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AAUW—NORTHERN OCEAN COUNTY BRANCH

May-June 2019

AAUW MISSION: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. **VISION:** Equity for all. **VALUES:** Non-partisan. Fact-based. Integrity, Inclusion and Intersectionality.

Thanks for attending the meeting and for writing this great summary article!

AAUW of New Jersey

AAUW-NJ STATE MEETING IN A.C.

On Sunday, April 7th and Monday, April 8th, 2019, Alice and I attended the AAUW Annual Meeting in Atlantic City, New Jersey, at the Resorts Casino Hotel. The theme was “Women Leaders, Today, Tomorrow and the Future.

Opening remarks were presented by Karen Brown, President, AAUW of New Jersey. She shared her “Mission Statement” with us which was threefold and included Education and Training, Economic Security, and Leadership. She emphasized that AAUW is “Non-Partisan and Political”, meaning we do not support any political party but we are supportive of political issues.

We had the opportunity to meet Kimberly Churches, the new CEO at AAUW who was a dynamic speaker and emphasized “Three Big Things” to “Advance Economic Security”. They were: 1. To improve public policy 2. To work with employers to improve practice and policy and 3. To train how to “Work Smart”. The goal is to achieve pay equity by 2030. Chris Smith, (R), along with seven other Republicans supported the “Pay Check Fairness Act” not for women, but for family. Kimberly states “this is the year of the woman” and suggests we all send thank-you letters for his support. This “makes economic sense” and puts women in the driver’s seat for their own financial future.



Three other things we could do would be: 1. To sign on Start Smart (goal: 10 million women in 5 years). CocaCola will issue a grant if we can sign on 100,000 by August, 2019. 2. Get involved with policy initiatives and 3. Contribute to AAUW’s Greatest Needs Fund”. Other issues Kim will address is to improve the website and make it user friendly, cutting expenses and focusing on cash, making the National Convention virtual in the future, offering Work Smart/Start Smart to other woman organizations and banning the use of salary history. She suggested if you have Paternal Leave and are entitled, please use it and everyone should sign-on Start Smart today and do the program on-line.

We had two panel discussions featuring women from Burlington and Atlantic Counties who were elected in 2018 to historically male-held offices. The topics discussed were “What it Means When Women Win” and “Women Represent”. The facilitator asked each participant questions which helped the audience learn how they can help them succeed in representing us. Alice and I felt the students who were present from Ocean County College, Georgian Court University and Brookdale College benefited by seeing the accomplishments of these women in the surrounding communities which included Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Council-woman, and Freeholders.

The “Woman as Agent of Change 2019” award was presented to Jeannine LaRue who was inspiring, passionate, powerful, challenging, a lobbyist and a Public affairs executive in New Jersey. Jeannine challenges her listeners to step beyond self-pity and experience the futures they can’t even imagine.



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AAUW-NJ STATE MEETING IN A.C. continued

Several AAUW NJ projects were presented. Alice and I presented our Girl Scout BFF program; Carolyn Bassett- STAR; Sandy Wahl-LWV Collaborations; Claudine Keenan- STEM; and Jane Niemeyer-Start Smart. During the meeting of branch presidents, it was agreed that each branch would share a list of programs they are using.

The Installation of new AAUW-NJ Board was conducted and the meeting adjourned after the gift baskets were awarded. Sussex County branch received ours. Darn!

We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and the many insights from other branches.



Judith