



Message from the Interim Administrator

By Carolyn MacRae

Our New Beginning

On Thursday, September 14, the new AAUW of Maine Council held its first meeting. There we all were, in little boxes filling my computer screen, ready to begin our new adventure. We worked diligently and finished early. In a bit of left-over business from the Annual Meeting in June, the council appointed Beth Clark (Waterville Branch) to be the Program and Public Policy Chair. The council positions have all now been filled!

A key feature of the new state structure is the establishment of three standing committees chaired by elected members of the council – Program and Public Policy (Beth Clark), Membership (Betty-Jane Meader), and Communication (Martha Arterberry). Committee members are branch members – at least one member from each branch on each committee. With this level of participation, the diverse needs and views of branches and branch members will become woven into the fabric of AAUW in Maine. While the titles of the committees indicate the scope of their activities, it is my fervent hope that committee members will go beyond the obvious, allow their imaginations to range free, and dare to give voice to new ideas and approaches.

There is still room for new members on the committees. Committee meetings will be via Zoom. I anticipate perhaps three or four meetings per year. Each committee will set their own meeting dates and times to meet the members’ schedules. If you are interested in being part of this new venture, please contact me (207-873-1244 or carolynmacrae@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you.

State Convention

By Immediate Past Program Chair Martha Arterberry

On June 3, 2023, we held our first in-person convention since 2019. Twenty-five AAUW members attended, along with three guests.

Photo taken by Martha Arterberry



Carolyn McRae, Jacqueline Kulick, and Cathy Bevier greet attendees.



We met at Educare Central Maine, and attendees had the opportunity to tour the state-of-the-art facilities.

Photo taken by Martha Arterberry



The group tours a classroom at Educare Central Maine.

The event focused on education and economics and our three speakers provided a developmental perspective on this topic:

- Erica Palmer, Education Manager for Educare Central Maine (Early Childhood Education)



Photo taken by Martha Arterberry

- Professor Flynn Ross, Department of Education, University of Southern Maine (K – 12 Education)

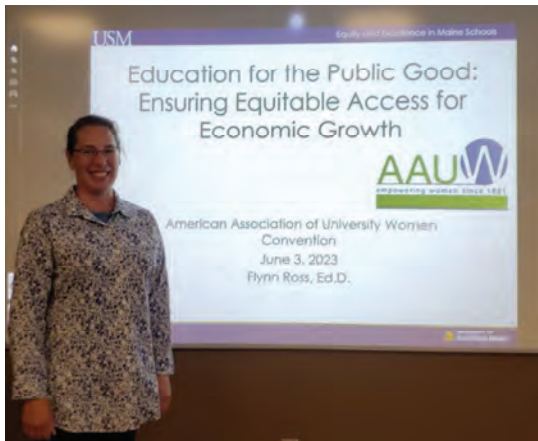


Photo taken by Martha Arterberry

- Professor Kathleen Gillon, Department of Higher Education, University of Maine (Higher Education)

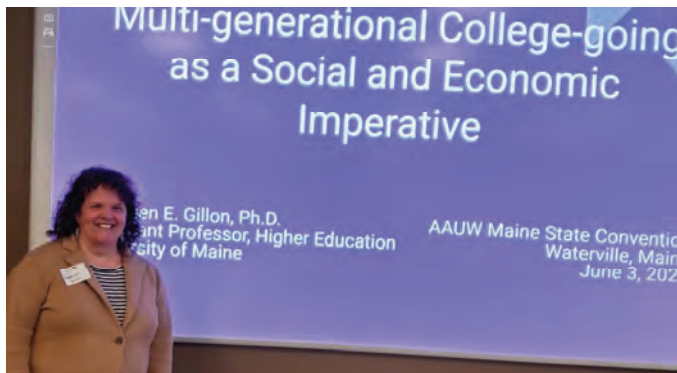


Photo taken by Martha Arterberry

Take away messages included (a) early education makes a significant difference when the program supports families, not just children, (b) pay attention to your school budget, especially in comparison to other priorities in your community, comment during the comment period, and vote(!), and (c) higher education opportunities and support should meet the needs of all learners, including those returning to the classroom after working, raising children, and the like.

Photo taken by Martha Arterberry



Gift baskets for the raffle along the windows behind attendees.

Thanks to all of the branch members who contributed gift baskets and congratulations to the raffle winners:

1. Debbie Melvin
2. Janet Givens
3. Sandy Feber
4. Mary Cathcart
5. Diane Gray
6. Carolyn MacRae
7. Martha Arterberry
8. Darelyn Cote
9. Judy Dinmore
10. Fran Haines
11. Marilyn Leimbach

Note from the AAUW of Maine Treasurer

By Helene Maraghy

Back in 2009, the treasurer for Maine AAUW opened four separate CD accounts with a total cash value as of May 2023 totaling \$10,793. What the original starting balance and interest rates were on these accounts 14 years ago is now lost in the sands of time. Suffice it to say that current yields of one percent or less were inadequate against CD rates available in today's market. Accordingly, the Maine Council voted to approve closing the existing four CDs and open a single \$10,000 CD at Northeast Bank with a one-year term yield of 4.50%. The balance of the CD funds now remain in the checking account.

Membership Matters

By Membership Chair Betty-Jane Meader

As the AAUW of Maine membership chair, I am pleased to report that each branch in Maine is represented on the Membership Committee: Darylen Cote, Aroostook County; Betsy Eggleston, Hancock County; Frances Haines, Penobscot County; and Lisa Christensen, Waterville. We will be meeting two or three times on Zoom to discuss retaining and growing membership. At the first gathering, we will share success stories. For example, all of last year's members of the Hancock County Branch have paid their 2024 dues. What is their secret to retaining these members? On the other hand, their branch has no new members. To grow the organization, we must discuss how to recruit new members, especially younger ones.

In addition, the AAUW of Maine membership chair is now responsible for college/university membership. Presently, the following are institutional members: Colby College (2024), Thomas College (until 2/24), University of Maine (until 4/24), University of Maine at Augusta (until 11/30), and University of Southern Maine (until 2/24). If you have a connection to a college/university in Maine, please contact me at meaderb@gmail.com or (207)872-7895(H). Together, we can increase the number of institutional members in this state.

Tech Supports



We have an AAUW of Maine Zoom account that all branches may use if they would like to host a virtual event. Martha Arterberry can help you get started (arterberry47@gmail.com).

We also have an AAUW of Maine email account and a membership group that can be used to share information with everyone in the state. Email: aauwofmaine@gmail.com

From the Historian

By Betsy Eggleston

This is a brief article on saving our current women's activities for future historians. Archive on paper or electronically.....who knows what form will be used in the future...maybe back to cave writing (ha ha).

But do save your branch's activities!

Branching Out: News from Our Branches

Aroostook Branch

By Carol Pierson, Secretary

Our April meeting, a presentation by the Caribou Library Director, Peter Baldwin, mentioned several services that are available to senior citizens - for example, a private room with help hooking up to telehealth, help with any type of computer issue, a book group, and a crafting night where one may learn how to crochet or knit. A children's book group is made even more attractive to children because they each receive their own book to take home and keep. There are two programs available for different age groups.

In May, Neal Sleeper, adult activities director for the Caribou Recreation Center, informed us about all of the programs available to seniors. There are trips by small bus to various points of interest in the Maine Woods. Caribou Riverfront Renaissance was the topic of our June program, where we learned about the progress of different events that will be forthcoming to utilize the beautiful Caribou riverfront.

One of our most popular events of the year took place in July, where members and guests each described a recently read book.

In August we had a roundtable discussion about the status of women in Afghanistan. This was a real eye-opener about the plight of women and children in Afghanistan. Several members contributed information they had gleaned from reading books and articles about the subject. We voted to send a monetary contribution to an organization that helps women in Afghanistan.

September is our program planning month. We have many exciting programs to look forward to for our next calendar year.

Two of our members attended the AAUW state convention and were full of enthusiasm about the materials that were presented and the information they learned.

Hancock County Branch

By Betsy Eggleston, Administrator

Our 2022-2023 ended with our annual meeting at a member's home for a potluck supper, socializing and our annual meeting. Our next meeting was a July planning meeting for 2023-2024 over luncheon at a local café,

Our September meeting was a program by the Ellsworth librarian, Sarah Lesko. She spoke to us on her "Future Library Plans." This included repairs to the library, both old and new parts, outreach to school age children with programs and special places for them, and being the hub of Hancock County libraries.

Our October meeting will be a visit to the historic Jonathan Fisher House in Blue Hill.

Penobscot Valley Branch

By Mary Cathcart, Liaison, assisted by Susan Landry, Secretary

We plan to hold three program meetings, one in fall and two in winter/spring. Program topics are yet to be finalized. The fall and winter meetings will be by Zoom and, if possible, we'll hold an outdoor in-person annual meeting in late spring or early summer to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our branch.

Pizza and Politics has moved to the third Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. As the weather improves in spring/summer we'll move outdoors again. (It's been hard to find suitable cold-weather outdoor venues.) As we all know, we never lack for discussion fodder!

We'll once again award two \$500 scholarships for non-traditional women students, as well as our Marge Erhardt scholarship for a graduating high school senior. Additionally, the University of Maine Foundation now manages the AAUW scholarship endowment, which we believe was created by the Midcoast Branch prior to their dissolution. We've requested more specifics on when and how the endowment was established. A scholarship is awarded to a UMaine undergraduate each year.

Since we want to continue supporting women through our scholarships and our contributions to like-minded organizations and programs (e.g., Maine Women's Lobby and Maine NEW Leadership), we've solicited our membership for donations. Beyond that, however, we hope to come up with some non-labor-intensive but monetarily effective fundraisers. Ideas from other branches are always welcome!

It's been suggested that we reactivate our long-dormant book group, spurred by a member recently reading a couple of books in which AAUW played a part. Since this is just the germ of an idea so far, no parameters have yet been established and we expect we'll operate pretty informally, at least for some time.

Waterville Branch

By Martha Arterberry, Immediate Past President

The Waterville branch has a full slate of programs for the 2023-2024 academic year. See <https://aauw-me.aauw.net/branches/waterville/> for the dates and topics or contact co-VPs for Programming Martha Arterberry (Arterberry47@gmail.com) or Lisa Christensen (lchrstnsn@gmail.com) for details. All programs from October through April will be offered both in person and via Zoom. We welcome all to attend.

Our branch received three free memberships from National AAUW because of our successful recruitment of new members in 2022. We used this opportunity to offer a free membership as an honorarium to people who gave programs last year or who will be giving programs this year. Offering a membership to non-members who give programs is a trial initiative, begun in 2021. In Fall 2024, we will evaluate the effectiveness of this initiative in retaining new members. In other words, the question we want to answer is whether people who receive a free membership continue to be members once they have to pay.

On September 20, 2023, the branch bestowed our Outstanding Thomas MBA Student Award to Sydney Plourde. Sydney currently works at Thomas College as the Assistant Director of Financial Aid and as an adjunct business professor. Sydney is also enrolled as a doctoral student at the University of Southern Mississippi and plans to graduate in 2026 with an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration.



From National

IMPORTANT DATE

Key Resources and Tools

[Community Hub Resources](#): Instructions on how to manage member records, update officers, pay dues, donations, and file Tax 990N, all online.

[State and Branch Tools](#): Forms to request member lists, speakers, and off-line member dues and donations forms as well as logos and branding info.

[Governance](#): AAUW National Board and Committees.

[Diversity Equity & Inclusion](#): Officer resources, programming and planning information.

- November 7, 2023 Election Day
- January 11, 2024 AAUW of Maine Council meeting (virtual)
- March 14, 2024 AAUW of Maine Council meeting (virtual)
- Spring 2024 (TBD) AAUW of Maine Annual Convention

Kristin Sweeney, Editor
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