

AAUW's Top Policy Leader Lisa Maatz Returns to Idaho September, 2016

Boise Area Branch members welcomed AAUW's top policy advisor, **Lisa Maatz**, back to Boise in September, where she spoke about Gender and Politics at the 2016 **Andrus Center for Public Policy Women and Leadership Conference**. View conference [welcome and opening remarks here](#).

Maatz is featured on Idaho Public Television's *Dialogue* program, [Gender and Politics: Lisa Maatz](#), which aired October 14, 2016.

AAUW Idaho State Convention in Coeur d'Alene, August 12–14, 2016

Special thanks goes to the AAUW Coeur d'Alene Branch team, led by Branch President Lynn Brooks, that worked so hard to arrange accommodations and fun activities to complement the many informative and useful activities around convention.

The convention was held on the lovely campus of North Idaho College. Ellie Hill, an AAUW national board member, attended to update the group on AAUW issues, and AAUW Training and Program Manager Erica Stout provided training. AAUW Boise Area Branch President Sylvia Chariton conducted a training session on Title IX, which was open to teachers in the Coeur d'Alene area. Sylvia recently presented this training at an Idaho State Department of Education conference in Sun Valley.

AAUW's VP of Government Relations Lisa Maatz in Idaho February 11-17, 2016

Lisa Maatz began her Idaho visit in Boise with a full schedule of activities. Maatz's dynamic presentation, *Advocacy Can Change the Course of Public Policy*, was well attended. Esteemed Idaho reporter Betsy Z. Russell moderated the Q&A session. Thanks to everyone who welcomed Maatz to Idaho.

Visit our [News page](#) to view video of her *Advocacy* presentation on February 11 and to link to a podcast of her remarks at the Andrus Center for Public Policy's "Politics for Lunch" on February 12. From Boise, she traveled to McCall to check in with the Long Valley Branch, then went north to visit with members in Moscow, Orofino and Coeur d'Alene. Thank you, Lisa, for coming to Idaho to share your wisdom and expertise with our members and supporters.

- AAUW's December 9, 2016 issue of *Washington Update* featured a **State Spotlight on Idaho: The Idaho Statesman published a letter to the editor** from AAUW of Idaho co-presidents Julie Custer and Kathy Scott. Their letter featured a reaction to the 2016 election, which stated, "Our disappointment with the outcome of the presidential election is not because of the political party that President-elect Donald Trump represents. Our disappointment is with the positions he has taken on many issues that could adversely affect women, families, and underrepresented minorities." Custer and Scott highlighted AAUW of Idaho's dedication to advocacy dating back to 1909. Their letter makes clear that AAUW Idaho's Statehouse Lobby Corps will continue to vigorously support legislation that improves the lives of women and families.

(NOTE: This opinion piece was subsequently published in newspapers in Coeur d'Alene, McCall, Sandpoint, Sun Valley, Twin Falls and Spokane, WA. Read the entire [quest opinion piece here.](#))

We are delighted to announce good news regarding our longtime AAUW Coeur d'Alene Branch member, **Tina Gospodnetich**. For over 30 years, **Soroptimist International of Coeur d'Alene** has honored the accomplishments of local CDA women who have made contributions to the community. Tina Gospodnetich is receiving the 2016 Women of Distinction award for years of volunteer service and most recently, her work with the CDA Youth Marimba Band. **Bravo Tina!**

Marimba Band. **Bravo Tina!**

[The Actual State of My State](#)

Every year governors across the country offer up their assessments of the state of their respective states. While each one undoubtedly claims, "The state of our state is strong," it is unfortunately less common for governors to examine the issues that AAUW members prioritize. In 2016, of the 42 governors who gave speeches or wrote addresses, only two governors discussed equal pay. Check out where your state ranks nationally, and learn about the existing state laws.

April 12, 2016, was Equal Pay Day. AAUW Idaho Vice President of Public Policy Gayle Wilde's opinion piece was published in the *Idaho Statesman*. Wilde urged legislators to ensure fair pay for working women at the state level, as Congress has yet to pass the comprehensive Paycheck Fairness Act. Read the pdf version of the op-ed [here](#).

Winter Board 2016 was held February 12-15 in Boise. Read the post-meeting report, the [Gem State Brief](#), for highlights. Further, you may read the Winter Board 2016 issue of the [Gem State Bulletin](#) for pre-meeting details about Boise's annual state board meeting and events around Lisa Maatz's visit to Idaho.