

“BRANCHING OUT”

AAUW-Penobscot Valley Branch

October, 2015

*We're doing something different for our
October Branch Meeting!*

**Maine Women's Summit on Economic
Security**

Friday, October 16, 2015, 8:45 AM- 4:15 PM

Registration begins at 8:00 AM

Augusta Civic Center

Registration Fee: \$30; Students & Seniors: \$20

(Continental breakfast and lunch included with registration fee)

The triad of Lee Davis, Sharon Barker and Dora McCarthy has been busy notifying members about the details of this summit. For online registration and the day's schedule of speakers you can go to:

<http://www.mainewomenspolicycenter.org/mewomeneconomicsecuritysummit.html>

If you need further information about car pooling, etc., please contact Lee shirley-davis@umit.me.edu tel. 866-4785; Sharon sbarker@maine.edu tel. 945-6832; or Dora dora.mccarthy@yahoo.com tel. 852-2941.

We hope many members can attend!

**Looking ahead to our next branch meeting: Wed.,
Nov. 18, 7 PM, Margaret Chase Smith Policy
Center, UMaine campus**

Our speaker will be Andrea Irwin, Executive Director of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center. Expect an informative talk!
The November "Branching Out" will have more details.

Items of interest from our branch members -----

[Elect Her Conference – Mary Cathcart](#)

The University of Maine's second successful Elect Her conference was held Saturday, September 26, 2015, in Wells Conference Center. Approximately 40 people attended, including women students from UMaine, USM, UMF, UMA, UMA-Bangor, UMM, Colby College, and Husson University. UMaine President Susan Hunter, VP Robert Dana, and MCS Policy Center Director Laura Lindenfeld welcomed the students to campus. Mary Cathcart introduced herself and the campus Elect Her team: Kathleen McIntyre, grad student Abby Roche, and undergrad leaders Allyson Eslin and Amy Lyons.

AAUW facilitator Kristin Lang showed a brief video about why it is so important for young women to run for office, and we were honored to have the two women leaders of the Maine House of Representatives, Rep. Sara Gideon and Rep. Ellie Espling, speak and lead a discussion of the film Next Step RUN! which features Ellie Espling and three other women candidates from other states. Another highlight was the panel of women already in campus leadership: Amy Lyons, Abby Roche, and Allyson Eslin of UMaine were joined by Hannah Uhl, a Husson nursing student who was elected vice president of her student government. Rep. Michelle Dunphy of Old Town joined Rep. Espling to lead the afternoon session on "The Importance of Message," and Kristin Lang then worked with the students on writing and delivering an "elevator speech." A networking reception was held at the end of the day, where students enjoyed talking with Secretary of State Matt Dunlap, Senator Geoff Gratwick of Bangor, Orono Town Councilor Cindy Mehnert, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Director Mazie Hough; and AAUW of Maine co-presidents Kristin Sweeney and Dora McCarthy. Kristin and Dora attended the entire day and talked with students about the benefits of AAUW membership.

[From Susan Landry, liaison to AAUW-Maine](#)

Every Maine branch must contribute a member to the state [Nominating Committee](#). The committee will conduct all business by email and telephone, with no in-person meetings required. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are willing to serve in this capacity on behalf of Penobscot Valley Branch. It may be of interest that the Caribou Branch delegate is Kathy Olmsetad.

Since STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) is a hot topic seemingly everywhere, as a branch we don't want to be left in the cold! I would really like to give our state STEM coordinator the name of at least one member as a liaison from our branch; co-liaisons would be equally welcome! In the short term, you will merely relay information from the state coordinator to the branch, and vice versa as applicable. If you are interested, let me know!

It will soon be time to submit a nomination for the state Achievement Citation Award. Be thinking of women in our community whose names we may want to forward for consideration. The onus is no longer on the branch to provide extensive documentation; the state committee really does all the legwork! If you have someone in mind, tell me or any member of the leadership team so we're prepared when we receive the call for nominations.

From Lee Davis – Public Policy

A documentary on women running for office comes from Pam Maus, a Maine filmmaker:

NextStepRun! and **MPBN** this week!

Thursday, October 8 at 10:00 pm

Saturday, October 10 at 11:00 pm

Cool is seeing NextStepRun! featured in the MPBN schedule complete with a picture of Maine's Assistant House Minority Leader Ellie Espling. Representative Espling of New Gloucester is one of the four candidates in this documentary about women running for elective office during the 2014 elections.

Women occupy only 23% of the current House seats throughout the country. We hope you will watch and be inspired to run for elective office or to ask a woman to run. Often that is all it takes.