



The Suncoast Bulletin

Newsletter of the Clearwater Branch of AAUW

October 2012

NEW!! We Have Our Own Website!!

Clearwater AAUW has its own website now!

Check it out at <http://clearwater-fl.aauw.net/>

Share this site with your friends who don't know about AAUW or our Branch.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012-2013

Elected Officers

President
Rita Garvey 446-3845
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Program Committee
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Secretary
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Treasurer
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Corresponding Secretary
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Newsletter Editor
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Helping Hands Needed
for
Publicity
Hospitality
Basket Fair
Interest Groups
Fundraiser in March

Call Dana at 799-6029 if you have questions or want to help.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

VOTE!

As I thought about a President's Message as we start our program year, the only thing I consider of utmost importance to all of us at this time is to **"remember to vote"!!!!**

Of course, voting requires an informed electorate: knowing the candidates and the issues. This election is a Presidential election, which is crucial in itself. However, we also have 11 Amendments to the Florida Constitution. By everything I have read and studied, groups I have listened to, none of those amendments will be good for the citizens of Florida. One of the amendments is detrimental to women's right of choice.

As we go forth, remember all the steps forward women have taken over the last 100 years. Let us ensure that we are not forced to take steps backward!

Rita



Installation of officers by Florida AAUW President Carol Napper. Installed: Rita Garvey, Pres.; Kathleen Kimpel, Sect.; Carol Zeph, Tres.; and Margaret Hyde, 1st VP Programs. May 5, 2012

Bullying in Schools

"Harassment—and all the bullying, teasing, and touching it entails—is pervasive. Four out of every five students personally experience it. While many students say harassment is no big deal—just part of school life—names do hurt: "a kid called me a fag"; "sexual name calling"; "simple verbal assault"; "girls spreading rumors about me." Physical acts hurt, too: "someone forced my clothes off"; "a guy grabbed my butt"; "I saw a boy who put his hands down a girl's shirt and then down her pants but she could do nothing about it because he was cool." These are some of the way students describe harassment in their schools. And whether words or actions, harassment upsets students and affects their everyday lives. They begin avoiding certain routes, changing their seats, being afraid.

Armed with updated information in this presentation, it is our hope that parents, educators, and policy-makers can better address problems before they become a crisis." *

(As I write this announcement, I am waiting to hear if a warning published on the web was a hoax or a cry for help from a student in my grandnephew's school. Too often and tragically, children have lashed out to the offenders and to innocent classmates alike when pushed to extreme acts because of bullying.)

Join us Saturday, October 20 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church's Patio Room on Michigan Avenue in Dunedin. Parents, teachers, anyone who works with youth are welcome to attend our Branch's program on Bullying presented by Diane Schrier, Florida AAUW Director of Public Policy and Grade 8 teacher.

*. Hostile Hallways: Bullying, Teasing, and Sexual Harassment in School A study researched by Harris Interactive which was commissioned by the American Association of University Women Education Foundation

PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES 2012 Report By Director for Public Policy Diane Schrier

The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the Healthcare Act by a 5-4 vote under the taxation clause. As many members of both House and Senate have vowed not to raise taxes, this has given momentum to a drive to repeal that Healthcare Act. The Healthcare Act has many positives: pre-existing conditions will not be a reason for rejection; hospitals will be able to function more effectively as emergency rooms will be reserved for true emergencies, and everyone's insurance will become more reasonable.

The House will vote on bill HR459 to demand an audit by the end of 2012 of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and all federal banks. A Disclosure Bill to create greater disclosure of campaign contributions was voted down twice by the Senate. Also voted down was a proposal to end tax breaks for moving jobs overseas.

(Continued on page 2)

Public Policy (cont.)

The poverty count in the U.S. continues to rise, and the divide between the very wealthy and the poor increases. This started in the 80's but is increasing so greatly that five cities in the U.S. have been listed among the top ten in the world for income discrepancy.

The bill that would stop the almost doubling of student loan interest rates passed.

Florida has reduced the effectiveness of local Water Management Districts. Money to buy public land has been reduced significantly. Both of these actions can hurt the environment, and as environmental standards lessen, air quality is becoming compromised. Internationally the inability to come to a viable working agreement on the environment is creating major problems as climate change affects all parts of the world.

Several bills have been proposed that will affect Florida education. The Parent Trigger Bill allows parents' votes to turn a public school into a private school. Graduates for the next several years will encounter changing criteria for graduation. A bill to award federal monies directly to corporate schools was tabled but will probably reappear.

Women's Rights continue to encounter difficulties. The Violence against Women Act passed in the Senate but has not passed in the House. Many of the provisions in the Healthcare Act benefit women – obtaining preventive tests, maternity care, child health checks; however, many states are trying to limit that coverage. Cuts to federally-funded child care programs will hurt women trying to return to the work force.

Title IX is under threat of having protection for women from sexual harassment and bullying reduced. Governor Scott declared that 142,000 people in the state who were registered to vote were ineligible. However, only approximately 50 have been identified. Senator Rubio stated that it would be better for many people to be disenfranchised rather than have even one unqualified voter have a vote in our democratic election process. Election Supervisors have fought against the disqualification. So it is extremely important that all voters check all the information on their registration and vote – at the polls on Election Day, in early voting, or by an absentee mail-in ballot. (And if using a mail-in ballot, make sure the signature is current.) Encourage family, friends, neighbors, other contacts to do the

Clearwater AAUW Board Meeting Minutes June 29, 2012

The meeting at Clearwater Main Library was called to order at 12:20pm by Rita Garvey, President. Also in attendance: Kathleen Kimpel, Barbara Perkins and Carol Zeph.

The May 2012 minutes were approved as read.

Reports:

Programs Barbara Perkins Reporting

Barb Perkins presented a schedule of both Board and General Meetings for 2012-13.

Board Meetings will be held on **Wednesdays at 10:00 am at St Petersburg College Admin Bldg., Room AD145** as follows:

October 10, 2012, November 7, 2012,
January 9, 2013, February 13, 2013,
March 13, 2013, April 10, 2013,
May 8, 2013

General Meetings (planned as of this meeting) as follows:

October 20, 2012 SAT: 9:30

meet, 10:00am Program = Bullying: Working Together for Change, Presented by Diane Schrier, State of FL Director of Public Policy for AAUW to be held at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Patio Room, Michigan Avenue, Dunedin. "Each one brings one." (See discussion below).

November 17, 2012 SAT: 9:30 meet, 10:00am Program = STEM Speaker (tbd) St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Patio Room, Michigan Avenue, Dunedin.

December 1, 2012 SAT: 11:00 Christmas Luncheon at Clearwater Country Club: Menu: (1) Roast Turkey or (2) Grilled Citrus Salmon. Lunch, tax and Tip = \$21.00

January 26, 2013 SAT: Joint Meeting with LWV: Place and Speaker tbd by LWV

February 21, 2013 THURS: Clearwater Main Library: Re-cycling and green tech

March 7, 2013 THURS: 7:00pm Basket Raffle, 8:00pm Annual Fundraiser "Damn Yankees" Francis Wilson Playhouse, Seminole Ave, Clearwater

March 20, 2013 THURS: Women's History Month Program (tbd)

April 16, 2013 TUES: program tbd

April 19 – 21, 2013

State Convention in Orlando

May 4, 2013 Annual Meeting and Election of Officers, Belleair Country Club. Brunch at 9:30, Meeting at 10:00. Brunch, tax, tip = \$21.00.

1. Treasurers Report:

Carol Zeph: The 2011-12 Annual expense report submitted by Carol Zeph. A discussion of balancing the 2012-13 Budget, using actual costs from the previous year and including the costs of anticipated membership growth based on the goal of 50 members. There are 44 members currently. After a few modifications to line items the balanced 2012-13 Budget was approved.

Going forward, Rita Garvey expressed her desire for better tracking of scholarship results through updates and outreach to former and present recipients. Carol will attempt to reach out to Sharon Coil for some of this documentation. Kathleen is note-taking from Branch Scrap Books for historical data relative to funds provided over the history of the Branch.

2. Membership Jackie

Kruse (absent) We discussed ideas of how best to support Jackie in outreach and recruitment of new members. Each of us can help in some way.

3. New Business

1. Rita reported State-level initiatives based on the proposed Amendments to FL Constitution. 2. Kathleen asked for a form letter acknowledging donations received by businesses and vendors who supply prizes for the Gift Basket project. 3. We have new letterhead and a new Membership application form. 4. Kathleen will connect with Donna Sharpless, SPC, for collaborating on a more visible presence among the students at SPC. 5. Rita would like to see written position descriptions for Board Members. 5. Barbra expressed the need for a Cultural Chair, Hospitality Chair, Historian and a Publicity Chair. 6. Agreement was reached that we need a renewed Membership Strategy for this program year. Kathleen expressed an idea to encourage members to "each one brings one" to meetings, programs and functions.

There being no further discussion, Rita Garvey adjourned the meeting at 2:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted on 6/30/12,
Kathleen Kimpel, Recording Secretary



AAUW-FL Convention Report Next Convention to be held April 19-21

One hundred and fifty-two members representing 38 branches attended the 81st annual AAUW-FL Convention held April 20-22 at the Hutchinson Island Marriott in Stuart. It's not too early to start preparing for the next convention April 19-21, 2013. Rita Garvey, Barbara Perkins, Millie Latlief, Flos: attended starting with a training session, "It's My Vote; I Will Be Heard!" conducted by Sam Lehman, Washington DC. Since Florida was one of the states to receive an impact grant from AAUW to partici participants represented 38 Florida branches and sister organizations such as League of Women Voi workbook and CD for use in the branch's campaign.



(L-r) Barbara Perkins, Millie Latlief, Nancy Pura, Flossie McNally, and Rita Garvey

Our AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman was the key note speaker, and the Legal Advocacy Fur testimony about rape during her service in the military was heart-wrenching. Finally, Jacksonville me the history of AAUW, which she had tied into AAUW-Florida's campaign "Get Out the Vote."



It was fun to participate in the Suffragette Rally. Barbara and Dana donned their branches with signs and song. Although a joyful time for us at this event, we mus for our right to vote, many of whom suffered greatly. (If you have not seen it, plea Hillary Swank and Angelica Huston. It is a very gripping, graphic film by HBO abc

We met many interesting women and the officers of AAUW Florida who are willing to help Clearwater with programs and ideas. Among them was Diane Schrier, Director of Public Policy (her report started on page 1), who will be our speaker at our October 20 meeting in Dunedin. Diane is responsible for keeping up with all the issues that affect women and girls. Her expertise on these and the amendments affecting Florida are very important to us all. In addition to her presentation on Bullying, she will also give us an update of the amendments to be voted on in Florida. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to come and be informed.



Diane Schrier and Carol Napper

We appreciate all that Carol Napper has done during her two years in office as our President, including her coming to our Annual Meeting in May to install our new officers.

Also, we wish Eilleen Recchia good luck as she leads us these She is already planning a training session in November for Brar wants our branches to encourage more membership and have meaningful and consistent with the goals and mission of AAUW to foster connections between Branches and colleges and unive proud to have worked with St. Petersburg College Women on the Way students and we hope to make that a more meaningful and helpful relationship this coming year.



Eilleen Recchia

Finally, let us all make plans to attend the next AAUW Florida convention in Orlando, April 19 -21. The theme is "Turn Challenges to Celebrations!" Come to meetings now, prepared to find new ways to meet your branch's challenges so we can participate in the Celebration Parade of the Branches this spring. During this coming year, let us work to have things to celebrate at the convention. We will start by endeavoring to connect more with our community. Our first program is for that purpose. We need our membership to help bring our community into our meetings so we can better serve them. Each one of us should try to bring at least one guest to our October meeting.

February Fundraisers Coming! Get Ready!



February is our annual scholarship fundraising month. At the November general meeting, members received tickets to sell for our Annual Scholarship Fundraiser at Francis Wilson Playhouse. If you have not received your tickets yet, please call Esther Grant at 371-2725 and ask for some. They will also be distributed at the December meeting at Countryside. The tickets are \$25 per person. We hope

Voting at convention

they can be used as gifts. The play is also three days before Valentine's Day!

Our program will begin with



October 10, Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Board Meeting
St. Petersburg College Administration Bldg. Room AD145

October 11, Thursday 6:30 p.m. Evening Book Group Hostess is Candy Ryan- Book is Norah's Children by Ann O'Farrell. Ann O'Farrell is a local author and will be at the meeting. We are asking guests to come. This is our annual Potluck dinner meeting. RSVP. Candy's address: 300 Palmdale Dr., Oldsmar 34677 Phone 789 8774.

October 19, Friday 10:00 a.m. Morning Book Group Hostess Judy Lauzen. Discussing Outlander by
RSVP to Judy at 1706 Belleair Forrest Drive, Belleair RSVP 412-0011

October 20, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Social 10:00 Program Meeting
Subject: Bullying in Schools Speaker: Diane Schrier, AAUW Florida Director of Public Policy and Grade 8 Teacher
Diane will also review the amendments affecting the state of Florida

November 6, 2013

VOTE !

Editor's Note: Every member will have received this newsletter with her Directory and Membership Card this month. However, costs for publishing and mailing the newsletter are increasing. Everyone who has given me an email address will receive their newsletter directly from me via email. You may also access it from our website at <http://clearwater-fl.aauw.net/> or from AAUW-Florida website at <http://florida-aauw.org/Newsletters.htm> (choose Clearwater but also check out what other Branches are doing.) Besides lesser costs, the advantage is the color of the pictures and the web links that may be helpful to you. Even though you have an email address, you may prefer receiving your newsletter via snail mail. If so, please let me know by calling 799-6029 or emailing me at mrsgr@yahoo.com. Those of you who do not have internet access will continue to receive your newsletter in the mail. Your pictures will be black and white since that costs much less than color printing. Thank you.

BUDGET (continued from page 1)

Last year, after listening to a presentation by the director of the YWCA's Hispanic Center in Clearwater, our branch donated \$250 to their program. Women and children who are homeless are the beneficiaries of the YWCA program. Should we continue to support this program or another program like it?

What kind of programs would you like at our general meetings? Should we pay for speakers? Should we do other fundraising? Should we work with local schools or colleges?