed _____

Please **mail registration form and check**, payable to **AAUW of Maine**, **by Tuesday, May 2, 2016** to Marilyn Leimbach, 9 Wilson Park, Waterville, ME 04901

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