



BRANCHING OUT



JANUARY 2019

JANUARY 12 MEETING

A strictly social pot luck brunch, 10am-12pm, Dirigo Pines Inn in Orono. Please bring a dish to share and a friend. This is a good chance to bring potential new members. See you there. Snow date: January 19th

FUTURE MEETINGS

Saturday, March 16, 2019 10am-12 noon, Dirigo Pines: General topic of diversity and immigration, focusing on issues related to women. Speakers TBD.

Friday-Saturday, May 3-4, 2019: AAUW State Convention will be held in Orono, at Dirigo Pines. The State Board plans the program. The theme is “Women’s Economic Security.”

Wednesday, May 8, 2019: Dinner, 6pm, Dirigo Pines: We will invite the scholarship winners to speak.

PIZZA AND POLITICS

Pizza and Politics continues to be popular with an average of eight members in attendance at each meeting. We meet at Pat's at 5:30 and enjoy pizza and beer and exchange insights about our current political situation. We all leave the discussion feeling better about the world. Please consider attending our next meeting on January 17. Note that we are changing our meeting day to the third Thursday of the month to better accommodate members who wish to attend.

NON-TRADITIONAL WOMEN’S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

This year's three recipients for the Non-Traditional Women Scholarship are all exceptional examples of the perseverance and commitment to education that we look for. **Nancy DesJardins**, who was a recipient last year and spoke at our May meeting, was again chosen for her academic achievement (3.78 GPA) and her expanded vision for helping girls and women. She now intends to continue her education beyond a bachelor's degree so that she can work in the area of food insecurity state wide and nationally as well. She wrote, “AAUW advances equity for women and girls...and this is what I am drawn to. I want to empower women and girls so that they may have some control and power over their situations as it applies to food.” Nancy operates her own hair dressing business in Winterport.



Like Nancy, who is 54, **Melanie Berry** is a mature student. In her twenties she took college classes while working full-time. After marrying and moving back to Maine, she was able to work and take classes at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast, but dropped out to have more time with her daughter. Now at 50 and with her daughter in college, she is determined to finish her degree. Melanie wrote that she has only 40 credits left to complete, "Once completed, I will be only the second person in my family to get a college degree."... "I am so excited to complete this journey." She cites serious health issues as the major challenge in her life. Even with health insurance, she is still paying for the heart surgery she had in 2017. Melanie is a Human Resources Associate at Athena health in Belfast.

Jacqueline Blackwell, who will graduate this spring, wrote that she has had to make many personal sacrifices to get her education. While at the University of Maine at Machias, she balanced coursework with two jobs and the care of her two toddlers. Because of divorce and the loss of her job in a local credit union, she made the hard choice to let her children remain with their dad while she looked for work elsewhere. After four years working in Bangor, Jacqueline remarried, but family illness and other difficulties have made life very challenging. However she wrote in her application, "Sometimes life does not go as you plan, but you keep going anyway. Through all of this I have managed to work through my classes and pass them all with my sights set on my goal." She is currently assistant to the director at the UMaine Business School and intends to use her managerial experience after graduation.

Thanks to the Scholarship Committee: Fran, Janet and Cathleen and to Barbara Howard, who did some effective advertising of our scholarship

MAINE NATIONAL EDUCATION FOR WOMEN (NEW) LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Maine National Education for Women (NEW) Leadership Institute, sponsored by the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at the University of Maine to address the under- representation of women in politics and civic leadership, will take place May 30-June 4, 2019. NEW Leadership is an intensive six-day residential program. Participants will meet women leaders; learn about women in American politics, visit the Legislature, and develop and practice leadership skills through panel discussions, workshops, and hands-on projects.

Maine NEW Leadership is open to undergraduate students enrolled in any Maine college or university and Maine residents enrolled in out-of-state schools. Students must be at least in their first year of college when they apply. Students who will be graduating in the spring are also eligible. Maine NEW Leadership is committed to having a diverse group of participants in each class. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, there is no cost to students. Applications can be found on the MCS Policy Center's website and must be submitted no later than Friday, February 1, 2019, along with a letter of recommendation.

Dr. Amy Blackstone, Director and Professor of Sociology, invites AAUW members to recommend NEW Leadership to college women they know. More information is available from Susan D'Angelo (susan.dangelo@maine.edu).



NATIONAL AAUW INITIATIVES

The national organization continues to lobby to advance equity. Of concern is the latest attempt by the Trump Administration to amend regulations implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The Department of Education's proposed rule would significantly and detrimentally impact women's and girl's ability of access education free of sexual harassment and assault by rolling back strong and necessary protections for students and particularly for student survivors of sexual assault. If you would like help write a draft letter to the editor to urge the Department of Education to withdraw its proposed rule, please call or e-mail Susan Wishkoski at 852-2137 or wishkoskisusan@gmail.com.

2018 WAS A BANNER YEAR FOR ELECTING WOMEN!

Maine voters elected our state's first woman governor, Democrat Janet Mills, on November 6. The Maine Legislature is more female than ever before, with women holding 39.7% of seats in the House of Representatives and 34.3% in the Senate. In the House Democratic caucus, with 89 members, there are 49 women and 40 men; and GOP women hold 19.3% of the seats in their caucus. Women were elected to leadership positions also: Speaker of the House Sara Gideon and Rep. Kathleen Dillingham will lead that body, and Senator Eloise Vitelli is assistant Majority Leader in the Senate.

Nationally, women have broken records, for numbers who ran and also numbers who won, according to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers. An unprecedented number of women, 126, were elected to the 116th U.S. Congress, 106 Democrats and 20 Republicans. The November 6 election also brought more diversity among age and ethnic groups. Among the first-time elected women were the youngest (two are only 29 years old), the first among North African and Native Americans, and a record number of women of color (43).

In the U.S. Senate, 14 women were elected, bringing the total number of women up to 24, including four women of color. Several were the first women from their states elected to the Senate, including two Republicans. Two incumbent women, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and Claire McCaskill of Missouri were defeated, in part because of their position on confirming Justice Kavanaugh.

Voters elected more women governors in November, bringing the total to nine states with female governors. Besides Janet Mills in Maine, Kristi Noem of South Dakota, a Republican, became the first women elected governor in their states.

A record number of women ran for office in 2018 and, despite the fact that many ran and lost, the huge turnout of women candidates shows that there are more women in the pipeline, and that will lead to more women moving up.

FUNDRAISING INFORMATION

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to give three non-traditional women's scholarships this fall. We'll also be giving a high school scholarship this spring. As you see in this newsletter, because these scholarships are so important to the women recipients, we'll be sending a fundraising letter later this winter and again asking for your support.



Don't forget to drop your bottles and cans at Burby and Bates and tell them to credit the deposit to AAUW.

Would you like to clean house and donate to a yard sale to further benefit our branch? Depending on donations, we could highlight items like good costume jewelry, furniture – even books. So far, we have a place and it could be done more simply than the book sale. Send comments and ideas to Fran Haines fahaines@msn.com

**PENOBSCOT VALLEY AAUW
BUDGET ('18-'19) FY '19 12/18/18**

Carry forward from prior year \$3,331.49

Resources

FY '19 Dues	\$835.00
Scholarship fundraising	45.00
Total income	\$880.00
Total resources	\$4,211.49

Expenses

Dues FY'19 Nat'l	\$345.00
FY '19 state	90.00
Newsletter/directory printing	18.99
Newsletter postage	10.00
Non-traditional scholarships	1,500.00
Program costs	15.00
Total expenses	\$1,987.99

Balance \$2,223.50

MEMBERSHIP BOOKLET ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

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