



empowering women since 1881

The Anacortes Agent

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Summertime Fun!

An annual favorite is our LAF barbeque. This year it will be held at the home of Bunny and Lonny Heiner. It's not too early to R.S.V.P for this event, to be held on Saturday, August 9 at 4:00 P.M. The cost is **\$25.00 per person** and members are also asked to bring a side dish to share. Beverages and barbequed chicken and salmon will be provided by the Heiners and the Dawsons. We hope to raise at least \$500 so that we can honor a member of our branch through National. Please R.S.V.P. to Bunny Heiner (293-4120). You may bring your check the night of the barbeque or mail your donation to Post Office Box 503, Anacortes, 98221.



It is important to make your check out as follows: AAUW Funds.

On the memo line it must read Anacortes LAF 3999 to be credited to our branch.

Board Retreat Highlights

On Thursday, June 12, the Board met at the home of Letty Hafer to plan for the upcoming year. Here are some of the highlights of that meeting:

- In addition to our Spring Fundraiser, there will be an April program meeting
- Dues will be raised for 2015-2016 due to rising operational costs; a late fee will be added when members pay after June 30 to cover the additional paperwork needed to reinstate a member
- Nelle Jacobson will be our new By-Law Chair
- Mary Rytand will head the AAUW Funds Committee
- Debbie Claus volunteered to chair the Calling Committee
- We will host a booth at the Farmers' Market on August 30 and September 6
- We are considering a booth at the 2015 Shipwrecked Days as an additional fundraiser
- The board approved a new membership brochure that more concisely describes the benefits and responsibilities of joining
- We set a goal to have more social activities

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Our branch **directory** is printed

annually and passed out at the September meeting. Lonny Heiner has graciously agreed to take photos of all **NEW MEMBERS** and anyone else who feels their current photo is outdated. Please contact Lonny (293-4120) before August 18 to arrange an appointment. Our directory is funded by selling

ads to local businesses. **DIRECTORY ADS** are \$25 for a business card and \$50 for a ½ page ad. If we all sold an ad to someone with whom we do business, we would have money for another scholarship! Contact Bonnie Underwood at 293-4075 to make arrangements.

This summer you are invited
to a monthly

OPEN HOUSE

Drop in on Thursday, July 17, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.



at the home of Bonnie Underwood
2319 21st Street, Anacortes

for coffee, cookies, and conversation.



Meet others and help us decide on
the kind of interest groups that would benefit our branch.

CALL IF YOU NEED DIRECTIONS ~ 293-4075

Get to know your fellow members by being our next **Hospitality Chairperson**. This position is ideally shared between two people to insure that someone is always available to get the coffee started. It involves arriving about 30 minutes prior to a meeting, making coffee, overseeing supplies, and greeting people. Clean up following the meeting takes about fifteen minutes. This is the perfect position for a new member who would like to be more involved. The current chair will make up a check list and be there to answer any questions. Should we fail to find someone, we will most likely stop serving coffee.



Letty Hafer (7/17)

Laura Jane Viverette (7/22)

JoAnn Hannon (7/28)

Judi Slajer (7/29)

Happy 33 Years, Legal Advocacy Fund! Thanks for Making a Case for Women

In 1978, five female professors brought a class action lawsuit against their employer, Cornell University, citing violations of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Claiming they were denied tenure and passed over for less-qualified candidates, the named plaintiffs were Donna Zahorik, Jacqueline Livingston, Antonia Glasse, Charlotte Farris, and Judith Long-Laws. They numbered five, but they represented a larger group of 11 female professors and coaches who had officially submitted sex discrimination complaints against the university. The lengthy case remained in court for several years and received much national publicity. In 1984, the Cornell 11, as they were called, received a settlement payment from the university amounting to \$250,000. Nearly 30 years after Zahorik, et al. v. Cornell University was settled, the case still occupies an irrevocable place in AAUW's institutional memory.

When the case first came to court, members of the AAUW Ithaca (NY) Branch were concerned that legal costs and loss of professional status and income would be insurmountable for the plaintiffs. The branch established a support and fundraising group called the Friends of the Cornell 11. The group included some Ithaca (NY) Branch members and also former AAUW Presidents Marjorie Bell Chambers and Mary Grefe. Recognizing AAUW's commitment to equity for women in academia, the branch reached out to the national office to help raise and handle funds to support the case. At the time, however, the budget did not have a line item for this type of work. So in June 1981, the association sprang into action at the AAUW centennial convention held in Boston.

There, in a perfect example of branch and national teamwork, AAUW created the Legal Advocacy Fund to support cases of sex discrimination in academia. It was initially created as a two-year pilot program, and the Cornell 11 became its first plaintiffs. Katherine (Kappy) Eaton served as the first president of the fund. She wrote on the need for the fund in the July/August 1982 issue of AAUW's journal *Graduate Woman*: "Until very recently, most sex discrimination claims against higher education were unsuccessful. ... Courts have been reluctant to interfere in academic decisions. Litigation is extremely expensive and time consuming and may be detrimental to the future careers of the women involved." In total, the LAF donated \$22,500 to the Cornell 11 but didn't stop there; the fund continues to support scores of similar sex discrimination lawsuits in the workplace today.

Today, a professional person in an institution of higher learning who feels that she has been a victim of sex discrimination in her field or at her institution will be directed toward a lawyer who is a specialist in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. There will be a local AAUW support group, part of a national network of university women and the LAF, who will help her emotionally, financially and legally.

Today, we thank AAUW leaders for their vision in realizing the need for the Legal Advocacy Fund. We also thank Donna Zahorik, Jacqueline Livingston, and all of the Cornell 11 plaintiffs who paved the way for so many others fighting gender discrimination. We honor their commitment and bravery.

Why I joined AAUW...

I became a member of AAUW shortly after moving to Anacortes in 1993 primarily to meet people. I wasn't terribly active at first, but did enjoy the programs. At some point I was invited to be Hospitality Co-Chair along with another new member. Soon after that I became active in producing the newsletter. Little by little I committed to more committee work. I think the position that really made the most difference in those early years was becoming a member of the scholarship committee. Until you witness first-hand the excellent candidates, you may not really connect with the mission of our branch. From there I went on to hold most board positions, including president. Once you find yourself on the board, it's hard to leave it. Is it extra work? Yes! But honestly, that's where I have had the opportunity to get to know some of the amazing women we have in our branch and be a part of the changes that have happened within our organization. Although I was working six days a week back then, by adding just a few more volunteer hours a month to my schedule, I found my life enriched in so many ways. I really encourage each of you to find a way to do more than just attend monthly meetings and show up for the Scholarship event. You will find yourself much more enthusiastic about AAUW and make some wonderful friends, too.

bonnie