

AAUW PT Public Policy – 2018 Lobby Day Report

Seven AAUW members from AAUWPT attended the AAUW Washington Lobby Day on Monday, January 29th. Jeanie Glaspell, Anne Virtue, Eileen Baratuci, Cheryl Bentley, Katherine Buchanan, Dale Spears, and Susie Pool Moses trekked to Olympia to meet with our 2 Representatives and one Senator.

Dale and Susie could not get off the freeway exit when they got to Olympia due to police action, so they arrived early at Casa Mia for a glass of wine! Many AAUW lobby day participants from around the state gathered in the evening at Casa Mia for a delicious dinner.



1- Judy Prince, President of AAUW WA, addresses participants



2- Bob Ferguson

Monday morning we heard from our

Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson. He stated that in Washington State we have 800,000 student borrowers with over \$24 Billion dollars in debt. He is very interested in the Student Loan Bill of Rights (HB 1440/SB6029) which is now being debated in Olympia. Senate bill 6029 establishes base line standards for student loans and establishes a Washington student loan bill of rights and a study on the impact and cost-effectiveness of establishing authority to refinance existing student loans from the proceeds of tax exempt bonds. His office has produced a Student Loan Survival Guide which you can find at <http://www.atg.wa.gov/studentloanresources>.

The Attorney General's office employs 1000 people around the state, and 600 are attorneys. He has teams who work on different issues; one team works on communication issues, and another team works on the lawsuits against the present Trump Administration. They have filed 19 lawsuits against the Administration, 6 of which they have won so far.



3- Pam Crone, AAUW WA lobbyist

Pam Crone, our AAUW Legislative Consultant in Olympia talked about the relevant bills coming soon out of committee. Over 1800 bills have been introduced in this short 60 day session, and the pace is very quick. She talked about the reproductive rights bills, the Hobby Lobby bill, and the Equal Pay bill. AAUW does not want any "preemptive clauses" in the bills which would limit state and local lawmakers from making changes. A preemption clause would "preclude anything better" according to Pam. She encouraged all of us to join the AAUW "Action Alert" option which allows us to email our representatives and senators in Washington, D.C. Go to <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

Tana Senn, Representative from the 41st District, talked with us about the Equal Pay Opportunity Act (HB 1506/SB5140). She is a sponsor of the House bill. The Act has been the same since 1943! This bill would update the existing state equal pay act

to address disparities, employer discrimination, and retaliation practices, and reflect the equal status of all workers in the state. Go to www.leg.wa.gov to research how the bills are doing in Olympia.

After lunch we met with Representative Steve Tharinger and Molly Sullivan, Senate Aide to Senator Kevin Van De Wege. Representative Mike Chapman was unable to meet with us due to meeting commitments. As mentioned earlier, this is a very short session, so everyone is running at a fast pace to get bills passed. Rep Tharinger is Chair of the State Budget committee and they did pass a \$4.2 Billion dollar budget, \$1.5 Billion of that going to K-12 education.



4- Tana Senn

If you would like to know more about what's happening in Washington State, then sign up for *AAUW in the Statehouse*, a monthly update on issues. Go to <http://www.aauw.org/resource/aauw-in-the-statehouse/> to find the resources. You can contact our WA State legislators at www.leg.wa.gov.

