Southern Highlights

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**Volume 12 Number 6** **March 2014**

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**\_\_\_\_ Shaping the World One Woman at a Time\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_**

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**Marijo Alexander and Sue Grove, Co-Presidents**

## Co-President’s Thoughts

We have had a great year so far with our regular programs and all the extra small group activities. I hope you have been taking advantage of as many as you can. We are a great group of interesting and dedicated women! We can even overcome this long, long winter!!!

The Nominating Committee is working to fill the board positions that will be open starting in July. Thank you to those who have agreed to step in and be a part of this. Serving on the board is really a lot of fun and with such a great team, no one person gets “stuck” doing everything. Most of the appointed positions are already in place as well for next year, so whoever takes over as president(s) will have a board in place.

We do need someone to step in and serve as president or co-presidents. With a team like ours, it is really easy. The board meets ahead of the regular monthly meeting, so there is no longer an extra night a month. One perk is that the branch pays a large portion of the cost to attend the National Convention, which will be held in San Diego in June 2015. Please, seriously consider taking on this really rewarding position. We need you!

Sue Grove and MarijoAlexander

Co-Presidents

## March Program

The March general meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11th at the Austin Public Library large meeting room. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 PM with the program beginning at 7 PM. This month Sandy Anderson, Community Health & Wellness Coordinator – Mayo Clinic Health System, will present on the Adverse Childhood Experiences Project of Mower Refreshed.

The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study is one of the largest investigations ever conducted to assess associations between childhood maltreatment and later-life health and well-being. The study is collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Kaiser Permanente's Health Appraisal Clinic in San Diego.

This past summer, Mower Refreshed hosted a workshop after they had the opportunity along with many other community leaders to hear Nancy Riestenberg (MN Department of Education) and Autumn Baum (MN Department of Health) share research on adverse experiences of children ages birth to eighteen and how those experiences directly impact health outcomes of the children (cont.)

(Program continued)

in their adult years. The workshop explored how Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) impact schools, the workforce, athletic teams, faith communities, social services, healthcare, etc. and then began developing next steps to address ACEs in Mower County through collaborative and sensible strategies.

Sandy Anderson will share with us the impact of this project and some of the work that the community has already put towards it.

For more information on ACES visit:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/brfss/ACE_ExecutiveSummary.pdf>

MC900151699[1]Carla & Yesenia, Program Co-Chairs

**LIBRARY USED BOOK SALE – MAY 2-3, 2014**

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| **AAUW Monthly Financial Report** | | |
| **Feb. 2014** | | |
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| **Period: 2/1/14-2/28/14** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Opening Balance:** |  | **$7,515.41** |
|  |  |  |
| **Income:** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Dues Received 2013-14 | 25.00 |  |
| Dues Received 2014-15 | 10.00 |  |
| Donation (2013 banquet) | 15.00 |  |
| House Tour | 15.00 |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Total Income:** | **$65.00** | $7,580.41 |
|  |  |  |
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| **Disbursements:** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Total Disbursements:** | **$0.00** |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Closing Balance 2/28/14** |  | **$7,580.41** |

**Morning Book Group**

Morning book group will be examining an old classic, *THE GOOD EARTH* by Pearl Buck, when we meet at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 20th at Barley's. New members are welcome!

**Evening Book Group**

On Monday, March 3rd at 7 PM we will be discussing Austin Page Turners’ selection *The Cartographer of No Man’s Land* by P.S. Duffy at the home of Sue Grove Please RSVP to Sue at [sue.grove@riverland.edu](mailto:sue.grove@riverland.edu). On April 7thrd we will be discussing *Enchantress From the Stars* by Sylvia Engdahl.

**First Friday**

First Friday Luncheon will be at Top Noodle on March 7th at 11:30 AM.  Email Dorothy at sdkrob@live.com by March 5th if you would like to attend.

**Knitting/ Handiwork Group**

We are still meeting every Saturday at 9:30 AM at the Coffee House on Main. Everyone is welcome to join even if you just want to enjoy a cup of coffee!

##### Travel Group

The March Gathering of the Travel Club will be held on Thursday, March 13, at 2:00 P.M. at the Brick House.  We encourage each person to bring ONE (YES, only one)  
favorite photo which was taken on a vacation that you have been on during your lifetime.  It may be a recent photo or one from years ago.  We will share our photos with each other while sipping a special coffee, tea, hot  
chocolate, or water along with a treat that can be purchased at the Brick House.    Please let DedaRae know via phone (433-7897 or email ([drgraber@charter.net](mailto:drgraber@charter.net)) if you plan to join us.  
We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your story.

**Great Decisions**

Great Decisions will be on Wednesday, March 5th at 1:00 pm in C108 Riverland East.

**WOMEN’S HISTORY CONTEST AT AHS**

Approximately forty AHS Honors American History students presented their projects on Thursday, Feb.27. Their topics this year concerned changes in athletic, academic and career opportunities for women brought about by the passage of Title IX.

Many thanks to those members who spent time listening to the student presentations and evaluating them. Participating were Sue Grove, Janet Gilbertson, Peggy Benzkofer, Dorothy Krob, Carolyn Bogott, DedaRae Graber, Betty Hoover, Jill Maxfield, Andrea Bobrick and Marsha Kuehne. As in other years, it was clear that this project was quite an eye opener for most students who previously had no idea of the limited opportunities available to women in the past. This realization, of course, fulfilled the basic mission of this project.

Our members were impressed with the presentation skills of the students as well as the research opportunities available to them on the internet. Because of changes in the sequence of how American History will be offered at AHS in the future, there will be no contest next year. Ms. Sanders expressed the hope that our branch would participate with her again in 2016.

The winning projects will be presented to our branch at the April Branch meeting. Don’t miss it!!! It is an inspiration to see these young people.

**AAUW Board Meeting Minutes**

**February 11, 2014**

AAUW Board met at the Austin Public Library. Secretary’s report was approved. Mary Kay reported that the Treasurer’s update is in the newsletter.

Carla gave a program update. The March 11 general meeting will be held at the library with Sandra Anderson presenting a program about Mower Refreshed and the Adverse Childhood Events Project. In April, the Women’s History Month winners will tell about their projects. The May banquet will be held at the Hormel Home.

Currently, the branch has 72 members. For new members interested in joining, the dues are half price until March 1.

Catherine Haslag, Chemistry teacher at RCC spoke to the group about starting a mentoring program for students entering projects in the science fair. She will gather more information from the schools and report back to the board.

Carolyn and Peggy gave a Women’s History Month update. The awards ceremony will be held on March 11. Also, there will be a panel of women holding a discussion on Title IX. This year, the program will not be presented to the entire Austin High School student body, but instead presented three times to smaller groups of students. Because of a curriculum change, the high school will not be involved in Women’s History Month next year. The board discussed the possibility of working with the Middle School for one year.

A nominating committee is being formed to fill open positions on the Board. Sue and Mary Kay will serve on the committee and enlist more women from the general membership.

The AAUW State Convention will be held April 11 & 12 in Minneapolis. Money is available for women that are interested in attending.

The National Convention will be held next summer (2015) in San Diego. The Board discussed ideas for our branch’s Mission Statement and will continue the discussion with the general membership.

The Library Book Sale will be held May 2 and 3. AAUW will be in charge, assisted by Friends of the Library.

A note was received from Eunys Kloempken, greeting AAUW members and giving an update on her recent illness.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Monson, Secretary

**Public Policy**

Evelyn Guentzel

APRIL 8th IS PAY EQUITY DAY!

AAUW has been at the forefront of the push to make Pay Equity a reality, particularly since our key role as Legal Advocate for Lily Ledbetter whose work had been unequally compensated compared to her male counterparts. The Fair Pay Act signed by President Obama in 2009, was preceded by the Equal Pay Act (equal pay for equal work) signed by President Kennedy in 1963. In 2012 The Paycheck Fairness Act failed in the House and Senate. The fight continues.  
  
What is AAUW doing now?  The 2013 monograph entitled *The Simple Truth about the Gender Gap* is an excellent report that explains in detail the scope of the gender gap. This report for the newsletter will highlight the main points from the monograph:  
  
\*    THE GENDER GAP IS REAL.

\*    In 2011 women earned 77 percent of what men were paid--27% less.

\*    Since the 70's the gap has narrowed because of women's educational levels and workforce participation and because wages for men have increased more slowly.

\*    Pay equity is a family issue--1/3 of households are supported by women only for a variety of reasons.

\*    The pay gap is not only about women's choices.  In 2012, AAUW reported in *Graduating to a Pay Gap*: The earnings of Men and Women One Year after College Graduation women were paid 82% of what men were paid. Some of the gap is determined by choices of college majors and jobs pursued after graduation. Teachers, for example, make less than those in other professions, but there is typically not a gender gap in basic salary. Those who work part-time or leave the workforce for a time (mostly mothers) will come back into it for less salary. In some areas mothers are less likely to be hired than single women. Left to be explained is a 7% gap between earnings of male and female graduates after one year of college and a 12% gap in earnings 10 years after graduation.

\*    Women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings by race/ethnicity: Hispanic--88% (59% of white men's earnings); African-American--90% (68% of white men's earnings); White--81% (81% of white men's earnings); Asian American--73% (88% of white men's earnings). Benchmark--white men because they are the largest group in the labor force.

\*    Age is a factor in the gender pay gap: ages 16-19, women's gap is 89%; ages 35 to 44 years, women's gap is 79%; ages 55-64 women's gap is 75%. From age 35 to retirement women are paid 75% to 80% less than women.

\*    While education levels my affect earnings favorably, the more education a women has does not guarantee a lesser pay gap: Bachelor's degree--77%; Master's degree--76%; Professional degree--72%; Doctorate--80%. Academic achievement does not translate to higher earnings.

\*    Men and women tend to work in different occupations, which can affect earnings. This report says that over the last 40 years occupational segregation by gender has diminished but has not gone away. A female computer programmer, for example may earn more than other women, but the pay gap still exist.

\*    Employer attitudes are also important--not all of them embrace the ideas of fairness for legal or ethical reasons. Lawsuits have cost some companies hundreds of millions of dollars to settle discrimination. The Pay Equity Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act have made a difference for many individuals. Transparency often does not exist in the private sector workplace, so individuals do not know and/or cannot discuss pay differences.

\*    AAUW persists in its efforts to make pay equity a reality. It requires legislation, regulation, and enforcement.

\*    EQUITY IS STILL AN ISSUE!

*Mission Statement*: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

*Vision Statement:* AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

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**Minnesota State Website:**

http://www.aauwmn.org

**Association Website:**

<http://www.aauw.org>

**Association e-mail: info@aauw.org**

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