



American Association of University Women  
Capital Branch  
November 5, 2015  
Capital Branch Meeting

<b>Members Present</b>		
Jane Johnson	Caroline Punches	Eleanor Phillips
Mary Castro-Wilson	Louise Seidel	Betsy Strohl
JoAnn Carpenter	Carolyn Kellogg	Nancy Stiles
Jill Doremus	Barbara LeBlanc	Holly Van Valkenburgh
Nancy Downey	Marty Ann McGarry	Jennifer Verive
Shirley Hammon	Mary Moffitt	Betty Young
Barbara Jepson	Linda Sekiguchi	Peggy Wozniak
Diane Koditek	Maureen Smith	

President Jane Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:50 P.M. The meeting was an Autumn Pot Luck and members provided soup, salad, and desserts to share. The venue for this meeting was the Silver State Charter School on Fairview Drive in Carson City. President Johnson indicated we would begin with our speaker for the evening as she had a long drive back to her home in Sparks.

Nancy Stiles, Vice-President for Programs introduced Debora McDermed who has served as Director of Community Engagement for the Bridges to a Thriving Nevada Initiative. The topic for the evening was "The Poverty Culture." The basis of the discussion was "Advancing Bridges" or the Power of the Bridges Model for ending poverty. Dr. McDermed indicated that the poverty gap between rich and poor has increased markedly in the US during the last 30 years and that we now are behind only Mexico and Turkey for the largest gap between these economic groups. Single women make up the largest number of the impoverished. She further indicated that 84% of wealth is inherited which leads to generational poverty for those outside the middle class. She further described the limited means the poor have to get out of poverty. The most effective means to end personal poverty is by forming contacts with those in the middle class who can help. She called this "Social Capital". This program is of special interest to AAUW members as one of the major goals of the organization is to help all women achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Once the program was concluded, President Jane Johnson introduced guests, Mary Piper, Sharon Urban, and Kathy Pickington and asked members to welcome them. President Johnson also introduced new members, Nancy Downey, Jill Doremus, and Louise Seidel.

Shirley Hammon reported that the pecans have arrived and brought some to the meeting. She indicated she has filled most of the volunteer spots for sales of pecans at the Carson City High School craft fair on Nov. 20-21, but asked for help with one shift, 9-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21. There has already been approximately \$1,000 in sales and Ms. Hammon believes this will be a very good year for sales. She credited Barbara LeBlanc with preparing a form for tracking sales if anyone would like to take a quantity of them to sell individually. Barbara indicated you can email her and she will send a copy of the form.

Vice President Nancy Stiles discussed the branch's Feast of Chocolate fundraiser. Ms. Stiles indicated the silent auction and themed baskets last year were very lucrative and asked for help with seed money for items to fill the baskets. Since the event will be held on February 13, 2016, she said items to be included in the raffle should be brought to the next two meetings. Information about exactly what types of items will work in the themed baskets will be included in next month's newsletter.

Jennifer Verive spoke about the continued effort to engage young women at Western Nevada College in an AAUW branch for college students. She said there will be a movie and pizza night. Member Holly Van Valkenburgh will reprise her role as Anne Martin in a program that will deal with the suffragette movement. This topic was selected to inform young women about the necessity of getting your voice heard by voting.

President Jane Johnson indicated that the Reno branch of AAUW gave her some raffle tickets for one of their activities and stated she would sell them to interested members after the meeting.

Membership Vice President, Caroline Panches described the AAUW orientation program that she provided to eight of our new members and one prospective member. The program dealt with the history, principles, and goals of AAUW. Ms. Panches also mentioned a Sierra Nevada Forums upcoming program to be held at the Brewery Arts Center on Nov. 17 about extreme weather.

Carolyn Kellogg mentioned a Gourmet Group outing on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. The group will meet at Nothing to It in Reno for a class on how to prepare some interesting Thanksgiving side dishes.

Linda Sekiguchi reminded members of the Great Decisions group. She indicated the meeting will take place on Nov. 16 and the topic will be Africa.

President Jane Johnson indicated she would be providing more information at meetings about the variety of programs supported financially by AAUW that meet the major organizational goal of helping women become self-sufficient. At this meeting she discussed the National

Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). This conference provides a transformative experience for attendees and prepares them to be the next generation of leaders. These conferences have a thirty year legacy and have hosted thousands of young women. It is a two and one-half day conference made up of workshops covering a myriad of topics. These students can meet role models and make connections that could lead to the “social capital” described by the evening speaker.

Holly Van Valkenburgh mentioned the new Day Book Group. The schedule for meetings will be in the newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
JoAnn Carpenter  
Secretary