

December
2009

President's Message

Did the Grinch steal the Paycheck Fairness Act? I am only partly joking when I ask this question.

Tonight, after looking at AAUW's latest Take Action alert – a call to urge our Senator's to move forward on the Paycheck Fairness Act – I decided to do a little research. I wanted to see exactly where that bill was in the Senate, whether it was on the calendar yet, and how things were looking. My first stop was Google News. Telling enough, the first few pages of results were all about pay equity legislation in Canada, Australia, and Great Britain. Nothing on the United States. I finally came across an article, a feature on Rose DeLauro, the Connecticut representative who has been working on this bill for years. I also came across a smattering of articles about a talk Gloria Steinem did months ago in which she mentioned the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Why the relative silence? The bill was passed by the House in July of 2008. It was received by the Senate that August. It has been parked ever since in the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

The bill has strong backers like AAUW, National Women's Law Center, the WAGE Project, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the AFL-CIO, to name a few. But it

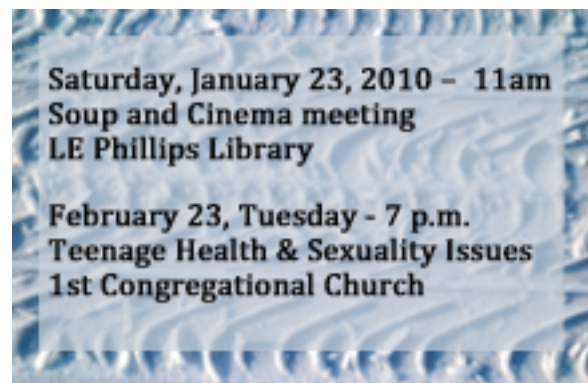
also has a long list of formidable opponents: the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Society for Human Resource Management, and the American Hotel and Lodging Association were groups that particularly made me wince.

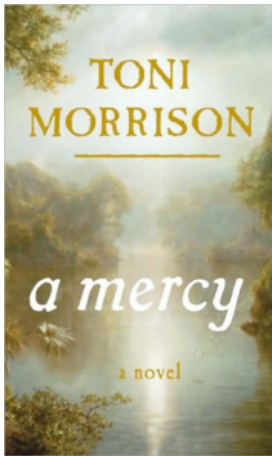
I certainly don't want to suggest that we abandon hope. Just the opposite. Now I understand why we must keep responding to those Action Alerts – even when it seems like we've been alerted to the same issue twenty times. It's us versus the Grinch.

There are a few months to go before Pay Equity Day, but the Board is looking for innovative ways to engage and educate college students on the issue of pay inequity. Let me know if you have ideas.

See you in the New Year!

-Kate Hinnant, kate.hinnant@gmail.com





Book group

The AAUW Book Group meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 at members' homes. Upcoming book selections and dates are: January 5 at JJ Henricksen's -- *A Mercy* by Toni Morrison;

February 2 at Chris Kondrasuk's/Jenn Von Klein-- *Garlic and Sapphires* by Ruth Reichl; March 2 at Karen Haugen's-- poetry month; April 6 at Ginny Jordan's -- *Peony in Love* by Lisa See (from the current Adelante list) ; May 4 our classic, and June 1 -- *The Lace Reader* by Brunonia Barry.

This year we are asking you to please contact the hostess to let her know that you will be attending. This makes planning much easier! We have also been sharing the author/review information for each meeting and I think that has worked well. Thanks to all who have volunteered for the group.

Chris Kondrasuk
835-1683



Excepting February alone

We've got an exciting speaker lined up for February. Deb Tackman, a health education teacher at North High School, has won numerous awards both for her teaching the curriculum she has designed.

Tackman tackles such difficult issues as drinking, suicide, and sexually explicit behavior on the Internet using an inquiry-based approach.

Tackman will be speaking to us about Teenage Health & Sexuality.

February 23, Tuesday - 7 p.m.
1st Congregational Church



Public Policy

One President visited an elementary school in Madison. Four Eau Claire branch members headed south for their first experience as lobbyists. Fifty-five AAUW members from Wisconsin converged on the State Capitol to learn about the issues and meet with their legislators.

Lobby Day Haiku

Marble halls echo
women lobby
make a difference

- Mary Hayden

The State Legislative session was almost over, but the time was right for our input on issues that are important to AAUW. Preparation for the meetings at the Capitol included an action-packed morning listening to speakers on topics such as campaign finance reform, women's health care issues, educational funding reform, and the Healthy Youth Act (the sex ed bill). The only impact that President Obama's stop in Madison had on our plans was that some of our speakers were wooed away to his event.

Karen Pope, Margot Bouchard, Chris Kondrasuk, and I were pleased to meet with three of our area legislators and speak with the aide of the forth—so we declared the day a success. We thanked Pat Kreitlow, Jeff Smith, and Kristin Dexter for their work and discussed AAUW's policies. Kathleen Vinehout's aide promised to convey our concerns about the importance of passing the Healthy Youth Act, which mandates comprehensive, medically-accurate, and age appropriate sex education in schools. Objections to the bill are directed at the provision that will prohibit the teaching of abstinence-only, without including comprehensive and medically accurate information. She stated that Senator Vinehout had been receiving considerable negative comment on the bill.

The Assembly passed AB 458, the Healthy Youth Act, the day after we were in Madison. When the legislative session resumes in January, your Eau Claire lobbyists ask that you take action and contact your Senators on SB 324. For more information, use these websites.

<http://www.wiseye.org/>

<http://www.raisingwiwomensvoices.org/>

<http://www.wiawh.org/>

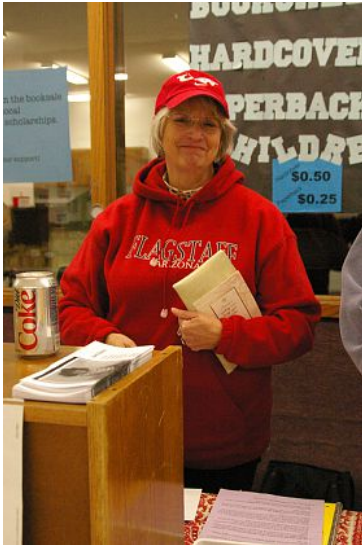
<http://www.sfnwisconsin.org/>

<http://www.wasb.org/cms/>

Thank you to everyone who attended our November 12 branch meeting—and asked all those good questions! Kristin Dexter's update on the status of health care reform as it relates to us in Wisconsin was timely and so important.

Mary Hayden
Sarah Harder
Public Policy Co-Chairs
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715-832-0445





BOOK SALE ROUNDUP

Many years ago, some very wise AAUW members said, "Let's have a used book sale and make some money." What an idea! It's grown over the decades into an annual event drawing customers from the surrounding area and even from Minnesota and Illinois.

We were fortunate to receive some large, good quality donations this year from individuals

and from area libraries, in addition to the many bags and boxes dropped off at local grocery stores and picked up from homes around town. The Helland's big garage was filled to the brim with so many boxes that they didn't all fit in the 26-foot U-Haul truck. We went from hundreds of packed boxes on Thursday morning to empty tables on Sunday afternoon. It might not have been a "cast of thousands," but it certainly took an army of dozens to make it all happen.



Like a well-oiled machine, the troops kicked it into high gear to make this one of the most profitable sales ever. Our preliminary figures show we took in over \$12,100 with a net profit of over \$9,500. We didn't raise any of our prices this year. People continue to come for the great bargains.

So many members have dedicated their time and resources every year to make the sale a success. We owe a big thanks to the Book Sale Committees who organized all of the key efforts:

- Publicity: Rita Houser, Becky Mauch, Jeanne Claridge, and Ronadin Carey. Again, this year Kate Hinnant designed a super poster to advertise our sale.
- Book Barrel Set-up and collection: Pam Hicks, Dawn Bosold and all of the members who picked up at our local grocery stores.
- Sorting: JJ Hendrickson and Margot Bouchard
- Set-up: Kim Wellnitz, Mary Hayden, Karen Pope, Cleo Powers, Margo Bouchard (and family)
- Volunteer coordination: Kim Wellnitz (who also volunteered to back up the big truck to the garage)

Thanks to all of you who found time to help with sorting, even for a few hours, during those sometimes rainy September nights. Mini candy bars and Mark's cookies are the secret weapons in the battle to keep digging into the boxes and bring order out of chaos. We are so fortunate to have people like Lois and Mark Helland who are willing to give up their garage space so we have a place for our sorting operation and someone like Cleo Powers who makes sure we're not packing the donations that don't pass the "sniff" test.

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In addition to our many hard-working members, we had some excellent UW-Eau Claire students assist with set-up and tear-down at the Expo Center:

- Matt Loen and the UW-Eau Claire Men's Ice Hockey Team who showed up at 6 a.m. to load and unload all those heavy boxes in record time.



- Mike DeRosa and Burger King gave us a great discount on a big breakfast for the hockey players before they hit the road back to 8 a.m. classes.
- The members of the English Department's Sigma Tau Delta organization who worked tirelessly to get all the books neatly organized on the tables before the sale.
- Robin Baker the Women's Fastpitch Softball team who helped with teardown on Sunday afternoon.

We are indebted again to Mark Patterson of Crossroads Books store for his expert assistance in helping us price rare and special books. We certainly wish we could have sold every book. But, of course, we had some leftover when we closed up on Sunday. A crew from the Hope Gospel Mission picked them up on Tuesday to sell at their store.

About 30 members staffed the sale or contributed in some capacity. We couldn't do it without everyone pitching in to make it a success.

Ready for 2010? Mark your calendars: October 8, 9, and 10. If you have any suggestions for improvements, let us know. Also, **we'll be looking for sale co-chairs and chairs for the publicity and sorting committees.**

Connie Russell & Barb Ries, Co-Chairs

Soup & Cinema 2010



Saturday, January
23rd at 11:00 am
L.E. Phillips Public
Library

Delicious homemade
soups & the award-
winning film
*Patsy Mink: Ahead of
the Majority*



AAUW 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..*

AAUW MISSION - *AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.*

FOLIAGE - *Newsletter of the American Association of University Women - Eau Claire Branch*
Send or call items of interest to Kate Hinnant, kate.binnant@gmail.com, 831-0182, 220 Roosevelt Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701



January 23, Saturday - 11 a.m.
Soup & Cinema Meeting
L.E. Phillips Library/Eau Claire Room

February 23, Tuesday - 7 p.m.
Teenage Health & Sexuality Issues
1st Congregational Church

220 Roosevelt Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54701