

**Celebrate Vermont’s Pay Equity Law
and
Welcome the Vermont Commission on Women**

When: May 13 at 7:00 pm
Where: Bennington Free Library
Hostesses: Norma McShane, Jeanne Rogers,
and Suzanne Kirkpatrick

One year ago this month, Governor Phil Scott signed into law a piece of legislation that moved Vermont a step further down the road to pay equity. In this month’s program we celebrate a stubborn victory that will have an enduring impact on the economic lives of Vermont’s workers, particularly women. Act 126, by prohibiting employers from asking job



Above: Governor Phil Scott signing pay equity legislation into law on May 11, 2018. Cary Brown, VCW Executive Director, stands directly behind him. (Photo: Lilly Talbert)

candidates for their salary history, breaks a pattern of chaining future salaries—and eventually, retirement benefits—to often low-balled past salaries.

We are proud of our branch’s collaboration with national AAUW and the Vermont Commission on Women (VCW) to press legislative committees to advance the bill into law; we are using this one-year anniversary to applaud our success—and to welcome Cary Brown, VCW’s Executive Director, to Bennington. Cary will speak about VCW’s year-round work to improve the lives of girls and women in our state, how they learn about needs from communities statewide, and their priorities for the year ahead.

The Vermont Commission on Women, the only entity in our state that explicitly considers the broad implications of state policy and budget priorities for women, is an independent, nonpartisan state commission governed by 16 Commissioners and an Advisory Council, which includes an AAUW representative from our Brattleboro branch. Women in Vermont still face inequities in earnings, employment, safety, leadership, and many other areas. VCW takes the lead in confronting those inequities.

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Our speaker for this month's meeting is **Cary Brown**, who served two terms as a VCW commissioner before becoming its Executive Director in 2012. Brown has worked as the director of Girls' Programs for Vermont Works for Women, a nonprofit organization supporting education, training and careers in

nontraditional fields for women and girls and has directed the Women in Technology Project, a national award-winning summer technology camp for girls at Vermont Technical College. She earned her bachelor's degree from Haverford College, and a Masters of Public Administration degree from Norwich University.

AAUW Calendar

Monday, May 6, 2019 at 12:30 pm

First Mondays Program at the Federated Church of East Arlington. Sue Andrews, Executive Director, of GBICS (Greater Bennington Interfaith Council Services, Inc) will tell us how the programs have evolved since their inception. Please RSVP to Jan Day at mday2837@comcast.net or (802) 442-929.

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 1:00 pm

Scribble Sisters Meeting at the home of Kathy Wagenknecht. Information: Suzanne Kirkpatrick at (cell) 314-496-5628 or suzykirkpa@gmail.com.

Monday, May 13 at 7:00 pm

Public Branch Meeting at the Bennington Free Library to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the signing into law of a milestone in our efforts to secure gender pay equity in Vermont. After a toast to this legislative victory and the role our branch played, the meeting will be turned over to Cary Brown, Executive Director of the statewide Vermont Commission on Women, in a rare appearance in our corner of the state.

Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 12:00 noon

Book Group Meeting at the home of Mary Feidner. A potluck lunch will be followed by a reading of two one-act plays: Riders to the Sea by John Millington Synge and Trifles by Susan Glaspell. A discussion will follow each play reading. Access to scripts will be emailed to current or new book group members. Contact Mary Feidner if you plan to attend: Mary Feidner at 442-7845 or mfeidner@comcast.net

Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 1:00 pm

Scribble Sisters Meeting at the home of Judy Kniiffin. Information: Suzanne Kirkpatrick at (cell) 314-496-5628 or suzykirkpa@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 15 at 12:00 noon

Annual Branch Picnic at the Old First Church Barn. Additional information will be in the June newsletter.

Wednesday, June 19 at 12 noon

Book Group Meeting at the Martha Canfield Library in Arlington. Hillbilly Elegy by J. D. Vance. Information: Mary Feidner at 442-7845 or mfeidner@comcast.net.

Summer Reading:

Book Group will read *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*, a book of essays and pictures edited by Paul Hawken. Members are asked to get it and read it gradually over the summer and plan to discuss it when we meet in September.

AAUW Has a Plan for Closing the Gender Pay Gap



Strengthen federal and state pay equity laws.



Encourage employers to set fair pay practices.



Train women in Salary Negotiation.

President's Column

by Ruth Botzow

Every two years all members of AAUW have a voice in shaping AAUW's future by participating in the 2019 AAUW National Election. National board members will be elected and amendments to public policy priorities determined. In past years there have been by-law amendments, but there are none this year. The public policy priorities will provide the framework for the important advocacy work AAUW does at the national, state, and local levels as AAUW strives to reach the bold strategic goal of achieving equity for women and girls. There is ambitious work to do towards AAUW's mission to expand AAUW's Work Smart salary negotiation program, support key legislation, and partner with employers to implement fair-pay practices. Voting is now open. It's your AAUW, and your voice counts.

You must be registered on the AAUW site to vote. If you have not previously registered, click the login option on the top bar. Once the login screen opens, click on Create Account and follow the instructions. Voting closes at 6pm ET on Tuesday, May 14, 2019. You must also have your Member ID and Voter PIN number. These last two items were emailed to you on April 1 and came from Kim Churches, AAUW. If you have questions or have any difficulty registering, feel free to contact AAUW at connect@aauw.org or 800.326.2289, Monday–Friday, from 10am to 5pm ET.

Information on AAUW board member responsibilities and qualifications is available on the website (as above) or <https://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/> and there are links to the candidates with individual statements, visions and resumes. You may also leave a comment or ask a question, and read submitted comments, questions and candidate responses.

It is very important to vote because AAUW needs a quorum for the vote to be valid.

Our branch will also elect and appoint board members at our June 15 annual meeting (the same day as the picnic). See the slate of members proposed for election and appointment below. Nominations for board members may also be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee. I hope all of you will turn out in June to support your 2019-2020 board members.

Nominations for Leadership Positions (term ending June 2021):

Below is a list of members who have been nominated for positions that are available. Members of the Program Committee (Julie Mackaman, Sheila Mullineux, Margaret Howland, and Dawn Rodrigues) will be selecting a chair at their first meeting.)

President—Kathy Wageknecht

Secretary—Julie Mackaman

Treasurer—Norma McShane

Membership Chair—Claudia Dalton

Newsletter Co-Editors—Gudrun Hutchins, Dawn Rodrigues

Theater Fund Raiser Co-Chair—Mary Feidner

Hospitality Chair—Suzanne Kirkpatrick

Member at Large—Beth Hardesty