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**Presidents' Message**

By Kathy Scott - President, AAUW of Idaho

The AAUW National Convention is held every two years, with the event rotating from coast to coast and north and south. This year's convention was held in San Diego, CA. While the setting and accommodations were great, the days were long and mostly spent inside.

I arrived on Wednesday evening so I could attend a social event for state presidents. While we are a small state, we had one of the best growth rates. Thursday was filled with all-day workshops for state presidents and funds chairs. Julie Custer, our funds chair, and I both felt the time was well spent. Besides leadership training and numerous ideas for how to make our state organization more effective and relevant, the opportunity to visit with other state presidents was invaluable. We all seem to be struggling with the same issues so these sessions become problem-solving opportunities.

On Thursday the Idaho delegation was all present: Lynn Brooks, CDA Branch president, Linda Leeuwrik, Pocatello Branch president, Maribeth Alder, Gem State Bulletin Editor, Kitty Geidl, State Secretary, Gayle Wilde, Public Policy Vice-President, and Sylvia Chariton, President-Elect, Boise Area Branch. With Julie Custer and myself present, we were a delegation of eight! That's a 4% representation for our state--a very good showing.

We quickly reviewed the convention schedule and divided up the various workshops to maximize our opportunities for new ideas. We also had the opportunity to listen to many stimulating speakers who reinforce the importance of AAUW in trailblazing opportunities for young girls and women. My personal favorites were Catherine



**Catherine Lhamon, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, US Dept. of Education, addresses the AAUW National Convention.**

Lhamon, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, and Noorjahan Akbar, co-founder, Young Women for Change. I wish we could bring them to Idaho so that each of you could hear the powerful messages they shared regarding gender equality, in the United States and in Afghanistan.

We wrapped up our days at convention with a meeting with Lisa Maatz, AAUW Vice President of Government Relations. Lisa will visit Idaho in February. We have already planned a very aggressive schedule for Lisa. Details will be provided in future emails, but please plan to attend one or more of Lisa's events. She is a powerful public policy advocate for AAUW, and I guarantee she will inspire you!

# AAUW of Idaho Summer Board

September 19 – 20, 2015

McCall City Hall, 216 E. Park St., McCall, Idaho

Each year the state holds two board meetings where representatives from the different branches meet to share ideas, accomplishments, and problem-solve issues faced by their branches.

This year's summer board will be held in McCall from noon September 19th through noon September 20th. This meeting will include leadership training, lobby corps planning, and the business of the state. These meetings are open to any member; you are encouraged to attend. If you are traveling from outside the McCall area, contact Kathy Scott at [kascott1088@msn.com](mailto:kascott1088@msn.com). She is facilitating housing for attendees who need it.

Kathy will host beer and wine cocktails at her McCall home, 270 Moonridge, on Friday evening, September 18, at 5:30 p.m. for any members who are in McCall Friday. The group will then go out to dinner somewhere in McCall. The official board meeting commences Saturday, September 19, at noon at the McCall City Hall. Saturday's meeting will adjourn at 5 p.m.

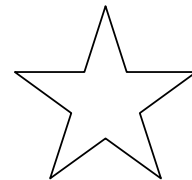
Saturday dinner will be held at the home of Gayle Wilde, Rivers Bend Condominiums #3, on Mather Road in McCall starting at 6 p.m. There will be a nominal fee for the dinner to cover expenses. Entertainment Saturday evening will be a special Women in History program.

The Sunday business session will begin at 9 a.m. at the McCall City Hall and will adjourn by noon.

**Please RSVP for the following by September 5 to [kascott1088@msn.com](mailto:kascott1088@msn.com)**

- Friday September 18 cocktails at 5:30 p.m. at Kathy Scott's for early arrivers
- Saturday and Sunday board meeting with Friday and/or Saturday night housing requested
- Saturday and Sunday board meeting, but no housing needed
- Saturday night dinner at Gayle Wilde's condo

## AAUW of Idaho Stars



Currently Idaho has two members serving on AAUW national teams. Kitty Geidl, AAUW of Idaho recording secretary, serves as AAUW Fundraising Committee member and Linda Leeuwrik, Pocatello branch president, is AAUW National College/University Relations Committee co-chair.

We congratulate these members on these committee appointments, and we thank them for their service to AAUW.

## Coeur d'Alene Branch Sponsors Little Free Library

The Coeur d'Alene community now has a "Little Free Library," thanks to the efforts of the Coeur d'Alene branch and its president Lynn Brooks and her husband David. He built and installed the structure and Lynn provided the painting. Located near the Episcopal Church parking lot, it contains both adult and children's books. Users are asked to return or replace the books and branch members are tasked with the duty of keeping an eye on things and replenishing books as needed. According to branch reports, since its opening in June the library has had a brisk business. Congratulations to the Coeur d'Alene branch for a great project.



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