

## 2019 AAUW of Oregon Lobby Day and Convention Save the dates! April 11-14, 2019

This year, Lobby Day and the State Convention are scheduled together to improve:

- Access to both events with one trip and less hassle
- Unstructured time that gives us all a better chance to network
- Opportunity for first-timers to lobby along with experienced members as part of our large group
- Time for sharing with each other what we learned during those sessions with our legislators

**Lobby Day** – Thursday April 11, 2019 at our State Capitol. It will begin with lunch followed by an update on the status of legislative issues, then members will visit their representatives. State Public Policy Co-chair Shilpi Banerjee is organizing this event.

**Convention 2019** – Salem Convention Center beginning Friday April 12.

The Convention Center has plenty of room for workshops and plans are underway for an interesting mix of speakers and workshops on Saturday April 13, with the Legal Advocacy Fund dinner ending the day. Sunday is reserved for District meetings and the business meeting. Linda Lybecker, Judy Hale, Pat Squire and Sharron Noone are planning the programs.

Betsy McDowell and Kristin Mauro are co-chairing the Local Arrangements Committee and they are planning no-host international dinners at nearby restaurants Thursday evening, as well as an interesting mix of fun and educational activities Friday.

The convention hotel is the luxurious Grand Hotel adjacent to the Convention Center. Plan to stay at the reduced AAUW rate.



**Breaking Barriers  
to Leadership**

AAUW of Oregon Convention 2019



Our Keynote speaker, Val Hoyle, is incoming Oregon Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries.

Val Hoyle grew up in New England. After graduating from Emmanuel College in Boston with a BA in political science with a concentration in international studies, she worked in the outdoor industry for 25 years, specializing in domestic and international sales. She moved to Eugene, Oregon with her husband and two young children in 1999 based on the quality of life and reputation of the school district. She served as a member and chairperson of the Oregon Federal District Export Council and got involved in local politics to support public education, eventually serving as the Oregon State Representative and House Majority Leader. Following her service in the capitol, she worked with the University of Oregon Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics. In May of 2018, Val Hoyle was elected to be the tenth Oregon Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Enjoy Glorious Oregon Fall Colors!

I recently spent a wonderful week in NE Oregon thanks to NE Director Lucy Hutchens' masterful arrangements and guidance skills. Lucy and I visited with members of Baker City, Ontario and Pendleton branches. She also arranged for me to speak to a reporter from the *Baker City Herald*, the Baker City Kiwanis Club and a PEO chapter in Ontario. I shared information about our Equal Pay Tool Kit, our position on upcoming issues on the ballot in November, pending legislation, what our state AAUW does and how it addresses the AAUW Strategic Plan. The restatement of our mission, vision and values as simply as possible enabled me to connect to the outside groups.



In addition, I proposed this wording to each branch regarding "Community Supporters" and received feedback from members, most of which was positive and accepting. I added the phrase, "*who support the mission, vision and values of AAUW but*" in response to a suggestion from a member. Many members said they thought this was quite clear.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

*Members of the community who support the mission, vision and values of AAUW but do not possess a degree from an accredited institution and are, therefore, not eligible for AAUW membership, may participate in all activities of the organization as community supporters. They cannot become members of the branch, state or national AAUW, and are not added to official membership counts. They may donate funds and may attend all branch functions. They may be appointed as committee chairs and unelected officers, but may not hold elected office or vote on issues above the branch level.*

I made it clear that AAUW national does not encourage this. However, we are making every effort to accommodate what is and has been occurring in our state. Branches are the lifeblood of our organization. We recognize that our organization would not exist without our members and those who support us.

We welcome Dr. Joan Rycraft, our new South District Director. We thank Barbara Paulson for taking the job temporarily and setting up the South District Meeting in October. We also welcome Nancy Brown who is taking over for Marge Biggers as State Events Coordinator as well as Nancy Thomas as our new Start Smart/Work Smart State Chair.

*Georgia Applegate*

## Breaking Barriers Achievement Award

Do you know a woman who is not an AAUW member who exemplifies our AAUW mission? Or do you work with a community group that demonstrates an impact on women and girls in our state exemplifying our mission? If so, nominate them for the 2019 Breaking Barriers Achievement Award!

Applications, due January 15, 2019, are on the AAUW of Oregon website under ABOUT or at <https://aauw-or.aauw.net/aauw-of-oregon-breaking-barriers-award/>.

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## One AAUW. One Mission. One Fund.

Do you know that unrestricted donations to AAUW Fund provide support where it is most needed to sustain and advance AAUW's programs? Unrestricted gifts support programs that

- \*advance equity for women and girls,
- \*work to eliminate persistent challenges to women and girls, and
- \*provide new opportunities for AAUW members.

AAUW Fund supports many programs; some, but not all, are:

**NCCWSL** (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders);

**Campus Outreach** grants;

**College/University Partners; Younger Women's Task Force** (younger women fighting for social justice);

**Eleanor Roosevelt** (research on gender equity in education and workplace); **New Program Development** (which hatched such programs as Elect Her, Start Smart, Tech Trek, Tech Savvy and others). Once these programs were developed—**Elect Her, Start Smart, Tech Trek, and Tech Savvy**—they became individual programs also supported by AAUW Fund.

AAUW Fund also supports **Legal Advocacy Case Support** and **Legal Advocacy Case Support Travel Grants**—the latter brings interesting speakers to our AAUW of OR State Convention.

So, when you donate to AAUW, you have the privilege and the right to choose to give an unrestricted gift (AAUW Fund #9110), which will, in turn, support existing programs as well as give AAUW the ability to respond quickly to any new challenges facing women and children. Because, in the long haul, it's One AAUW. One Mission. One Fund.

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## Action Taken by the AAUW of Oregon Board, October 24, 2018

### State Meeting Task Force

Ilga Ross, Task Force Chair, moved to accept the findings of the task force and to approve further development of a state-centered structure for holding state conventions as outlined in the draft work plan. She stated that local branches are no longer able to do the work needed to host a state convention and that it should be the responsibility of the state to arrange and conduct it.

Ilga had posted a summary and a timeline on the Drive page, and referred to page 4, the proposed lines of responsibility, showing the president at the head and an event coordinator reporting to the president, with the state vice presidents reporting to the event coordinator. Page 5 of her report shows a work plan with goals and objectives. Both pages are attached to these minutes. The task force plan would eliminate the need for a Local Arrangements Committee, as all work would be done by state officers. The event coordinator would be able to bring in local members as needed. The task force plan would allow for a standardized budget and contract. Sarah Elmer (Finance VP) commented that she saw no need for a local convention treasurer, as everything goes through the state finance VP.

Betsy McDowell (Governance Committee) said that in the past the state has often had no event coordinator and wondered if Ilga had considered that it might be a paid position, as it is in California. Ilga replied that Oregon is a much smaller state and she sees no need for a paid coordinator. If the state has no event coordinator, the responsibilities could be delegated to state officers, and there would be duties assigned to district directors.

There are companies that suggest proper venues for such meetings, and although the task force suggests having the meeting in the same place every year, that is open to decision by the board. Betsy began a discussion of the last convention, held in April in the Hillsboro area. She is co-chair of the next convention, 2019 in Salem. The hotel in Hillsboro was new and gave the state meeting many free or low-cost benefits. Ilga noted that the budgets have not been consistent year to year, depending on the locale, and that any location must be appropriate for the needs of the group.

Linda Lybecker (Program) asked about such items as the enrichment activities. Ilga replied that that is where the events coordinator could use local members as needed, to make suggestions and do the planning for these activities.

Ilga emphasized that the suggested plan is meant to be open and flexible, and that state leaders might need help from local members sometimes. Georgia suggested we think of the state as the skeleton with local members providing the flesh!

Ilga wrapped up her comments with the two main suggestions from the task force: eliminate the Local Arrangements Committee, and turn all convention duties over to state officers.

Ilga restated her **motion**:

to accept the findings of the task force and to approve further development of a state-centered structure for holding state conventions, as outlined in the draft work plan.

Claudia Gray (Governance) called for a vote; the vote was unanimous: all in favor. **The motion passed.**

### Betsy's Motion:

We move that the state board approve the executive committee's recommendation of the Governance chairs' proposal to amend the state bylaws, deleting the words "state convention" and substituting the words "annual meeting".

Claudia called the roll for a vote; the vote was unanimous. **The motion passed.**

Georgia Applegate (President) asked the board to approve her appointment of Nancy Brown as the state events coordinator, a position she has held several times in the past. A voice vote was taken and **approval was unanimous.**

*Kristin Mauro, Secretary*

## MEMBERSHIP

### National News

Many of you have asked what you can do to help move the new strategic plan forward. AAUW is pleased to share a video in which CEO Kim Churches explains how to become involved in AAUW's economic security initiatives. She highlights 10 things you can do to make an impact locally as well as nationally, including our exciting Members Mobilize a Million initiative, which challenges every AAUW member and supporter to ask 20 friends, family members or colleagues to take AAUW Work Smart Online. We will track progress and Kim will speak at the state convention with the highest participation rate.

So how do you get started? Review the video and other resources for engagement on the website. <https://www.aauw.org/resource/mobilize-a-million-social-media/>

AAUW staff will update this page periodically to provide additional tools that will help us meet our bold goal of achieving pay equity by 2030. Beginning Tuesday, October 23, AAUW Work Smart Online will be available. Please take the course and share it!

### Key Dates

#### Ongoing

- Improve workplace culture to advance women.
- Our forthcoming report examines how sexual harassment disrupts women's career paths and affects women of all ages but in particular toward the end of their careers. As part of that study, we hope you will respond to our survey regarding sexual harassment over the course of your career.

#### October 23

- Release of the Fall 2018 edition of The Simple Truth About the Pay Gap Research
- Release of AAUW Work Smart Online to the AAUW membership and the general public

*Ane McIntyre, AAUW of Oregon Membership VP*

## AAUW OF OR PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

The political season is fully upon us, and AAUW of OR Public Policy actions are right in line with this process.

We officially opposed four Ballot Measures: 106 – bars public funding for abortions; 105 – abolishes the Oregon sanctuary law; 103 – prohibits state and local government taxes on the sale and distribution “groceries; and 104 – extends the 3/5ths, supermajority OR House and Senate vote requirements to tax exemptions, credits and deductions. Because AAUW of OR had not taken positions on the issue of immigration, or at least had not done so in quite some time, the State Public Policy Committee decided to present the proposition of opposing Measure 105 to the Executive Committee. A clear majority supported opposition and so AAUW of OR stands in official opposition to Ballot Measure 105. We have joined the “No on 105” coalition.

As many of you know, Commissioner Brad Avakian of the Bureau of Labor and Industries filed a BOLI complaint charging that legislative leaders in Salem created a hostile work environment in which complaints of sexual harassment at the Capitol were ignored, underplayed or buried. House Speaker Tina Kotek and Senate President Peter Courtney have denied the allegations, pointing to the fact that while “it does not have all the answers,” it had “been working collaboratively with BOLI since the end of last year on reviewing its training, personnel rules, and workplace practice” and had already requested the Oregon Law Commission to conduct a review of its practices regarding harassment at the legislature. Here is a link to the official complaint and response: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lc/Pages/BOLI-Complaint.aspx>. Trish Garner, Chair of the State Public Policy Committee, has been attending hearings of the Oregon Law Commission Workgroup that is charged with the task of making recommendations about sexual harassment policies and procedures at the Capitol. She also recently met with legislative representatives, including Speaker Kotek, and other coalition partners in order to ensure that the process of addressing these problems takes place expeditiously and transparently.

AAUW of OR is also actively pursuing legislative goals at the 2019 Legislative Session. Representative Andrea Salinas has agreed to champion a bill that would increase from one one-quarter FTE to two FTE’s at the OR Department of Education tasked with Title IX compliance / enforcement, sexual harassment / bullying and gender discrimination in our K – 12 schools. Another top priority item is dealing with age discrimination. Right now, if an employer can claim another reason for making an adverse employee decision, even though discrimination based on age is part of the decision-making process, they can escape liability for its conduct. Proposed legislation seeks to revise that practice. We are also part of a coalition that supports banning non-disclosure and no rehire provisions in sexual harassment cases, increasing the time within which victims can file lawsuits regarding sexual harassment, and allowing lawsuits to be filed against harassers — as opposed to the business where they work. Paid family and medical leave is also an issue we officially support.

Our State Vice Chair of Public Policy Shilpi Banerjee has updated the AAUW of OR Equal Pay Toolkit to reflect changes adopted by the Bureau of Labor and Industries. The updated Toolkit is available via our website <https://aauw-or.aauw.net/oregon-equal-pay-tool-kit/>.

The 2019 AAUW of OR Lobby Day is scheduled to coincide with State Convention in April. Shilpi Banerjee is in charge.

*Trish Garner, AAUW of OR Public Policy*



## DISTRICT REPORTS

### CENTRAL DISTRICT

The Central District meeting in September was a success with thirty-three people in attendance representing four branches. The theme was **Get Out the Vote**. After learning about the State ballot measures from two representatives of the Linn County League of Women Voters, we brainstormed ideas about how to improve participation in the voting process. Then people broke into their branch groups and discussed what activities they would do in their community. (photo below)



The **Albany Branch** continued the Get Out the Vote theme by registering people to vote at tabling events at the Farmers Market. They co-sponsored three voter information forums with the League of Women Voters (LWV) and held a Get Out the Vote rally at the county courthouse. They also used social media to get the word out. In November they co-sponsored the “I Am Not Invisible” exhibit to come to the Linn-Benton Community College campus with the LBCC Veterans Services program. Elizabeth Estabrooks, from the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs presented a program about the exhibit. Another successful pie sale fundraiser was held to fund their mission-based programs. They will end the year with their annual holiday social and cookie fundraiser. They continue to support the LBCC Student Lunch Box program to provide needed food for students.

The **Bend Branch** kicked off their year with a program reporting on its very successful summer Tech Trek and a vote to sponsor it for a third year. 2019 Tech Trek Central Oregon will take place at OSU Cascades from June 24 -29, 2019. Visitors Day is June 27, 2019; visit our camp! They also announced that this year their annual Weil Scholarship (held in trust by the Oregon Community Foundation) fund awarded \$9,400 in scholarships to three recipients. Their theme for programming for branch meetings this year is Women in a Variety of Settings in the Community. In October they will focus on Women in Government and in November the focus will be on Women Remembered at the Bend Historical Museum. December will be their annual holiday social gathering, which includes a fundraising drive for a local charity that supports women in the community.

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**CENTRAL DISTRICT (cont.)**

The **Eugene-Lane Branch**, the State, and National AAUW mourned the loss of lifetime member and nationally renowned public policy advocate, Kappy Eaton. She will be greatly missed. The branch has marched forward, though, with their September meeting featuring Dr. Annemieke Golly of the Oregon Research Institute, sharing her insights on how to create positive outcomes for troubled youth. They welcomed a number of guests and new members as a result of their summer membership outreach efforts, including a new branch member from Florence. They started a new Branch Buddy program matching existing members with new member. Also, Eugene-Lane will now have a Great Decisions interest group. Both of these start ups came as a result of networking with other State AAUW members. In October the local LWV presented an overview of upcoming state ballot initiatives and the **CHiPS** program was launched for 2018-2019. Program leader Peggy Shippen described the events scheduled involving Willamette High School's Intro to Law class. Field trips and mock trials are scheduled. To learn more about the CHiPS program contact [chips97405@gmail.com](mailto:chips97405@gmail.com). The branch's November meeting featured the Lindy Smith, manager of the Eugene Police Department's "Volunteers in Policing" (VIP) program. In December, the branch held its annual holiday event.

The **Salem Branch** held its fall Membership Social in September at the Gaiety Hollow Historic Home and Gardens in Salem. Gaiety Hollow is owned by the Lord & Schryver Conservancy and was built in 1932 by renowned landscape architects Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver - the first all women landscape architecture company in the Northwest. In September, members continued our 10-year tradition of walking as a team in the Discover Pink Walk in Salem. The walk raises funds for clinical breast exams for women in Marion and Polk Counties. In October, a couple of our members hosted a birthday celebration for Eleanor Roosevelt. Claudia Gray came to speak about AAUW funds; the event raised over \$1000 for AAUW funds. The branch continued a five-year tradition of co-programming with the LWV in co-sponsoring a Ballot Measure Forum on the statewide ballot measures. We had a great turnout for this event at the library in Salem.

**Congratulations to the newly formed Yamhill County Branch!** They held their first meeting as a new branch in September with nine members in attendance and one guest, the president of SAGE (Students Advocating for Gender Equity) at Linfield College. They plan to establish a relationship with this group and work on events that intersect the groups' missions. SAGE meets every other week so another possibility is to attend their meetings on occasion to offer our support, professionally and in their personal lives, which might result in a formal membership type program. The branch held another meeting in October to lay the groundwork for a big membership recruitment drive planned for January. They are very excited!

*Theresa Johnson, District Director*

**ELECTED OFFICERS  
2018-19****EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:****President:**

Georgia Applegate  
Grants Pass Branch

**Co-Program Vice Presidents:**

Judy Hale  
Lake Oswego Branch  
Lydia Lybecker  
Hillsboro/Forest Grove Branch

**Communications Vice President:**

Marguerite Damewood  
Grants Pass Branch

**Membership Vice Presidents:**

Ane McIntyre  
Seaside Branch

**Finance Vice President:**

Sarah Elmer  
Bend Branch

**Secretary:**

Kristin Mauro  
Salem Branch

**DISTRICT DIRECTORS:**

**Central District - Albany, Bend, Corvallis, Salem, Eugene-Lane, Redmond**

Theresa Johnson

**North Central District - Gresham Area, Hillsboro/Forest Grove, Lake Oswego, Portland, Tigard Area**

Arlene Lemieux

**Northeast District - Baker City, Ontario, Pendleton, Wallowa Co.**

Lucy Hutchens

**Northwest District - Astoria, Lincoln City, Seaside, Tillamook**

Susan Wahlke

**South District - Ashland, Grants Pass, Klamath Falls, Lakeview, Medford, Roseburg**

Joan Rycraft

The password to get into the site's member center is:

oregonaauw  
(pg. 12 web address)



## NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

The North Central District's Interbranch Council (IBC) met in September in Vancouver. The first speaker was Angelique Montoya, a college student who attended NCCWSL with the sponsorship of the Vancouver Branch. She shared a power point presentation of her experience and felt that it was a very worthwhile experience.

The second speaker was Mardy Stevens, Director on the National AAUW Board of Directors. She spoke about the national Strategic Plan which focuses on three main points: Education and Training, Economic Security and Leadership. Mardy stressed that all three would be implemented at the same time.



**Gresham Area** - The branch has lost 10 members and will be planning on how they can recruit more members. Their first program was a speaker from Oregon Tradeswomen.

**Hillsboro/Forest Grove** - The branch ran a "Let's Read Math" camp for Hispanic first and second graders in the area. They are holding a member and guest event at a local bar and grill to create more name recognition and attract new members. A storyteller will entertain and members will talk about branch activities. The Branch also co-sponsored with the Center for Gender Equity (CGE) at Pacific University an evening with Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici. The Congresswoman gave a lively talk about women in Congress and the state of Title IX enforcement nationally. (photo above)

**Hudson's Bay (WA)** - The branch lost their Program Vice President unexpectedly and so a committee has been planning their programs. They do not plan programs for the whole year to allow for more flexibility.

**Lake Oswego** - The branch has partnered with Tigard to host a League of Women Voters for Ballot Measure Forum featuring Robi Ingram-Rich and Farol Kahle of League of Women Voters (LWV) Clackamas County. The two presented the five state-wide ballot measures and the Metro Bond request 26-199. They clearly outlined the measures, and discussed both sides of each question. League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization, so the measures were discussed in a neutral manner. Since Marylhurst College folded, they have a new college/university partnership with Clackamas Community College. Their Advocacy Interest Group will focus on Equal Pay Act and Title IX.



Robi Ingram-Rich, a board member for League of Women Voters Clackamas, discussed of ballot measures at Lake Oswego's October 13 branch meeting. Ms. Rich is also a member of the branch.

**Online** — Membership now numbers 20 from Oregon and Idaho. They meet via phone conference, and programs include the AAUW publication *Mission in Action*, *LAF*, *in the Statehouse* and *Washington Update*. They will choose a TEDTalk topic for November.

**Portland** - President Sue Thomas has implemented a new approach to board meetings. Officers will submit a report 24 hours before the meeting. If there are no questions or objections, the report will become part of the consent agenda and will not be discussed. Their theme of the year is "Raising Women's Voices".

**Tigard** — The September program was on The Equal Pay Act by Trish Garner and Shilpi Banerjee. Their November program was on Oregon's ballot measures.

**Vancouver (WA)**- The branch has 76 members and has eight interest groups. They had program on Emergency Response and readiness. Their next program will be on STEM: Past, Present and Future.

*Arlene Lemieux, District Director*

## NORTHEAST DISTRICT

AAUW of Oregon president, Georgia Applegate, made an “Inaugural Tour” of the Northeast District branches, making appearances in Baker, Ontario, and Pendleton between October 8 and October 12. During the visit to Baker, she attended a branch meeting, had breakfast with a group of members at the Lone Pine Inn, was a guest for lunch with the Kiwanis Club, and was interviewed by a reporter from the Baker newspaper.

Her next stop in Ontario included a tour of Four Rivers Cultural Center, hosted by the executive director, Matt Stringer. She was able to experience a detailed exhibit about the Japanese-American Internment 1942-46. Georgia and her husband, Dave, were accompanied by local historian Gary Fugate as they toured Vale’s Old Stone House, an old stage stop filled with artifacts donated by pioneer families in Malheur and Harney counties. Lunch included a discussion with a small group of AAUW members and TVCC representation from Cathy Yasuda, TVCC Foundation Director, who shared her family’s story from World War II. Georgia provided a well-received evening program for an Ontario chapter of PEO. She covered information on AAUW and effectively related it to PEO’s focus on the empowerment of women and girls, and scholarships for women.

President Applegate spent the rest of the tour in Pendleton. The meeting’s topic Hanford: Myth and Reality, dealt with the unintended disposal problems which started with The Manhattan Project.

At each location, Georgia left copies of AAUW material which included the **AAUW Strategic Plan; Beyond Aspirations: Advancing Equity for Women and Girls; The SimpleTruth**, (Gender Pay Gap); the proposal for two full time **Title IX** employees in Oregon; **Age Discrimination** at both ends of the age spectrum; accomplishments of AAUW of Oregon’s **Public Policy Committee**, particularly the **Equal Pay Law**. Georgia also explained the public policy committee recommendations to vote NO on Measures 103,104,105, 106, and the reasons for that stand. She emphasized that Community Supporters, those individuals who do not have a degree, could participate in branch activities, but could not be charged dues, hold elected office or vote on issues above the branch level. This requirement maintains each branch’s affiliate agreement with National AAUW.

Many thanks to the branches and other local individuals for their assistance: Darlene Scheler, Baker branch president; Wanda Raffety, Baker membership chair; Matt Stringer, Four Rivers Cultural Center Director; Cathy Yasuda, TVCC Foundation director and PEO member; Gary Fugate, Malheur Country Historical Society; Marlene Kraut, Pendleton Communications VP; Elizabeth Scheeler and Karen Wagner, Pendleton Co-Presidents; and Jill Heffner, AAUW Grants committee member. Our thanks to Georgia and her husband, Dave, for their fortitude in traveling at least one thousand miles to share the AAUW mission and goals directly to the outpost branches, and for informing many about the existence AAUW. (Georgia’s presentation makes an excellent branch program with time for discussion).

**Announcement** - There will NOT be an additional NE District meeting this year.



At left are Elizabeth Scheele, (left) Pendleton Branch President, with District Director Lucy Hutchens (center) and President Georgia Applegate.

At right are Baker Branch President Darlene Scheler and Georgia.



## NORTHWEST DISTRICT

On September 19 at Seaside's City Hall, Seaside Branch held a forum for the candidates running in the 32nd district state house position, Seaside's mayoral race, and city councilors competing in Seaside and Gearhart. The local paper joined in publicizing the event, placing ads and printing flyers. With their help, the meeting had standing room only.

Last year as part of their strategic plan, Seaside investigated the needs of children in our area. As a result of that research and at the request of their local high school, members will interview junior high school girls as though they were in an actual interview for a job or college. The goal is to make the girls feel comfortable, give them role models and feedback on their performance. The interviews were held on October 23 and they will do follow up in the spring.

Seaside's WINGS (Women Interested In Going Back to School) program will present its 17th annual conference with Clatsop Community College and the Astoria AAUW branch in February. A new goal is to increase the number of students from the area. This has been a rewarding experience for years and the branch's membership would like to work to increase that opportunity for those living in Seaside and Cannon Beach.

The branch will be holding their monthly December meeting at the historic Flavel House in Astoria for tea and scones. A fun way to celebrate the season.

*Susan Wahke, District Director*

## SOUTH DISTRICT

The South District has been busy this fall! The District Meeting was held on October 12 in Grants Pass and featured a 3-person panel of Title IX Coordinators/Officers from Medford, Grants Pass, and Three Rivers School Districts. Twenty-five AAUW members from Ashland, Medford and Grants Pass listened intently to the panelists' descriptions of their jobs, the demands of Title IX in schools, and challenges the schools have in creating a safe environment for children as sexual harassment, sexual assault and bullying become ever increasing problems. When Joan Rycraft, the panel moderator, opened the floor for questions, hands were in the air for 45 minutes! The panel participation concluded with developing a list of seven items that panelists felt would help them do a better job of compliance with Title IX - thus giving all students equal access to a quality education. These seven items will be sent to Oregon AAUW's Public Policy Chair, Trish Garner, to help her secure an increased budget. This will allow ODE to hire two full-time employees to work with Title IX so all schools will have increased help being Title IX compliant. After lunch, Marguerite Damewood, State Communications VP, gave a Google Drive Lesson. The meeting ended with members sharing branch success stories.

Sherry Schroder and Joan Rycraft, both Medford Branch members, are spearheading the South District initiative to provide the AAUW National salary negotiation workshop, **Work Smart**, for 40 women in the spring of 2019. Both SOU and RCC are being contacted to partner the workshop which will be held at the HEC Building in Medford. AAUW of Oregon awarded \$750 to the district to help support this effort.

The South District has a new Director, Joan Rycraft of the Medford Branch! Currently, Joan is serving as Co-Chair of the **START SMART** Salary Negotiation Workshop being planned by South District. Previously, she Co-Chaired the Sexual Assault on Campus planning committee. Joan has held multiple branch offices including Branch President, Leadership Team, and Past President of MUWCF, the 501c3 of Medford Branch. She has a PhD in Social Work and is a valuable team asset. Welcome Joan! We all appreciate your willingness to take this position!

(continued on page 12)



Barbara Paulson, standing, and Joan Rycraft in pink, seated, lead the questioning for the Title IX Panel at the South District

### SOUTH DISTRICT (cont.)

The South District includes four branches: Ashland, Grants Pass, Lakeview, Medford and Roseburg.

**Ashland** had two speakers at their October branch meeting presenting close up views of lives of women in Russia and Japan, Michelle Carter and Dr. Kimie Oshima. *Michelle Carter*, author of the memoir "From Under the Russian Snow", described her experiences during 20 trips to Russia. She speaks as she writes – with humor and warmth. Michelle has more recently been involved with raising support and awareness for the children of Chernobyl, and has a special connection with AAUW - she is a branch member in California. If a book club chooses to read "From Under the Russian Snow" she is available to talk with the group by Skype. *Dr. Kimie Oshima* is a sociolinguist and visiting professor at SOU. Kimie described traditional Japanese language which uses distinct endings to differentiate a male or female speaker. Kimie is also trained in Rakugo, Buddhist storytelling from the 1800's. Until 1940 women were not permitted in the audience of the Rakugo theatre and the first female performer wasn't trained until 1974. Now female performers are writing their own Rakugo stories.

**Medford** has a dynamic board of directors leading creative activities which engage current members and attract new ones. General meetings now offer two presentations: Short Subject (20 minutes) and a Feature Presentation (45-60 minutes). Topics range from mission-related, S.T.E.M., historical and community subjects to those for general enlightenment and entertainment (example: Chair Yoga). Their annual fund raisers provide many thousands of dollars in local scholarships. These include: a Garden Tour (June), buy-outs of a Camelot Theater performance (September) and the Phantom Tea Party (October-March). Monthly general meetings are held Saturday mornings, except in October and April, when meetings are Thursday evenings.

**Grants Pass** held their Annual Welcome Back Brunch. The new AAUW mission and vision were reviewed, two scholarship recipients talked about their academic careers, the incoming Executive and Charitable Fund Board members were recognized, and new members were welcomed! In October, the branch held its 14th annual Kitchen Tour. The branch has approximately 124 members, the large majority of whom stepped up to help support the annual fundraiser. The Kitchen Tour is the only fundraiser of the year and has raised over \$125,000 to support scholarships of which approximately \$60,000 has been given to Rogue Community College to support scholarships to local students.

*Barbara Paulson, South District Director*



### Oregon Mission

AAUW of Oregon promotes advocacy, takes action to empower women and girls, and connects National AAUW with branch members.

### National Mission

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

#### Values

Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.

#### Vision

Equity for all.

#### Diversity

In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

#### Membership

AAUW, founded in 1881, is open to all graduates who hold an associate or equivalent, a baccalaureate or higher degree from a College or University on the AAUW list of qualified institutions.

**We're on the web:**

**<http://aauw-or.aauw.net>**

### *Oregon News*

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