

NEWSLETTER

February, 2016
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Fairbanks Branch

Fairbanks, Alaska



2015 - 2016 OFFICERS

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<http://fairbanks-ak.aauw.net>



Red Poll. Photo: Courtesy of Bud Marschner.

FEBRUARY MEETING

AAUW Public Policy Program: Voting Issues

Saturday, February 20

11:00 am

Noel Wien Library Conference Room

Since 2016 is an important election year, this program will focus on the enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional voting rights. This topic is one of AAUW's Public Policy issues.

We have invited the League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley to provide a speaker for this event. The meeting is open to the public, and we ask you to invite any friends who may be interested.

Our Public Policy Program advances AAUW's mission of equity for women and girls through discussion and advocacy of issues that are agreed upon by the membership. Among the policy priorities identified by members at the most recent national convention are:

- Support of a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity.
- Support of policies to achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women.
- Support to guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.

Bring a friend and become updated on current voting issues.

JANUARY LUNCHEON

The January luncheon was held at the Cookie Jar restaurant and was attended by fifteen Branch members of whom six were new or returning. It gave us time to learn about each other and about some of the opportunities available for members of our Fairbanks branch. Menus were varied, but friendship was shared by all.



SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHING

Applications for our two scholarships for women returning to education are due to Barbara VanFlein by March 1st. Information is available on our Facebook page and on our website (<http://fairbanks-ak.aauw.net>). Please share the word with women who might be interested in applying.

BY-LAWS REVISION

National AAUW has sent out a mandate for all Branches to rewrite their by-laws according to a given format. This included large sections in blue ink that are required to be in our branch by-laws and leaving room in the black ink sections for our own unique Branch by-laws. This seemingly formidable task was completed by our President-elect, Gretchen Murphy, and she has done a spectacular job.

The good news is that nothing in our Branch by-laws has changed in content, only in putting it into different articles and sections according to the given format. A few minor additional ones were added as suggested by National. The “bad” news is that they are now twice as long with lots of things pertaining to us as National partners.

You will be sent a copy of our existing by-laws and our newly proposed ones at least 30 days prior to our annual meeting in March. This will include a description of any changes or additions. You will have time to look them over prior to their introduction at the meeting. Hopefully we will be able to pass them at that time.

BRANCH DUES INCREASE

Our Branch dues have remained \$11 for a very long time...around fifteen years? Our house tour funds our local scholarships and our donations to National fellowship programs, but local expenses including directories, newsletters, building rentals, memorials, etc must come from our Branch membership dues. Many of these costs have increased with inflation. In recent years memberships have decreased (although they are again rising slowly thanks to some very active recruiters). Your Board of Directors has unanimously voted to seek a raise in dues from \$11 to \$16 per year. This will make the combined National and Branch dues \$65 instead of \$60. This must be approved by our general membership and will be on the agenda for our annual membership meeting in March.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Our slate of officers for 2016-17 will be elected at our annual meeting. Positions available are President elect, Vice President Program, Vice President Membership, and Treasurer. We also elect three persons to the Nominating Committee. If you are interested in running for any of these positions please contact Aldean Kilbourn, Carol Schlentner, or Margaret Soden. See their contact information in your directory. We welcome new members to participate. It would be great to have multiple members running for each office.

MEMBERSHIP

Our branch is counting over fifty members thanks to the diligent efforts of our Membership Veeps and our Web Manager. We have four new members, Leslie McCartney, Shirley Liss, Ana Fochesatto, and Firmin Murakami. Firmin is writing his memoirs and found our writers' group so much fun that he has joined AAUW. It is nice to have masculine membership again.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

A special recognition certificate was sent from National AAUW to honor Vera Alexander with an Honorary Life Membership for her fifty years as an active member in AAUW. Congratulations, Vera, and thank you for your support to us, especially as our current treasurer.



An Honorary Life membership was made to Vera Alexander from National AAUW.

BOOK GROUP

Date/Time: February 8 (Monday) 1:30 pm
Title/Author: **I'd Like to Apologize to Every Teacher I Ever Had** /by Tony Danza [non-fiction, 2013]
Location: Home of Jodi Gouwens, Linck Estates, 924 Kellum, Unit #304

Date/Time: March 14 (Monday) 1:30 pm
Title/Author: **The Signature of All Things: A Novel** / by Elizabeth Gilbert [fiction, 2013]
Location: To be determined later

Date/Time: April 11 (Monday) 1:30 pm
Title/Author: **The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution**/ by Walter Isaacson [non-fiction, 2014]
Location: To be determined later

Call Jodi Gouwens for further info (474-9144).

WRITERS GROUP

Date: February 18 (Thursday)
Time: 12 noon
Location: Pike's Landing on Airport Road

Wanting to record those memoirs? Aspiring writers, or all who like to jot down their thoughts, are welcome at the writers group. Bring something you wrote to share, a few reflective thoughts or a poem, essay, letter, or short story. Length is not important nor is any level of proficiency. We like to eat and share! If you do not care for lunch, they have great coffee etc and you will be just as welcome.

Call Rose Levno for further info (488-7227).

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Rita Osborne returned from the Wedding Show in Seattle. She traveled there with her son's fiancée to make plans for their upcoming July wedding. What a great way to make plans and have a good time!

Diane Knudsen, our joint member in Tigard OR, is moving into a new condominium there. With a new grandbaby in Fairbanks she will be visiting us soon.

Ritchie and Mike Musick are attending the Gem and Mineral shows in Tucson and Quartzite AZ. Their Volkswagen Westie is their home again for a few weeks until they fly back north. They hope to do some hiking and exploring in the desert while there.

Terry Terrell and husband are enjoying the sunshine and desert in Utah where they spend winters near the Zion area. They will return in the spring.

Etsuko Kimura Pederson will be releasing a new CD of her piano recordings. Watch for it! We are honored to have such a talented young woman in our Branch.



SCHOLARSHIPS

The Fairbanks Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is offering **two (2) \$1,000 scholarships** to local women with plans to upgrade their education or to pursue educational projects.

The awards will be based primarily on merit.

Each applicant should write a letter stating her educational background, why she wants to continue her education, her educational goals, her needs, and how she plans to use her education in the future.

If the applicant wishes to pursue an educational project instead of taking formal classes, she should describe the project and how she plans to use the award money to complete it.

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY: MARCH 1, 2016

Letters should be emailed in PDF format to:

FairbanksAK.AAUW@gmail.com

Or mailed to:

AAUW Fairbanks Branch Scholarship Committee

Barbara Van Flein, Chair

P.O. Box 82345

Fairbanks, AK 99708-2345

The American Association of University Women is a nationwide organization open to every person who holds an associate or baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

For information regarding these scholarships, please contact:

fairbanks-ak.aauw.net/scholarships