

"By Joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through economic and educational barriers so that all women have a fair chance."

News and Events

April Meeting – Members' Annual Tea:

Join us for our annual Members' Tea!

Enjoy tea, delicious food*, a beautiful view of Puget Sound, meet new members and honor long-time members we have lost this year - all in one day!



AAUW Tacoma branch has steadily increased membership in the past 3 years. This is an opportunity to get to know new members, enjoy time with friends, and celebrate our memories of members who passed away last year.

Hats, gloves and festive tea attire encouraged. Come join us for this special afternoon!

When: 1-3 pm, Sunday, April 6th, 2014

Where: the home of Phyllis Izant, 4705 Memory Lane W. University Place

R.S.V.P. to Phyllis Izant by April 1st at pjizant@gmail.com or 253.566.8874

*If possible, please bring sweet or savory tea-fare for sharing.

Presidents' Corner



Diane Palmquist & Dana Holt (co-Presidents, AAUW Tacoma Branch)

Alrighty then! Business meeting concluded...and all I can say is: I'm proud to be a member of AAUW Tacoma Branch. We had a lot of items on the agenda;

April 2014 Contents

- ▷ News and Events
 - April Members' Tea
- ▷ Presidents' Corner
- ▷ Important information
 - State Convention with OR
 - Donations Needed
 - The Two Minute Activist
 - AAUW National Book Club
 - NCCWSL Report
 - Tech Trek
 - L.I.F.E. Courses
- ▷ Interest Groups
 - Paper Crafters
 - Tech 101
 - Genealogy
 - Hot Topics
 - Book Groups
 - Diggers & Delvers
 - Not so Fast Food Group
- ▷ Calendar
- ▷ March Meeting Recap
 - ▷ AAUW Connections
 - ▷ Editors' Note

missions to fund, appointments to make, elected positions to fill, new members to welcome. With few exceptions, we completed these tasks...and came off looking like we knew what we were doing. Bonus! For an individual (myself) who has only ever been president of bowling leagues before, that's quite the accomplishment. Thanks to Diane Palmquist, my well-spoken and poetic co-president, who conducted the meeting with great aplomb, and the ever-reliable support/advice of past presidents and current office holders, Phyllis Izant and Dorothy McBride, our branch was able to fulfill this year's tasks and is prepared to carry out next year's plans.

We have idea people. We have new ventures in development. I hope, Dear Member, you'll be watching. More so, I hope you'll join in. I'm looking forward to the possibility that next year's business meeting will be even more action packed, loaded with alterations to Bylaws, as well as Policies and Procedures, to accommodate a new and changing profile for our branch. I'd like to see spirited discussion and debate about the direction Tacoma AAUW is taking. I'd like to see more members engaged in our projects and their implementation. The people who came to this branch meeting have a passion for the advancement of women; in the workplace, the political arena, the sciences...a passion for giving girls confidence and a way to see themselves worthy and capable in business, academics and anything else they choose to pursue.

Spring is the season of renewal, a time for re-connection after the winter's hibernation. Here at AAUW Tacoma it is the season of tea and hats at our annual Member Remembrance aka Spring Meeting on April 6th. It is the perfect time to enjoy the convivial society of our members. As you socialize, please consider the passions of the women around you. What might you bring to the table? Are you an idea person? What is your passion? Chances are you'll be talking to someone involved in Tech Trek, a member of the Governance Committee, a vice-president of Membership, Programs or Public Policy...or maybe our Communications chairperson or our Secretary-Elect. Lucky you! These are smart, talented women. Maybe you can help them accomplish their goals and find your passion. - Dana Holt - Co-President



AAUW Joint OR/WA Convention

CONNECT, COLLABORATE, LEAD: Oregon-Washington Joint Convention, April 25-27, 2014

From AAUW WA Presidents Barbara Sando and Kelvie Comer

State Convention . . . those words always send a shiver up our spines! It's an opportunity to come together with friends from across the state, meet new friends, greet AAUW leaders (or travel visitors, as we referred to them years ago) and other speakers, and catch up on the business of the state at the business sessions. This year you can count on an even bigger shiver, since our convention is with Oregon! While the titles of the visitors from D.C. have changed, the message is the same: we want you and members of your branch to come to convention to Portland from April 25—April 27! Check out the list of headquarters AAUWers coming to convention on page 3. These exceptional women will be joined by national AAUW board and committee members Rebecca Norlander and Val Sanford, both from Washington State. Add keynote speaker and pay equity advocate Lily Ledbetter, U. S. Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Washington State Senator Karen Keiser (D-33rd Dist.), and Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian, and students who attended NCCWSL conferences and you have a powerful and delightful set of convention leaders. Barbara and I will see you in Portland. Go on, you are itching to go. Besides, you really want to hear Lisa Maatz again, we know you do. She's irresistible! Register today. Hotel reservations close on April 3.



Donations Needed

The Tacoma Branch will donate a silent auction basket at the Joint OR/WA Convention in April. The theme will be "**Pamper Yourself**" and donations of chocolates, a bottle of wine, and maybe even some bubble bath are solicited. Connie Dunkelberger will put the basket together and take the basket to Portland. She will take cash donations to purchase items to fill the basket, as well. Give her a call at 253.565.7518 or email her at dunkelberger@harbornet.com. The proceeds from our basket will go toward Tech Trek.



The Two Minute Activist

Linda Isenson, AAUW Tacoma Public Policy Maven

The Tacoma Branch will be highlighting Equal Pay Day by hosting an information table at the Pacific Lutheran University's Student Center from 11 am – 2 pm. Equal Pay Day 2014 will fall on Tuesday, April 8th, the symbolic day when women's earnings finally catch up to men's earnings from the previous year. Please stop by and say hello and show your support for AAUW and Equal Pay Day.

Thanks to the gender pay gap, it takes women an extra three months of wages to make up that 23-percent difference! In ten years the wage gap has NOT budged! White women average 78¢ on the

dollar for every white man. For women of color, the gap is even worse. All the studies show that, even taking into account education, experience, industry, this number stays depressingly static. Washington State ranks 25th out of 51, including the other Washington, in pay disparity. Equal Pay Day, this year is particularly significant because it falls between two anniversaries that helped us make progress in the workplace. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was signed by President Obama, as his first act, on January 29, 2009; the Civil Rights Act was signed by President Johnson on July 2, 1964.



From AAUW National

Discuss Social Justice Issues with the ¡Adelante! Book of the Month Club!

AAUW members share a love of reading, and this love, partnered with a desire to seek out books written from diverse perspectives, launched AAUW's ¡Adelante! Book of the Month Club in 1996. Since then, AAUW members have enjoyed exploring new ideas and perspectives through monthly discussions, both in person and virtually. ¡Adelante! groups meet in book stores, libraries, and other public venues, and also meet online, gathering both members and nonmembers to discuss issues of social justice based on the month's book selection. This is a great way to recruit new members interested in diverse issues.

Do you have a great book you would like to suggest for the 2014–15 ¡Adelante! Book of the Month Club? Share your recommendation online by May 15, 2014. If your book is selected, you and your branch will be recognized and sent a special gift.



NCCWSL: Building Leadership for College Women

By Dorothy McBride

At the Annual meeting March 15 2014, the branch voted to support women at our local partner colleges and universities to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in 2015. This will be the 6th year the branch has helped colleges send women to this leadership conference. At that same meeting, we also heard from Leslie Ducay, a PLU graduate who attended the conference with branch assistance in 2013. Last year we supported 4 students in all. Here are the reactions of two student from PLU:

Jessica Trondsen

“I am a senior double-major in English non-fiction and journalism, with a minor in women’s and gender studies. I am editor in chief of our school newspaper, The Mooring Mast, where I have held several positions. I am also president of PLU’s Society of Professional Journalists Club. NCCWSL was appealing to me for several reasons. Making new friends—my roommate was a wonderful underclassman at Georgetown and we have become friends on FACEBOOK. The workshop sessions with other leaders showed us how to stand out in the job market, manage stress, and use different branding skills. The chance to hear fabulous speakers is really what stays with me about the experience. I’ve been following them on Twitter since the event and find interesting articles and ideas from the tweets they post. The Graduate Student Fair helped me better realize what my options are. Overall, I am very thankful to have had the chance to attend the conference. It was a one-of-a-kind and once-in-a-lifetime experience. Thank you for providing me an opportunity to be inspired to see and do more in the world.”

Jimena Mascaro

“Going to the NCCWSL last year was the first step of many changes in my life. I learned new things, opened my mind to new concepts and opportunities, met new friends that I constantly talk with now, connections for future academic or work opportunities. But most important NCCWSL was the beginning of knowing myself. I learned about who I am, what I want, what I don’t want in my life and how I will be able to accomplish my life and personal goals. Since then, I have traveled more often to the east coast and the idea of applying to graduate school is now strongly set up in my mind. I create a door and leave it open, allowing different people in my life to come in and out for my own good. I want to thank AAUW Tacoma for giving me the opportunity to open my perspectives and help me to find my interior soul. Things have changed in me and around me and I can’t be more happy with the women I have become since then.”



Tech Trek Update

In March, the branch Tech Trek Committee Co-Chairs Sandy Halvorson and Dorothy McBride, along with Carol Rikerd, Sarah Nainby, Linda Ames, Linda Isenson, and Joye Bucklin—reviewed applications and interviewed the 7th grade girls from Tacoma and Lakewood middle schools who will attend 2014 Camp at PLU. The process takes time but is rewarding, especially personally meeting with the applicants and their teachers through the interview process. Last year, Tacoma branch sent 6 girls to Tech Trek. With the generous support of the Tacoma Branch, Fund for Women and Girls of the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, Sequoia Foundation we are in a position to **double the number** who attend this wonderful STEM camp!

We need your support to ensure that all eligible girls can attend the camp and to increase our numbers for 2015. It’s easy, tax deductible, and any amount is welcome. *By check:* Make it payable to AAUW and put Tech Trek WA/Tacoma on the memo line. Mail to AAUW; P.O.Box 98045; Washington, DC 20090-8045.

By credit card on line: <http://www.aauw.org/program-gift/?treatment=TECHTREK>

Learning is ForEver Program

“**Baseball in Tacoma**” is the subject of the April 16th LIFE program. The class will meet at the Morken Center 103: Public Events Room at PLU from 10 am to Noon. Then on April 23rd, Dr. David Deacon-Joyner will give a lecture on the sentimental love songs sung by female Blues singers, titled “**Women Sing the Blues/ Torch...**” from 3:30 – 5:30 pm at Garfield Book Company Community Room at PLU.

These classes are offered by Learning is ForEver, a Community Outreach of PLU to active seniors in Pierce County, and is affiliated with Elderhostel/Road Scholar Programs. AAUW Tacoma Branch Member Marilee Titus serves on the program committee. Tickets (\$10) are available at the door or by emailing Laura Stewart at Stewarla@plu.edu. The PLU community is free with PLU I.D. For more info on the L.I.F.E. organization see: <http://www.plu.edu/lifeelderhostel>



Interest Groups

Paper Crafters

We will meet at Scrap That!, 4040 Orchard Street on **April 2nd**. The store doesn't open until **11 a.m.** however we can stay until 8 p.m. The cost is \$5 and you can use any of the great equipment in the store. You can work on your own projects or she will have wonderful projects in kits for spring. Bring your brown bag lunch or eat at one of the nearby restaurants. Call Connie Dunkelberger (253.565.7518) for more information and to RSVP.

Hot Topics

WHAT IS ALEC AND WHY SHOULD AAUW CARE?

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) (www.alec.org) is composed of conservative state legislators and private sector business people and their goal is to promote model bills in the states, for example, to reduce taxes, tighten voter identification rules and promote gun rights.

Is ALEC a “nonpartisan membership association of conservatives who share a common belief in limited government, free markets, federalism, and individual liberty” as they claim on their website? OR Is it a “dating agency for Republican state legislators and big corporations, bringing them together to frame rightwing legislative agendas in the form of ‘model bills?’” as recently described in *The Guardian*? Let's find out what impact ALEC has on AAUW's public policy agenda.

<http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/sites/default/files/docs/pdf/snakeoiltothestates.pdf>

<http://www.aflcio.org/Blog/Corporate-Greed/New-Study-Shatters-ALEC-Laffer-Economic-Myths#.UL44ytqNZwM.email>

<http://billmoyers.com/search-results/?q=alec#gsc.tab=0&gsc.q=alec&gsc.page=1>

April 17, 4-6 pm

YMCA Lakewood
9715 Lakewood Dr SW
253-584-9622
(there is a Black Bear on the premises)

MAY 21 Hot Topic: Common Core State Standards Initiative: Expanding Knowledge and Critical Thinking or Corporate Takeover of Education?

Book Groups

Evening Book Group will meet **April 28 at 6:30 pm**. We were scheduled to read the Pierce County or Tacoma Reads selection but plans have changed. The new selection had not been chosen as of this printing. See your email for the revised selection. Mary Letterman will review the book at the home of Marilee Titus, 10922 Idlewild Rd SW, Lakewood. Marilee's phone is 253.588.0498.

Daytime Book Group will meet **April 23rd at 10 am**. Linda Isenson and Lee Ann Ufford will host at Linda's home, 2981 Marietta Street, Steilacoom. Linda will email a map to the group. Most maps will direct you to the wrong location!! Linda will review **"Still Alice"** by Lisa Genova.

Genealogy and Family History Group

We're on Spring Break this month, and will have **no April meeting**.

Carol suggests this for independent study: since April means taxes, let's see who can unearth the earliest tax records of an ancestor. With tax laws varying state-to-state and year-to-year, our g-g-grandparents may have paid taxes on land, cattle, slaves, clocks, liquor, carriages, even window curtains!

Or you might explore your family's spring holiday traditions - St. Patrick's Day, Passover, Easter - that have been passed down through generations. How have your celebrations evolved? Why? Next meeting: **Friday, May 9, 1-3 p.m.** - *Mary Hammond, Chair*

Not So Fast Food Group

The NSFFG will not meet in April. However, save the date Saturday, **May 3rd** for a Scandinavian Delight. Call Jane Hahn for other ideas of theme dinners you might want for the summer and the next program year. Guests are always welcome at our NSFFG events.

Diggers and Delvers

Diggers and Delvers will not meet in April.

April/May 2014

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--|------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 Papercrafters at Scrap That! | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 Annual Tea | 7 | 8 Equal Pay Day | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 LIFE program | 17 Hot Topics | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Easter | 21 | 22 Passover | 23 Daytime Book Group LIFE Program | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 Evening Book Group | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 Spring Luncheon NSFFG |

Upcoming Programs: Saturday May 3, 2014 Spring Luncheon at Fircrest Golf Club, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

March Annual Meeting Recap by Carol Rikerd

The annual business meeting, held at the University Place Library, was announced in the March Newsletter, a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the meeting as Bylaws require. A summary of business to be discussed and voted on, nominees for elected office, and other business was printed in the newsletter. Drafts of changes to the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures were sent out with the newsletter. All members were *strongly* encouraged to attend, discuss the issues and cast votes. The meeting opened at 10:20am, March 15th, 2014. 23 members attended.

1. Welcome and Call to Order – President

New members F. G. and H. F. were introduced and welcomed.

2013 NCCWSL graduate L. D. was introduced.

2. Consent Agenda: Minutes of Branch Meeting February 15, 2014 - President

President called for corrections or additions to the minutes. None were offered; the minutes were accepted as written.

3. NCCWSL Student Report – Leslie Ducay

Leslie, who attends PLU thanked the Branch for the grant money that paid for her NCCWSL participation. She reported on greatly improving her public speaking abilities in a workshop lead by an engaging presenter. L. G. learned to use her own experiences to offer a unique perspective in speaking. She said it was very empowering to attend workshops with other women.

4. Officer / Committee Reports

A. Finance Officer (report attached)

A bi-annual financial review was conducted August 22, 2013. National AAUW submitted the Branch IRS 990N to the IRS. A Branch budget was created, approved by the Board and approved by the membership in October. The Branch holds commercial crime insurance. Dues were collected by the Branch; proportionally paid to National and State. Programs needed an additional \$200 allocation to finish the year, which was approved by the Board from reserves. Grants were made to Tech Trek, \$3000, and NCCWSL, \$2000.

B. GTCF Report – Finance Officer

As of December 31, 2013 the AAUW Project Fund balance at GTCF was \$3,960. The Community Fund balance was \$58,175.79; Branch received a \$2000 disbursement. The Celia Grau Trust dividend was \$4000.

C. President's Annual Report

The Branch has elected new officers to bring in new ideas and new direction. The Branch has gained an active Public Policy leader who keeps us well informed. The renewed Governance Committee has developed improved Bylaws and Policies & Procedures. The newsletter has new editors, and we have a social media coordinator. All of the progress made this year has happened because the membership has been supportive.

5. Election of Officers - President

Wanda Johnson was nominated and appointed to complete the VP for Programs term. Carol Rikerd was nominated and elected the VP of Membership office. Donna Woolverton was nominated and elected as Secretary. Marilee Titus was nominated and elected as a member of the Governance Committee.

6. New Business

A. Bylaws Revisions - Governance

A motion was made to adopt all the changes to the Bylaws as written and proposed. The motion was seconded. Discussion thanked the Committee for its work on the revisions. There was no further discussion. The president called for a vote. The changes to the Bylaws were approved unanimously.

B. Policies and Procedures - Governance

A motion was made to adopt all the changes to the Policies and Procedures as written and proposed. The motion was seconded. There was no further discussion. The president called for a vote. The changes to the Policies and Procedures were approved unanimously.

C. Dues Increase – Financial Officer

Financial Officer, with approval of the Board proposes a \$3 increase in Branch dues, effective for 2014-2015 dues. This raises the cost of membership from \$77 to \$80. One member suggested the raise be \$5, to avoid another increase in a few years. Members preferred to keep the raise at \$3. Members also agreed that the Branch could and should engage in fund raising for administrative expenses, which we have not done for some time.

A motion was made to raise the Branch dues \$3. The motion was seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved.

D. Delegates to the State Convention - President

Tacoma Branch is allotted three voting delegates at the State Convention meeting. Linda Isenson, Donna Woolverton, and Phyllis Izant are willing to attend to represent the Branch.

A motion was made to send Isenson, Woolverton, and Izant as Tacoma Branch delegates to the State convention. The motion was seconded. President called a vote. The motion was approved.

The Branch Presidents are members of the State Board, and are expected to attend the State Convention. Neither is able to attend. President nominated D. McBride to be their proxy. She is willing to attend the Convention.

A motion was made to name D. McBride as proxy for the President at the State Convention. The motion was seconded. The president called the vote. The motion passed.

E. Branch Project Proposals – President

1. NCCWSL- Connie Dunkelberger

A motion was made to allot \$3000 to NCCWSL 2014-2015 for \$1000 grants to PLU, UWT, and Pierce College. The motion was seconded. The President called for a vote. The motion passed.

2. Peace Out –Joye Bucklin

The program is a philanthropic development training class that pairs groups of girls with a local community non-profit organization. The girls develop a fundraising plan and gather donations for the non-profit.

A motion was made to allot \$2000 to Peace Out for scholarships as needed by girl applicants to the program. The motion was seconded. The President called for a vote. The motion passed with a majority yes and one nay.

7. Announcements and Adjournment

A. Public Policy Report: Politics and the Status of Reproductive Rights Issues – Public Policy

Guest B. I. spoke on the history of reproductive rights in America that led to 1973's Roe vs Wade Supreme Court decision. The record of abortion as a medical practice dates back 5,000 years. The need to end pregnancies has been with all cultures over all of recorded history. The need will never disappear. The speaker presented copies of news articles from 1935 through 1989 to show the opening of public discussion of abortion and how the discussion changed over time.

Public Policy reported Washington State failed to act on the Reproductive Parity Act (report attached). This legislation would require any insurance provider who covers maternity care to also cover all reproductive care. The State Senate refused even hold hearings about the bill, despite a majority of Senators saying they would support it.

In other mission interest areas in Washington State:

The legislature did not pass a minimum wage act. Most minimum wage work is done by women. One Senator tried to cut the minimum wage.

The Paid Safe and Sick Leave legislation passed the House but was cut off in the Senate. This legislation was supported by multiple organizations working with AAUW.

Pay Equity Day is April 8. AAUW will host an information table with literature at the PLU student center. The literature highlights the challenges in closing the gender pay gap that, in Washington State averages \$12,000 per year less for white women than the standard for white males at the median income level. The disparities for women and men of color are worse.

B. Membership Renewal and Announcements - President

President has recruitment / membership packages for all to use to engage potential new members. Social Media has an email new member form available; she will teach anyone interested how to use it.

The newsletter editor reminded contributors that articles and announcements are due March 16.

The April Tea will be held at the Financial officer's home April 6, Sunday, from 1 – 3. Bring buffet style savories or sweets. Members are encouraged to don their stylish or extravagant headwear to celebrate spring. Dressing up is acceptable.

Carol Rikerd, Secretary

Due to space restrictions, this is an abbreviated edition of the Branch Business Meeting. The full meeting report is available to any member who wants to read it. Please contact Carol Rikerd, outgoing secretary, or Donna Woolverton, incoming secretary.

Be Connected with AAUW!

AAUW Tacoma Website is the place to go to learn about our branch. There is an officers list with contact information, a summary of the interest groups (including the reading lists for both book groups), our mission statement, community involvement and branch goals and a member's center with a newsletter archive, branch bylaws, forms, and membership benefits. <http://tacoma-wa.aauw.net/>

AAUW Tacoma Facebook has daily updates of AAUW and other community events, as well as other items of interest. Feel free to add items of interest, as well as comments and 'like'. Truly, AAUW Tacoma has one of the best Facebook Pages in the country! Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.Tacoma>

AAUW Tacoma Meetup. The goal of Meetup is to help "people find others who share their *interest* or *cause*, and form *lasting, influential, local community groups* that regularly meet *face-to-face*." AAUW Tacoma uses this tool for community outreach and many of our newer members have found us this way. We are so glad that they did! It is also a wonderful way to see all of our upcoming meetings in one place and to receive reminders. <http://www.meetup.com/AAUW-Tacoma/>

Other sites worth checking out:

AAUW Washington State Website <http://aauw-wa.aauw.net/>

AAUW Washington State Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/aauw.washington>

AAUW Washington State Tech Trek <http://techtrek-wa.aauw.net/>

AAUW National Website <http://www.aauw.org/>

AAUW National Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.National>

AAUW Tech Trek Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AAUWTechTrek>

Editors' Note

Please send notices of events and news to Sarah Nainby and Linda Isenson at aauwtacomanevletter@gmail.com. Feel free to send photos as well!

Submissions should be to us by the 16th of the month unless otherwise noted and should not exceed 100 words. **Please notify us if you will be late.** If you have a later event that you would like included, please let us know by the 16th so we can plan accordingly. We reserve the right to edit as we see fit.