



Message from the President

by Dora McCarthy

I hope everyone's holidays were safe, fun, and full of wonderful memories. We now begin a new year and have a new State legislature, Congress and President. We are already seeing the new Congress doing things like trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act, defund Planned Parenthood, and gut the Ethics Committee. There are also some shining lights of community action happening throughout the nation. The biggest is the upcoming Women's March in D.C. on January 21st.



There are also many happening around the country and for those who can't get out there is an at-home version.** It doesn't matter where you are or what you are doing, you can participate in one of the biggest events of 2017.

We also saw a national outcry when the House of Representatives tried to slash the powers of the non-partisan Ethics Committee that oversees them. Millions of people called and emailed their representatives to stop this abuse of power and the Ethics Committee stayed intact.

I have also seen and heard many people doing small acts of kindness and courage every day. There are many women who are stepping up to run for office and programs to open and promote immigration to different

parts of the country. My own town of Bangor is looking to create a Multicultural Center and many want to look into bringing an immigration office to this area.

We have a big year in front of us with a lot of possible changes and opportunities. The issues we believe in and fight for could be in the worst jeopardy to date. We have some mighty weapons at our disposal: our voice and our vote. Use both well and often. Our national convention is in Washington D.C. and we will be marching on Capitol Hill. I hope many of you can attend.

Have a safe winter!!

**There are three sister marches listed for Maine in Augusta, Brunswick and Portland:

<https://www.womensmarch.com/sisters>.



Women's March on Maine (Augusta)

by Kristin Sweeney, *Dawnbreaker* editor

Here are the details for the Women's March on Maine, <https://www.facebook.com/events/1264984530218859/>.

A **rally** at the Burton M. Cross building
111 Sewall St. - next to the Capitol
Saturday, January 21, 2017
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

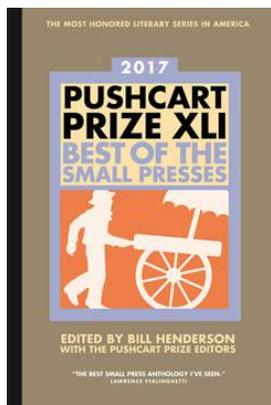
**Celebrating the Graduation of Darlene Taylor
2015-2016 AAUW Grantee in Maine**
by Kristin Sweeney, *Dawnbreaker* editor

Darlene Taylor, a woman of many talents and careers, is the only 2015-2016 AAUW Career Development Grant recipient in Maine.

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.



Her short story, "First Marriage," was included in an anthology, "Empty Nest," published by KY Story in February 2016. This fall, her story was nominated for a Pushcart Prize (<http://www.pushcartprize.com/index.html>).

Susan Landry, Penobscot Valley Branch, and I attended the reading of her short story on Friday, January 13, 2017. The Stonecoast faculty has nominated Darlene to be the graduation speaker for the fiction cohort. I would love to have other AAUW members attend her graduation with me. Details follow.

Saturday, January 14, 2017, 7-8 pm

Graduation Ceremony
Freeport HS Performing Arts Center
3 Holbrook Street, Freeport
Darlene Taylor will speak on behalf of the fiction writers.

Following graduation:
Harraseeket Inn, Freeport
Casco Bay Room

Public Policy Report
by Karen Kusiak, Public Policy Co-Chair

What changed for Mainers in November 2016?
Maine and the nation elected individuals to many important positions in November, but as many of you know, we also voted on several referenda, two of which AAUW supported and tracked. Question 2 - a question aimed at fully funding the State's obligation to our local schools - and Question 4 - a referendum seeking to raise the minimum wage at a steady but reasonable pace. Both passed. What will this mean for Maine?

Increased Public Education Funding: To help the State meet its required 55% funding of public schools, Question 2 proposed a 3% surcharge on incomes exceeding \$200,000. To clarify, say a household makes \$320,000 annually. Only \$120,000 (the amount over the initial \$200,000) would be taxed at the 3%. This additional revenue is directed to a specific fund, which is then available if (when) the state's appropriations fall below the required 55%. For many years, the annual shortfall has not been supplemented, leaving local school districts holding the bag -- causing cuts to programs, teachers, and more. As a proponent of quality, accessible education at all levels, AAUW was proud to support Question 2 and is happy to see it pass!

Making the minimum wage a livable wage: Question 4 on Maine's 2016 ballot sought to increase the state's minimum wage to \$12/hour by 2020, starting with an increase to \$9/hour in 2017 and increase one dollar per year until 2020. Additionally, it sought to eliminate what is often referred to as the "tip credit" or the sub-minimum wage that service industry employers are allowed to pay their employees under the assumption that tips garnered for service will cover the additional wages to reach at minimum the \$7.50/hour (now \$9/hour) guaranteed wage. If an employee does not make enough tips to cover the difference, the employer is theoretically obligated to cover the difference. However, in practice, many see the tip credit as deeply problematic. When employees don't make enough in tips to bring their

wages to the minimum wage, it is not uncommon for employers to neglect to make up that difference -- leading to wage theft for workers already struggling to make ends meet. Additionally, many workers who are reliant on tips for their income (especially women) are subject to sexual harassment and inappropriate behavior in the workplace that they are forced to tolerate for their livelihood. For example, if a customer is being inappropriate to you, but you need their tip money to afford gas, groceries, and more, you are much more likely to tolerate the treatment and less likely to report it because the need for income outweighs any recourse you could attain.

These questions will vastly improve the lives of working Mainers and the students and faculty in our public schools. AAUW is proud to have supported their passage.

What's Next for AAUW Public Policy?

Looking forward, it's hard to tell what the next two years in Maine and next four years nationally will bring to the fore, but AAUW will be working to stand strong in our mission to advance equity for women and girls.

Currently, this includes ensuring that all people have access to quality, affordable health care and that the Affordable Care Act is not repealed without a comprehensive replacement. National is also gearing up for 2017's **EQUAL PAY DAY**, yet another opportunity to highlight the persisting disparity in wages between men and women, and the even greater disparities between white men and women and men and women of color.

On the state level, we'll work to continue supporting working women in Maine, making our education system as strong and fair as possible, and working with our coalition partners at the Alliance for Maine Women.

It's likely that we will be focusing on defending the progress we have achieved on civil rights and economic issues. AAUW is committed to creating and supporting a world where women's and girls' dreams are not limited and they live as free and equal counterparts to all of humankind.

AAUW FUNDS

by Susan Nolan Landry, AAUW Funds Liaison

Through the end of September (i.e. three-quarters of the year), Maine members/branches contributed just shy of \$4000: the Charting the Course campaign (\$1500), the Public Policy fund (\$83), the Educational Opportunities fund (\$350), unrestricted LAF support (\$350), and the general fund.



Ways in which our monies are used include providing women with the tools needed to negotiate a fair salary, inspiring young girls to pursue their passions for computer science, biology, and other STEM fields, encouraging women leaders to enter

politics, and more. Upcoming priorities include ensuring safety in our schools and communities by freeing them from harassment and hate crimes; we're told that **"AAUW will continue to speak truth to power and demand that President-elect Donald Trump and his administration take a strong stand against bullying, misogyny, and all acts of hate."**

Legislative battles, research, grants-and-fellowships, and legal advocacy – it all requires money, so we must continue providing it!

Although I've received no recent updates from the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF), we know it's still a priority. You can check for news, follow case support, get tips on employment and campus rights, and more at: <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/legal-resources/>.

Interested in serving on grants and fellowships selection panels? Information is here: <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/selection-panels/>

So here's another reminder to put together your **BRANCH BASKETS FOR THE SPRING RAFFLE!**

We'll once again send proceeds to Washington for the unrestricted funds bucket to give the Association greatest latitude for use. Members are encouraged to donate on their own to their favorite designated funds.

Branches can determine a theme for each basket, or do 2 or 3 baskets on one theme. Remember to keep each basket at a reasonable size for its winner to tote off!



Please promote the cause in your branch and greater community. Use any generic tickets, but just be sure that there is a buyer's name and your branch name on the part that you turn in to me in April, so that if the buyer is not present someone from your branch can choose a basket for delivery to the lucky winner. Cost of chances: Single tickets are \$1; 6 can be had for \$5.

And as always, I would love to hear your suggestions for alternate or additional ways of raising funds (and friends!) at the branch or state level!

- email susan.landry@umit.maine.edu
- phone 207/581-1509 Mon-Fri 9-4
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Membership Is Everyone's Responsibility

by Betty-Jane Meader,
Membership Vice President

As the new year begins, remember everyone is responsible for recruiting new members to AAUW. According to the national website, the Waterville Branch has four new members (including two student members), the Penobscot Valley Branch has two, and the Caribou Branch has one. Between January 1 and March 15, national dues are only \$24.50 for **new** members.

Retaining members is as important as recruiting new ones. Based on the national membership stats, the Bath-Brunswick Branch has 70 paid members, the Waterville Branch has 46, the Penobscot Valley Branch has 37, the Caribou Branch has 14, and the Hancock County Branch has 9. Has your branch lost or gained members?

In addition, **free** e-student affiliates in your area should be invited to branch meetings/programs. The University of Maine has 36 e-student affiliates, Thomas College has 26, Colby has 21, the University of Maine at Farmington has 17, Bowdoin has 15, Southern Maine Community College has 10, Husson University has 4, Maine Maritime Academy has 4, Bates has 2, and the University of Maine at Augusta has 1. Remember, these young women are the future of AAUW!

SPRING 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

by Marlise Swartz, Program Vice President

AAUW of Maine's 2017 Annual Meeting will be Saturday, April 29, 2017, in Waterville on the Colby and Thomas College campuses. The conference topic will be Pay Equity. We anticipate involving women entering the workforce, as well as those already in the workforce. (It might just be your daughter or granddaughter).



Women working full time in the United States typically are paid just 80 percent of what white men are paid, a gap of 20 percent — and it's even worse for women of color. Through Start Smart and Work Smart, we are fighting to close the pay gap, one workshop at a time. Join us. Give young women a head start in the workforce.



Get Started in STEM!

by Cathy Bevier, Chair of STEM Initiatives

It's a challenging and exciting time to be involved with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) initiatives, especially in Maine. There has been tremendous growth at local and national levels in support of recruiting more people, especially women and girls, into STEM fields to build momentum in areas of research and discovery important for advancing technology, healthcare, and global sustainability. AAUW sponsors several programs that support research into representation of women in STEM fields as well as programs for STEM education. They write about the importance of this on their website: "Our society tells girls and women that they don't belong in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. As early as first grade, children have already developed a sense of gender identity, and most have developed unconscious bias associating boys with math. Toys still reinforce rigid, highly gendered stereotypes that encourage only boys to build or engineer. And even kids' clothing still proclaims that girls are bad at math."

Our stimulating state conference last May at the Maine Maritime Academy hopefully piqued your interest in what kinds of opportunities are available in your area of the state for our young women. For example, the **Maine Science Festival** is taking place again in Bangor March 16-19, 2017. This is a great opportunity to learn about a variety of news-making topics in science through forums, hands-on activities, workshops, exhibits, and films. This is an especially great event for kids of all ages! In addition, if you know someone young interested in robotics, the Maine Robotics Summer Camp Fair will be at the Bangor Mall March 4 from 11am – 5 pm.

I've compiled a list of just some of the organizations that have on-going programs in STEM education along with their websites. I'm confident that any hosting organization or event planners would welcome your participation:

- The Maine Girls Collaborative Project (<https://ngcproject.org/collaborative/maine-girls-collaborative-project>, University of Maine, Orono)
- Vital Signs ME (<http://vitalsigns.gmri.org>, Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland)
- L.C. Bates Museum (<http://www.gwh.org/lcbates/LCBatesMuseum.aspx>, Hinckley)
- Hardy Girls/Healthy Women Adventure Girls (<http://hghw.org/programs/adventure-girls/>, Waterville)
- Maine School for Science and Math (<https://www.mssm.org>, Limestone)

- Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance (<https://mmsa.org>, Augusta)
- Coastal School for Girls (<https://www.coastalstudiesforgirls.org>, Freeport)
- Maine Robotics (<http://www.mainerobotics.org>, based in Orono)
- The Challenger Learning Center of Maine (https://www.astronaut.org_Bangor)
- Upward Bound Math/Science at The University of Maine (<https://umaine.edu/ub/>) and The University of Maine Farmington (<http://www2.umf.maine.edu/upwardbound/>)
- Girls Who Code (current clubs at Brunswick High School and Blue Hill Consolidated School, <https://girlswhocode.com>)

This year I am working to identify partnerships that can bring AAUW members together with their home communities in STEM-related activities. For example, I've initiated conversations with leaders in Cornerstones of Science to explore how local public libraries can develop STEM programming for their communities. This seems like a natural fit for branch member participation regardless of your science background. Another great resource was the 2016 Maine STEM Summit, entitled, "Building Bridges: Developing Partnerships to Build Capacity for STEM Education in Maine" on December 9, 2016 at Colby College. Kristin Sweeney attended this event, and has summarized some of the activities.

One keynote speaker was a 2015 graduate of Bangor High School who had entered the STEM Academy at Bangor High School in 2012 and worked on developing strategies to mitigate the recently discovered El Niño variant, Modoki. He participated in a number of national science competitions during high school and is currently studying architecture and urban studies at Yale.

Kristin attended two breakout sessions. First, panelists for "Examining Maine's STEM Workforce: New Opportunities" from Live and Work in Maine (<http://www.liveandworkinmaine.com>); Coastal Counties Workforce (<http://www.coastalcounties.org/us/>), one of three Workforce Development Boards in Maine, with focus in rural areas; and FocusMaine (<http://focusmaine.org>) explored nontraditional methods of recruitment, internships/apprenticeships, and business and economic development. Second, panelists for "Flexibility Beyond the Classroom: Connecting Younger Students to STEM" included students and staff from Baxter Academy for Technology and Science (<http://baxter-academy.org/welcome.php>) and staff from LearningWorks AfterSchool Program (<http://www.learningworks.me/Community-Programs/after-school-summer-programs>). The keys to success, according to the discussion, are flexible scheduling and extended community partnerships with

real-world activities. An intriguing suggestion from an engineer in the audience was to interest girls in engineering by approaching it from the angle of art.

Six STEM Education Innovation Challenge Finalists (Lincoln Academy, Portland High School, Messalonskee Middle School, Lincoln Middle School, Whitefield Elementary School and Troy Central School) presented their "Fast Pitch" to the audience. This competition was presented for the first time at the Maine STEM Summit. The audience then voted electronically and chose Troy Central School as the winner of \$5000 for their project: "Building Blocks: Using Legos and Minecraft to Teach Computer Coding." The other finalists each received \$2000.

Finally, Jay Collier, who had been with Educate Maine, is now the Director of Computational and Digital Programs at University of New England and is always eager to collaborate with AAUW on STEM initiatives. Thanks to Kim Pollard's efforts, AAUW of Maine participated in the 2014 Project Login, organized by Jay.

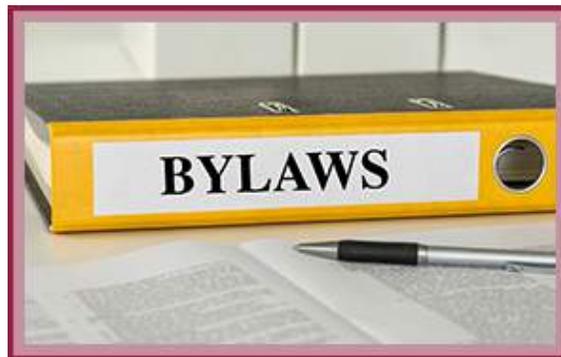
I believe that 2017 will bring exciting opportunities for our young women to explore and pursue careers in STEM fields. With your help in promoting these and recruiting participants, I am confident we'll meet much success!



Tuesday, January 31, 2017
11:00 AM-12:00 PM Pacific (2:00-3:00 PM EST)

To register for the webinar:
<http://ngcproject.org/national-mentoring-month-utilizing-mentorship-to-empower-girls-in-stem>.

The [National Girls Collaborative Project](#) is celebrating National Mentoring Month by highlighting the importance of role models and mentors in empowering girls and young women to actively pursue STEM education and careers. Join us as we discuss exemplary practices with [Techbridge](#), learn of [SciGirls](#) resources around mentorship, and hear from [FabFems](#) about their experiences mentoring young girls. We will also take time to hear from participants and discuss methods for promoting the mentoring work that inspires girls to pursue STEM.



Bylaws Update by Judy Dinmore, Bylaws Chair

Branches and Maine state have received the revised model bylaws, along with the revised section:

"Article IV section 4. Dues. a. The annual dues and Member benefits for any category of member shall be established by a two-thirds vote of the AAUW Board of Directors. 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 60 days prior to the vote."

I encourage members charged with responsibility for bylaws to work on amending them this month. Please email a copy to me, as well as national, following the instructions at the end of this article. Feel free to email questions or a draft to me (Judy Dinmore at dinmore603@maine.rr.com) for review.

For your information: Mary Ayers from the Caribou branch asked the following questions. (The answers from Sandy Camillo follow.):

QUESTIONS: "I do not understand why the new article IV makes no mention of national members. Does this mean that the national member category no longer exists and everyone must be a branch member?"

I also wonder why no mention is made in the section on dues (Article IV Section 3) of a deadline for paying and that members who have not paid by July 31st will be dropped. Does National still intend to give a reduction in dues for those people who join late and pay their dues between Jan 1st and Mar 15th?"

ANSWERS: "...Our attorneys were very specific that nothing be changed or added in Articles I-VII and we need to follow their advice... The reason the attorneys didn't reference National members is because the classification of members break down to Individual - which include National, branch etc. and College University Members. All membership fall into that

classification. The reason that there is no mention of deadlines or reductions in the model is that we were advised that this information does not properly belong in national bylaws, it belongs in national procedures and/or policies. ...I hope that this helps guide you.”

There was a webinar on governance on September 20, 2016. The speakers were: Sandy Camillo, AAUW Compliance Officer; Mike Gellman, a CPA, CFO of AAUW and a university faculty member; and Diane Ludwig, a professional fundraiser.

We are asked to inform national of any 501 C(3) entities in our state. None were identified.

Some points made were:

- Term limits are important.
- Indemnification is not insurance.
- Mergers remove both parties and a new entity is formed.
- No satellites are allowed.
- Work with AAUW national for setting up new programs.
- AAUW national is still looking into a group tax exemption for affiliates. There are practices that have to be met, such as 1/3 contributions from the general public, annual 990 filing, maintenance of donor information and correspondence, etc.

Regarding gifts, donor intent is a crucial primary determinant. There is a Donor Bill of Rights at the AAUW web site for reference. Development and fund raising are the same.

Collaboration with community organizations is fine, if consistent with AAUW’s mission and policies. However, an affiliate cannot:

1. adopt an individual charity for ongoing support or collaboration
2. fundraise for non-mission causes
3. endanger IRS 501 C3 standing of AAUW fundraising (reference Policy 501).

An affiliate can:

1. fundraise for a specific project, if consistent with AAUW’s mission and policies. A written agreement is needed.
2. collect items, not money
3. fundraise for AAUW mission-based programs and/or scholarships

Current single-entity with national parent model is: less complex, ready to go, flexible, and efficient.

Our AAUW structure is sustainable due to its: strong parent, support by stable, single affiliated entities, and entities managing multiple funds, programs and activities.

In summary:

- Coordinate with AAUW national
- Keep branch/state focus and structure clean, simple and sustainable
- As opportunities arise add funds, programs and activities within your existing structure.

AAUW national’s bylaws contact, Sandy Camillo (sandycamillo@gmail.com), AAUW Compliance Officer, emailed the following on January 5, 2017:

Happy New Year! **Please remember that your revised bylaws are due by January 31, 2017.** You may submit in the following manner: State and branch presidents may submit their revised bylaws directly through the Member Services Database: <http://www.aauw.org/resource/member-services-database> (Do not use Connect2@AAUW) or you may email the revised bylaws to compliance@aauw.org. The governance guru in your state can also submit the bylaws for you. Thank you .

Please also remember to save the date on your calendars for the next webinar on February 28, 2017 at 2:00 pm ET. This webinar will be in a town hall format with the Governance committee answering questions previously submitted by the Gurus*. I look forward to your participation. If you can't attend, please ask someone else to take your place. Thank you .

Note: *Gurus are members who have been educated via AAUW governance webinars and are on Sandy Camillo’s email distribution list. Judy Dinmore is one.

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force Member Stays in Touch

by Betty-Jane Meader, Diversity Chair

On January 4, 2017, AAUW of Maine Diversity Chair Betty-Jane Meader received a telephone call from Susan Berlin, a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. According to the national website, “The task force supports AAUW states and branches in the implementation of diversity and inclusion efforts.”

When Berlin inquired about the advancement of diversity and inclusion efforts among the branches in Maine, she said, “A diversity and inclusion chair can be selected and not serve on the branch board.” If your branch has a diversity chair, please send that person’s name and branch affiliation to Betty-Jane Meader at meaderb@gmail.com.

Berlin also mentioned a job description for the diversity and inclusion chair is being developed. She suggested reading the online Diversity and Inclusion Tool Kit, an excellent resource that's fairly new.

For more information, contact Susan Berlin at svberlin@bellsouth.net or (561) 685-2557. In the meantime, celebrate the diversity in your branch!

Branching Out: News from Our Branches

Bath-Brunswick – by Sophie Whitehouse, Branch Secretary and Communications

The Bath-Brunswick branch has been busy since last summer. This year we are functioning under a Leadership Team with board members taking monthly turns to run our board and branch meetings. Our branch gathered in September under the leadership of our Treasurer, Helene Maraghy, at the China Rose restaurant in Brunswick to start our fall season. Our speaker for the occasion was Milena Banks, local Bath author of the novel, *Riding the Tiger*.

On October 8th we held our Annual Growstown School bake sale, which coincided this year with the celebration of the Growstown community, including the First Baptist Church and the neighborhood cemetery. Many in attendance flocked to each venue that day to learn more about Growstown's rich history. We were especially pleased that Growstown School was recognized as a Historic Site by the Brunswick Rotary Club, unveiling a bronze plaque on the school grounds that morning. We are proud of our living history program, which has been in operation for over 30 years! This was followed by a branch meeting, led by Team leader Deborah Cravey at the Curtis Library where our branch welcomed two speakers from the Frances Perkins center.

Later in November we hosted Lily King, notable author and award winner from Yarmouth. Mrs. King spoke to us about how she came to write her latest novel, *Euphoria*, and the process of writing and shared many anecdotes with our branch. I was the Team Leader for that month. We finished 2016 under Deborah Schall's leadership with our Annual Greens Event fundraiser at the Curtis Library in Brunswick.

The AAUW Bath-Brunswick branch now supports two local scholarships: we are keeping the scholarship for a non-traditional student and added a new one for a local

Junior High student to attend a one week summer camp at the Coastal Studies for Girls in Freeport. Our board voted and unanimously accepted the motion to add this scholarship at our November board meeting and an announcement was made to our members at the following branch meeting. Since we have a relationship with the Coastal Studies school and it is close by, we found that access would be easier there for a local student. Our treasurer announced that we had already raised \$1,800 right after the Greens Event for our scholarships and the National Annual Funds.

As of the end of 2016 we are now 70 members strong with a couple of new faces who joined AAUW recently and hopefully some new ones for 2017. Our next branch meeting will take place on January 23 at the Lemon Grass restaurant in Brunswick. Our interest groups (knitting and book group) still meet regularly and our members can find all the information about our talks and activities as well as other branch news on our website and our newsletter.

News from the Caribou Branch – by Carol Pierson, Secretary

The Caribou Branch is continuing its tradition of monthly meeting from April through October in order to spare members from possible hazardous driving conditions during the winter months.

At the September meeting, the Caribou Branch planned its meeting schedule and programs for the 2017 season. Each member chose a candidate or question appearing on the November ballot to research and then report on at the next meeting. The membership also voted to continue sponsoring a book grant for post secondary students who have successfully completed one year of college.

The October meeting was a discussion of the candidates and questions under consideration in next month's election. The members concluded the meeting by deciding to meet informally in January to socialize and exchange wrapped, gently used books at a Yankee Swap, a repeat of last year's enjoyable and highly successful gathering.

Hancock County Branch – by Betsy Eggleston, Branch Liaison

The September and October meetings were collaborations with Business Professional Women and Delta Kappa Gamma. Both meetings were dinner meetings with speakers on two of the 2016 Amendments facing the Maine electorate. We heard speakers on both sides of Minimum Wage and Voting.

In November, we met for lunch and then shared the books that we had read in the past year. Our annual enjoyable Christmas party ended our 2016 year.

Penobscot Valley Branch – by Susan Landry, Branch Liaison

Our goal this year is to increase membership by developing mission-based and action-oriented programming, while collaborating with like-minded local women's groups. We began the year by inviting members of a number of such groups to our opening meeting to brainstorm needs, actions, etc. In October we focused on several referendum issues in an attempt to sift through the layers of sound bites to get to the hearts of each matter. In November, we invited several UMaine student leaders and the acting director of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies to see how we can help each other. AAUW clearly needs the participation of young women and, as a University member, our branch may be able to support groups such as the Student Women's Association, All Maine Women, Student Alliance for Sexual Health, and others. We would love to have student women feel invested in the group and work with us on our book sale, for instance, and it may be that we can help them with re-establishing a campus Women's Center.

Upcoming are our January Saturday brunch, a March program on diversity issues, our 66th annual book sale in April, and our annual meeting in May. Throughout this time we hope to continue networking with campus and community women.

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

Waterville Branch is continuing its efforts to provide regular monthly programs that are mission-based and informative. In addition, we try to schedule occasional social activities and look for opportunities to engage with the greater community when public policy positions are aligned. We are also continuing our use of materials available through the national AAUW office to enhance our programs and provide background information of value to our members.

Our October program focused on medical marijuana use and issues, and how medical marijuana programs might be impacted by passage of the recreational marijuana referendum. November featured a panel discussion on leadership development, and included Dora McCarthy and Molly Bogart, both of whom graduated from the Maine NEW Leadership program and are now active AAUW members. In conjunction with this meeting, all

those present received a copy of AAUW's new research report, "Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership."

Our annual fundraising auction took place in December. This might have been our most successful auction ever; we raised more than \$1,500 to help fund AAUW initiatives in support of equity for women and girls. Spring program topics include memory and elders, women in the arts, current issues for women in the workplace, and new approaches to decrease sexual assault. Again this year, we plan to walk with Colby students in April at their annual Take Back the Night campus event.

In addition to the regularly scheduled monthly programs, we continue to have a variety of casual get-togethers – occasions that are fun and relaxed, and give us time to get to know each other better. This fall, we tried out a new restaurant in downtown Waterville. Our ongoing knitting group that meets twice a month donated a number of hats, scarves, and mittens to the Maine New England Home for Little Wanderers that went into the Christmas packages being assembled for needy children in central Maine.

In terms of current public policy efforts, we are encouraging all our members to become 2-Minute Activists as a beginning step toward increased branch activism in support of AAUW's public policy positions. In addition, we are encouraging branch members to join us and other AAUW members in Augusta for the Women's March on Maine on Saturday, January 21. This march will be held in conjunction with the Women's March on Washington, and provides an opportunity for us to work together with many other groups to show our legislators, Governor, and incoming President that there is strong support and solidarity for women's rights and equity for all people.

Keep in Touch!



Please help us update our contact list. Send your address, phone and E-mail address to Moira O'Neill, Corresponding Secretary: oneilldrm@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES

January 21, 2017	Women's Marches on Washington and Maine
January 28, 2017	AAUW of Maine winter board meeting by telephone conference
January 31, 2017	Deadline for submission of revised AAUW bylaws to national
February 1, 2017	Deadline to apply for Maine NEW Leadership
March 17, 2017	Deadline for articles for the <i>Dawnbreaker</i> , spring issue
March 24, 2017	Girls' Day at the State House, Augusta
March 31, 2017	Deadline for Early Bird national convention registration
April 28, 2017	AAUW of Maine spring board meeting, 3-5 PM, Waterville
April 29, 2017	AAUW of Maine Annual Meeting, Waterville
May 11, 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, D.C.



Maine NEW Leadership

Educate, Engage and Empower College Women

June 1-6, 2017
University of Maine

A free residential training program for undergraduate college students throughout Maine—designed to educate, empower, and encourage participants to take on leadership roles.

- Acquire skills to help *you* close the gap of women in leadership positions
- Meet and learn from successful women leaders
- Network and make contacts for your future
- Develop and enhance your leadership skills
- Learn how to affect politics and policymaking
- Interact with a diverse group of students from across Maine and beyond

Application Deadline:
February 1, 2017

For application materials or more information:
<https://mcspolicycenter.umaine.edu/for-students/mainenew-leadership/>

or contact:
Susan D'Angelo (207) 581-1648
Susan.dangelo@maine.edu

All backgrounds, interests, and majors welcome. We strongly encourage students of diverse racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds to apply.

The 2016 graduates said...

"I love the fact that the program has inspired me to not wait until I am older to take on a leadership role in my community. I can make the change I want to see NOW not ten years from now"

♦ ♦ ♦

"I feel encouraged and empowered and I have made contact with experienced women who have offered to share their wisdom whenever I have a question. This program taught me more about how state government really works than any class I have ever taken."



Maine National Education for Women (NEW) Leadership is sponsored by the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center

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