



Bulletin

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From the President's Desk

Dear AAUW Members,

It's autumn again! A long, hot summer has passed and we're preparing for the chill and coziness fall and winter bring. This season seems so exciting with holidays and families gathering. Our family looks forward to evenings of reading good books, soup for dinner and freshly baked bread...mmmmm!

During the months of October and November it is important that we remember our responsibility to vote. It has been noted that at least six million Americans didn't vote in the last election because they missed a registration deadline or didn't know how to register. In 2012, AAUW has become a partner of the National Voter Registration Day program to do our part to make sure that no one is left out this election year...especially those young women who have yet to make voting a habit.

AAUW branches which have not participated in voter registration activities could still participate in efforts to provide transportation to voters needing a ride to the polls. We can continue in our efforts to "get out the vote and be heard"!

I'm looking forward to seeing you at one of your branch meetings this year!

***Bonnie Tandoc, KS AAUW
President***

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Our AAUW "family" gathered together as five states met in Oklahoma City this past June at the 2012 AAUW Five-State Conference "AAUW Stepping up to the Future." With incredible speakers and time together we realize again the value of collaboration of the like-minded leaders and appreciate the impact of our synergistic connection when we work together toward change for the future.

It was a busy summer for Kansas City! They celebrated writing by supporting local (Kansas City, MO) authors and hosting a luncheon and Thorpe Menn Literary Excellence Award presentation at the Kansas City Public Library. I, for one, wish I'd been able to attend.

Salina AAUW celebrated 88 years of work toward equity and education for women at their Founder's Day event. Gretchen Morgenstern presented a history of the Salina Branch and Louise Ehmke thrilled us all with a keynote address which outlined her family's recent campaign against discrimination.



Dr. Bonnie Tandoc
KS AAUW President



AAUW SAVE THE DATE
Annual KS AAUW
Meeting
April 13, 2013

AAUW LEADERSHIP CORPS

Mid-States Regional Conference Report

An enthusiastic group of AAUW members participated in the Mid-States Regional Conference on June 8-9 in Oklahoma City. They heard Executive Director Linda Hallman reflect on AAUW's current initiatives and plans for the future. Speaker Mark Elam presented the disturbing picture of human trafficking in the mid-west; his statistics and personal case histories prompted many in attendance to propose action from their AAUW states and branches.

AAUW members from seven mid-west states were in attendance. National vice president Patricia Fae Ho and directors-at-large Sandy Camillo (MO) and Kathy Anthon (TX) also participated. Welcomes were received from Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin, AAUW National President Carolyn Garfein, and Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett. Breakout sessions included those on AAUW finances and development, coalition building, public policy, energizing your branch, grant writing, using AAUW electronic resources, and the new research report Crossing the Line, among others.

On Friday evening, the film *Miss Representation* was shown. This film identifies the media areas where women are still portrayed inappropriately and negatively. On Saturday afternoon, attendees were treated to a Turkish Coffee Party complete with authentic clothing and Turkish food. Saturday evening, many attendees enjoyed a conference-sponsored cruise on the Oklahoma River.

Almost \$1,300 was realized for Equity Funds on the silent auction; an Eleanor Roosevelt Run/Walk/Sleep-In netted almost \$1,000.

Participants left the conference with renewed energy to advocate for AAUW's mission of equity for women and girls. Plans are already underway for the conference in 2014; watch for details soon.

As always, contact me at sbreeze@mindspring.com if you have questions.



Shirley Breeze
Leadership Corps Member

Shirley Breeze, Leadership Corps Member

AAUW CALENDAR

2012

- November 6 Election Day
- November 15 Online Proposal and Comment Period Ends
- November 15 Eleanor Roosevelt Application Deadline
- November 30 New Deadline--Special Rates 130th Anniversary Campaign
- November 30 Deadline for Renewal of Membership
- December 4-February 3 Convention Registration Best Value Dates
- December 31 Member Get a Member Phase I Ends

2013

Celebration of 125 Years of Awarding Fellowships/Grants

- January 1-March 15 Half Year Dues
- January 15 Candidate Videos on AAUW Website
- February 1 Registration Opens for NCCWSL
- February 14 One Billion Rising National March
- March *Outlook* Voter Information Edition Published
- March 8 International Women's Day
- April 1 Date to Request Paper Ballot
- April 13 KS AAUW Annual Meeting
- April 15 AAUW Election Voting Begins
- April 16 Equal Pay Day
- May 2 Paper Ballot Deadline Request
- May 17 Deadline for Submission of Paper Ballot
- May 30-June 1 NCCWSL, University of Maryland,
- June 10 AAUW Election Voting Closes
- June 9-12 AAUW Convention, New Orleans
- June 30 New Deadline for Special Dues Grads



The Public Policy Report



Louise Ehmke
Public Policy Chair

In Kansas, the AAUW has always been about education, voter registration, all the issues that benefit women and girls which in turn supports the whole family. Personally though this upcoming Kansas vote causes a person of thought and commitment to humanities, education, rights for women to pause. I encourage all of you to carefully listen and read as you go through this election season. The headlines I just read indicate our Governor is going to do all he can to reverse Roe vs. Wade. How are we, as thinking responsible women and men, going to respond to the Governor's endeavor to take away our freedom of our own health care choices? Please be sure you carefully vote the Senate and House races looking for the candidate who thinks independently and, at least, will consider that you can make your own decision.

White House Announces New Commitments to Advance Women Worldwide

On October 1, the White House announced the launch of *Equal Futures*, a partnership between the United States and 12 countries to help empower and advance women and girls. Each country has made its own commitments to achieve this goal. The United States has pledged to expand opportunities for women in business, leadership, and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields and to promote economic security for domestic violence survivors. Partners will share updates and progress at the World Bank Spring Meetings in April 2013. AAUW strongly supports promoting and strengthening science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, especially for girls and other underrepresented populations. Such efforts will help increase America's competitiveness by reducing gender barriers that deter women from pursuing academic and career goals in these fields.

Merrimack College Resolves Title IX Violations

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) found that Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts had violated Title IX by denying female students equal opportunity in athletic programs and scholarships. According to its agreement with OCR, the college will create six new female athletics teams, provide additional scholarships to female athletes, and appoint a new Title IX committee to monitor the college's progress on reversing the discrimination.

AAUW strongly supports Title IX and opposes any efforts that would weaken its effectiveness. AAUW celebrated the 40th anniversary of Title IX in June with a reception on Capitol Hill and the release of a coalition report *Title IX at 40: Working to Ensure Gender Equity in Education*, which cites AAUW research and offers recommendations for how the Department of Education should guide Title IX school coordinators to improve enforcement.

Huffington Post Publishes Op-Ed by AAUW Executive Director

The Huffington Post Women's section featured an op-ed by AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman in which she discusses the power of the female vote to decide the election and hold candidates accountable for their promises. Hallman discusses the AAUW Action Fund's *It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard Campaign* to get women to the polls and the importance of the VoteHER Toolkit to educate women on the issues that most affect them and their families. She stresses the need for the millennial generation to vote because of their sheer numbers (matching that of baby boomers) and the magnitude of the issues that affect them this election. Be sure you and your friends and family are voting this November by checking your voter registration and state-specific ID laws and educating yourself about the issues.

Contact me: vlehmk@st-tel.net or 620-397-2350 or just address something to Louise Ehmke, Healy, KS 67850.

Louise Carlson Ehmke
Public Policy Chair



Artist Among Us

Ramona Newsom, our newly elected Vice President of Membership and Salina Branch President, was honored by performing at the Gospel Music Workshop of America Convention in July, an international organization with more than 75,000 members in more than 185 chapters in the U.S., United Kingdom, the Caribbean, Europe and Asia. The convention was in Nashville, TN. You can view the inspirational song, *When Jesus Stops By Your House*, at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_gxi2dxhMM. You'll be clapping along as the song starts!



Supreme Court Considers Reopening Health Care Reform Lawsuit

(more from Louise Ehmke, Public Policy Chair)

The Supreme Court has asked the Department of Justice to weigh in on whether it should review a previously dismissed lawsuit concerning the Affordable Care Act. Liberty University's lawsuit against the Obama administration claimed that the requirement for every individual to buy insurance or pay a penalty violated the university's religious beliefs. A lower court dismissed Liberty's case citing the Anti-Injunction Act, which prohibits someone from suing against a tax that has not yet been paid. However, in its ruling this summer, the Supreme Court said the Anti-Injunction Act does not apply to the individual mandate. Liberty University is now asking for its case to be reconsidered. The Department of Justice has 30 days to respond to the Supreme Court's request for comment. **AAUW believes that everyone is entitled to health care that is high-quality, affordable, and easily accessible.** Although not perfect by any stretch, the Affordable Care Act includes many reforms that will improve the collective health of the American people. As the law is implemented, it will bring real benefits to American women.



Ramona Newsom
Vice President of Membership

Ahoy AAU W Kansas

Members! Ah, the sights and sounds of autumn! The trees are beginning to change colors... there is the crunch of fallen leaves gathered together in a pile for children (and some adults) to jump into and spread all over the ground once again. What an exciting time! Unfortunately, there are other sights and sounds that are not as joyful. The sight of an AAUW branch as it withers away... the groans of the discouraged “faithful few” as they struggle to keep things going from month to month, and year to year.

Everyone joins AAUW for various reasons. Although we may support the mission, and believe in the initiatives, there are also very personal reasons why we commit to this worthy organization. For me, it is the stand against domestic violence and sexual harassment. For others the issue of pay equity or Title IX accomplishments may be most important. As we seek to add new members to our branches, just remember to share what AAUW means to you. Then ask what is important to them and show the relationship to the AAUW Mission of Advancing Equity for Women and Girls through Advocacy, Education, Philanthropy, and Research. You may then discover that others will want to walk this walk with you.

Not totally sure where to start? Don't reinvent the wheel; utilize the tools the National office has in place. My two favorite membership campaigns are “Shape the Future” and “Give-a-Grad a Gift.” I believe these options will work for branches of any size or composition.



Shape the Future: A new member joining at a public event, or a monthly meeting where the public is invited, will receive 50 percent off their national dues, amounting to **\$24.50**. This is a special offer to help branches gain new members and student affiliates. For every two new member referrals submitted, the local branch will receive one free membership for new, renewing or lapsed members.

Give-a-Grad a Gift: This program is very special to me because I was a recipient. The uniqueness of this program is that AAUW members can give a recent grad – **a friend, daughter, son, granddaughter, grandson, niece, or nephew** – a free AAUW membership within two years of graduation. **There is no cost to you or them!** Your grad will receive a one-year, member-at-large membership (a \$49 value).

With either campaign, individuals can join a branch at any time but will be responsible for paying branch and state dues. Still, how awesome is that? New members can pay 50% of their national dues; join your local branch **and** the state organization, all for **LESS** than the regular price of national dues! Or recent graduates can enjoy **FREE** national dues, local branch and state membership for **LESS than half** the regular price of national dues! It's a win-win-win situation. ☺ If you have questions about these or other membership programs, feel free to contact me via email – rvnewsom@yahoo.com or give me a call at 785-342-2149. You can also find this information on the national website at www.aauw.org!

The **SS Membership** is about to set sail for 2012-2013. Do you have your ticket? Are you packed and ready for an incredible journey? If the answer is yes, then prepare yourself for a year of individual and collective branch growth! So, until we reach our next port of call...bon voyage!

Ramona Newsom
Vice President of Membership



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2012-2013

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For more on "It's My Vote..." go to
www.aauwaction.org/index.php/my-vote/



Salina Branch President Celebration - Front row from left: Past Presidents Verna Mae Johnson, Donna Hansen, Berniece Kearns, and Erma Lee Nuss. Back row: Current President Ramona Newsom, Past Presidents Pam Weeks and Connie Achterberg, KS AAUW President Bonnie Tandoc, Past Presidents Gretchen Morgenstern and Hilma Demaree.

SALINA AAUW BRANCH NOW 88 Years Old!

On Sunday afternoon, September 30, the AAUW Salina (KS) Branch celebrated eighty-eight years of history. Salina (KS) Branch Membership Vice President Dolores Hill welcomed guests.

The group began with fifty-one charter members in September, 1924, and was originally known as the Salina Branch of the American Association of University Women. (AAUW now has men and women who support women's equity as members.)

Gretchen Morgenstern reminisced as the daughter of a fifty-year charter member (Mildred Morgenstern) and a fifty-year member herself, who is also a past AAUW of Kansas officer and a past Salina (KS) Branch president. Salina (KS) Branch's current President Ramona Newsom told guests, "The purpose of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research."

Part of that advocacy on the national level is the current "It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard" encouraging voter registration and education. Guest Don Merriman, Saline County Clerk, used a voting machine for a mock election for president of the United States and for a series of policy questions.

Program Vice President Marie Johnson introduced AAUW of Kansas Public Policy and Get-Out-the-Vote Chair Louise Ehmke who spoke about equity issues facing Kansas women.

Also speaking was AAUW of Kansas President Bonnie Tandoc, who traveled to Salina with three guests. Several Salina guests were also in attendance including Janice Norlin, Sudana Wilkins, Marty Ryan, and Basil Frazier.

Current members include four women who have been a member of the branch for fifty years or more. They are Honorary Life Members Connie Achterberg, Barbara Strowig Burns, Margaret Kelly, and Erma Lee Nuss. Achterberg and Nuss were in attendance at the September 30 event.

Seven of the fifty-one past presidents through the years were present. They are Verna Mae Johnson, Pam Weeks, Donna Hansen, Connie Achterberg, Gretchen Morgenstern, Berniece Kearns, Hilma Demaree, and Erma Lee Nuss.

President Newsom adjourned the meeting by saying, "Thank you to the women who had the vision and courage to establish the Salina Branch. We are eternally grateful, for today we are truly "Standing on These Shoulders!"



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AAUW - Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

AAUW Action Fund Mission

The AAUW Action Fund advances equity for women and girls through member activism and voter mobilization.

Since 1881, AAUW has been the nation's leading voice promoting education and equity for women and girls.

The AAUW Action Fund was established July 1, 2009, following a strategic restructuring of AAUW, the AAUW Educational Foundation, and the AAUW Leadership and Training Institute. The AAUW Action Fund supports AAUW's continuing goal of breaking through barriers for women and girls, and it does so through member activism and voter mobilization. Both organizations have a nationwide network of nearly 100,000 members, 1,000 branches, and 500 college/university institution partners.

A [briefing](#) on the AAUW website provides detailed information about the structure of AAUW, the AAUW Action Fund, AAUW branches, and members.

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In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

KANSAS AAUW
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