

Highlights of the Kansas AAUW 2015 Annual Meeting

“*Seeds of Growth*” was the theme of the **Kansas 2015 Annual Meeting** at Butler Community College in El Dorado on April 11. It energized 31 participants from six branches (El Dorado, Manhattan, Newton, Salina, Shawnee Mission, and Wichita) with inspiring keynote speakers, a goal-focused board report by State President Nancy Bolsen, installation of officers, and opportunities to share ideas. Butler President Kimberly Krull provided opening remarks and stressed the importance of “making a difference in peoples lives.”



Butler President Krull

Catherine Linaweaver’s inspirational talk, “**From Teacher to Warden: the Career Change of One Woman,**” provided insight on how a petite woman from Girard, Kansas and a Pittsburg State education graduate advanced quickly through the male-dominated federal prison system to become the warden at the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) in Chicago and MCC New York. In 2012 she was named Warden of the Year. Catherine retired in 2014 after 24 years of service in the Federal Bureau of Prisons. She experienced adversity early in her career, but continued to work hard and focus on her desired career path. Women have made many strides, but often “work themselves out” and take on too much responsibility. Research shows that women in senior positions usually outscore men, but often avoid high risk/high visibility assignments. Her recommendation for success was to “get out of your comfort zone”.

Cordy Galligan, AAUW VP of Marketing and Business Development, gave a very informative talk, “**The Power of One AAUW,**” centered on the idea that we work at different levels - branches, regions, states, and nationally, - but we are all one! Cordy stressed using AAUW’s extensive resources, such as Programs in a Box, videos, PowerPoint presentations, online learning modules, and fact sheets.

Mission-based programming is an excellent way to engage and interest women in AAUW. Over 1100 watch parties on “Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women’s Success in Engineering and



Retired Warden Linaweaver, President Bolsen & Marketing VP Galligan

Computing” were held on March 26. She encouraged contacting her or the Branch Program Resource Committee

at: program@aauw.org, galliganc@aauw.org, or connect@aauw.org. She noted that the anticipated growth area for AAUW is in student organizations.

An easy fundraising idea for branches is hosting AAUW-collaborated Princeton Reviews. It has dozens of valuable turnkey programs that help students prepare for college or graduate school applications. They’ll provide the content and speaker, and the branch provides the location.

The newly elected state officers were Teresa Sullivan, President-Elect; Louise Ehmke, VP Programs; and Carolyn Dwire, Treasurer.



Connie Noble, Nancy Bolsen and Barbara Gatewood

Our branch displayed notecards featuring Seoyon Kim’s artwork at the silent auction and sales table to raise donations for guest dinners at branch meetings. The Manhattan Branch was awarded a **Kansas Star Branch Certificate** in recognition of our accomplishments made in 2014-15 to advance the mission of AAUW. The six-page report is available on our website: <http://manhattan.ks.aauw.net/events/awards/>.

Mark your calendar for the Kansas AAUW 2016 Annual Meeting next April, hosted by the Newton Branch. It is a great opportunity to network with AAUW colleagues, “electrify” the branch with new ideas, and leave feeling a deeper commitment to the **Mission of AAUW to advance the equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research**. It is the premiere women’s organization!