![STEM-logo4-980x523[1]]()**** 

**Anacortes Agent**

Volume 35 Number 7

February 2018

**March 8 at Library Meeting Room**

The featured speaker at our March STEM program meeting is Lt. Caitlynn Pollini, a former MH 60 Sierra helicopter pilot, now a Training Officer on T6 Bravos at the Whidbey Island NAS. She will discuss her career experiences and STEM career opportunities for women. The meeting begins with hospitality at 6:45 in the Library Community Room. Join us as we award $1,500 scholarships to three Anacortes High School senior girls who intend STEM majors in college and recognize four eighth grade girls with $100 awards for their math and science achievements.

**"Dream Big, travel small"**

**** Our guest speaker for the scholarship fundraiser this year is Lara Dunning. Her work can be found at Experience Anacortes, Bainbridge Island Magazine, Northwest Travel & Life Magazine, RealFoodTraveler.com, WaggonerGuide.com and Whidbey Camano Islands. She also owns the travel site Small Town Washington & Beyond (http://smalltownwashington.com/), where she shares her passion for small town travel. Lara has an MFA in Creative Writing from the Northwest Institute of Literary Arts, writes young adult novels, nonfiction essays. We look forward to discovering more about her projects and passion for travel at our annual tea. Many thanks to Robin Pestarino for volunteering to chair the event. Please consider selling more than your required 3 tickets!

**COMING SOON...**

**Feminism and Popular Culture**

Featuring guest speaker, Amy Peloff, University of Washington professor

WHEN: 7:00pm, Thursday, April 12, 2018

WHERE: Anacortes Library Meeting Room – Invite a friend!

This presentation is part of Humanities Washington’s Speakers Bureau program, in which cultural experts discuss history, politics, music, philosophy, and everything in between at venues around the state. Humanities Washington sparks conversation and critical thinking using story as a catalyst, nurturing thoughtful and engaged communities across our state. It is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. We are requested by the Bureau to have at least 30 people attend. Who will you invite?

AAUW Board Meeting Minutes – Jan. 26, at 7:00 p.m. Westminster Presbyterian Church, Classroom 3

Present: Tanna Baker, Rosette Dawson, Bunny Heiner, Linda Hendrick, Nelle Jacobson, Megan Taylor, Bonnie Underwood

The meeting was called to order by Tanna at 7:00 p.m. No financial report was given, as Linda had not yet received the bank statements. She offered a correction on the January report. The total figure should be $17,857.87. Linda inquired about the deadline to file tax documents and was instructed to contact AAUW national.

Program: Tanna reported that she has been in touch with the Humanities of Washington Speaker Bureau. She heard an excellent speaker in Langley on Feminism and Pop Culture. The board agreed to pay up to $100 to meet her travel expenses. Bunny offered to house a speaker.

It was recommended that we put a sign on the Library meeting room directing the public to our presentation at the Senior Center on February 8. It was not clear if the panel of three Title IX speakers would expect a stipend, but Linda will bring the checkbook.

The board discussed the importance of locating and making a list of all our meeting supplies including hospitality, posters, banners, historical binders, name tags, fundraising tea supplies, jingle bells, and the sound system.

Tanna has purchased a Santa suit for the Jingle Bell Dash and has graciously offered to make it an in-kind donation.

No reports were given by Membership, By-Laws, Communication, Hospitality, Publicity, Scholarship, or Special Events.

Terri watched the AAUW website tutorial on websites and has updated our scholarship application on the Anacortes site.

Scholarship Event: It was noted that we need a notebook which specifically details all the tasks for this event. Bonnie volunteered to put something together for the next meeting. Bunny will contact Gina and ask her to be Kitchen Coordinator. Nelle will contact previous scholarship recipients to speak.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Underwood, Secretary



Rebecca Carroll 3/4

Beth Meenaghan 3/9

Vivian Kolhoff 3/11

Rosette Dawson 3/23

JoAnn Satzinger 3/29

DRAFT – not yet approved

General Meeting Minutes – February 8, 7:00 p.m. Anacortes Senior Activity Center

Present: Tanna Baker, Jane Crannell, Rosette Dawson, Barbara Gaffney, Bunny Heiner, Linda Hendrick, Judy Higgins, Nelle Jacobson, Ginny Kluth, Vivian Kolhoff, Meredith Machin, Karen Maughan, Robin Pestarino, JoAnn Satzinger, Megan Taylor, Bonnie Underwood, Laura Jane Viverette,

Tanna opened the meeting at 7:07p.m. and welcomed the audience. She introduced Cynthia Simonsen, Kathy Reim, and David Forsythe as our Title lX panel. The speakers addressed how issues have changed since Title lX legislation was initially passed and what their roles are as advocates.

The general business meeting was called to order by Robin at 8:10 p.m. The agenda included the following announcements:

* State Convention in Spokane – 4/27-29
* Washington bills supported by AAUW-WA
* Upcoming Tea – tickets available, chair needed
* Island Hospital Foundation Gala on 4/28

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Underwood, Secretary

![Travel_Program_fi[1]]()Every little bit helps!

Tea Tickets and Posters will be available at the March meeting. If you can’t make it, ask a friend to pick up your tickets and save us postage. Remaining tickets will be mailed by March 10.

**AAUW-WA SUPPORTS THESE BILLS IN THE WASHINGTON LEGISLATURE, 2018**

HB 1505/SB 5140 was passed out of the House and is headed to the Senate for the fourth year in a row. These bills would update the existing state equal pay act to address disparities, **forbid employer discrimination and retaliation practices against workers who inquire about pay or reveal their pay to others.**

Why we support this bill: the respectful treatment of women at work means they must have information to contest unfair pay practices; women are breadwinners; time’s up on this one!

**SB 5996 prohibits an employer from requiring an employee, as a condition of employment, to sign a nondisclosure agreement or other document that prevents the employee from disclosing sexual harassment or sexual assault occurring in the workplace. SB 6313 protects an employee’s right to file a complaint or cause of action for sexual harassment or sexual assault** in mandatory employment contracts and agreements. **SB 6471** requires the human rights commission to develop **model policies** to create workplaces that are safe from sexual harassment.

Why we support these bills: employees’ rights to contest sexual harassment must be ensured; employees must be aware of their responsibilities and how to meet them.

SB 6102 **would ensure that Washingtonians can access contraceptives through their insurance without cost sharing and that any federal interim regulations do not excuse employers and health plans in Washington from providing contraception to their employees.**

HB 6219 **requires a health plan to provide coverage for contraceptive drugs, devices, and other products, voluntary sterilization procedures**, and certain necessary consultations, examinations, procedures, and medical services, and if it provides coverage for maternity care of services, to also provide **substantially equivalent coverage to permit the abortion of a pregnancy.**

Why we support these bills: women need contraception to plan their work and family lives; balance their income needs with family size; and to claim the freedom to pursue all their goals. Religious freedom does not confer on employers any right to impose their views on others, including employers or insurance companies.

HB 1440/SB5210 establishes the Washington **student education loan bill of rights.** Requires the student achievement council **to designate a student education loan ombudsperson within the office of student financial assistance to provide timely assistance to a student education loan borrower** with a student education loan. Requires the state institute for public policy to conduct a **study on the impact and cost-effectiveness of establishing a student loan authority to refinance existing student loans from the proceeds of tax-exempt bonds.**

HB 1169 establishes a **student loan debt hotline and website to receive assistance from debt counselors. Repeals multiple provisions allowing suspension of a professional license due to student loan default.** Regulates interest rates.

HB 1439 protects students from unfair business practices by regulating the institutions of higher education, including for-profit institutions and private vocational schools. Gives authority to deny, revoke, or suspend the authorization of a degree-granting institution found to be in violation of chapter 28B.85 RCW. Makes it an **unfair business practice** for degree-granting institutions and private vocational schools **to provide misleading or deceptive testimonials and endorsements.**

HB 2720 establishes the student opportunity, assistance, and relief act. Declares an intent to **repeal the statues regarding professional license or certificate suspension caused by student debt. Regulates interest rates and bank account and wage garnishments.** House Higher Education Committee.

Why we support these bills: **women hold 2/3 of the student debt in this country, but take longer than men to pay it back because they are paid less. This debt impairs their ability to start families, save for homes or retirement, and accrue home equity. For some, especially those who did not finish degrees or were defrauded by for-profit institutions, this can lead to high levels of general debt and poverty.** It also **harms small businesses** because so much personal income goes to service debts and not to engage more fully in a consumer economy.