



Women’s Equality Day August 26

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The history and courage of our foremothers inspires us to continue our efforts to break through barriers for all women and girls. Thus, the observance of Women’s Equality Day not only commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment but also calls attention to women’s continuing efforts toward full equality.

This year AAUW of Michigan, ERAmerica, and a number of other women’s organizations are sponsoring an event in Livonia on Saturday, August 22nd. The committee has planned a program that honors our foremothers, while inspiring us to continue their goal of full equity with equal rights under the law, equal pay, and equal representation. A key note speaker has been selected and two other participants, who will address the importance of running for political office and pay equity.

AAUW of Michigan is encouraging those branches, not in the southeastern part of the state, to foster commemoration of this day by planning a program in August to recognize our foremothers and to promote continued efforts for equality. Following are some potential ideas:

- Choose an inexpensive site for a luncheon or tea.
- Encapsulate the history of the ERA to this date.
- Read short vignettes about the courageous acts of our foremothers.
- Invite a local legislator to speak about a particular women’s issue.
- Request a proclamation from your local mayor.
- Gather for a viewing of *Iron Jawed Angels* with a discussion following.
- Ask other women’s groups to participate.
- Encourage the local press to cover the event.



Barbara Bonsignore, Rochester and Sharon Belobraidich, Plymouth Canton drove to Lansing on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 to help bring attention to Equal Pay Day. Over 300 cookies were delivered to legislators, members of the media and audience members dressed in red during a press conference in the Capitol Rotunda.

Let us all celebrate the anniversary of the 19th Amendment!!

Micki Edell, Initiative Director
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Women’s Equality Day Luncheon

Saturday, 8/22/09
(Site TBA) Livonia, MI

“Come and honor our foremothers and pursue their goal of full equality for all women.”

The registration form is posted on the AAUW of Michigan website.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members,
Wow! I can't believe how fast time flies...it seems like yesterday over 100 of us gathered in Midland (thank you Midland for your wonderful hospitality)... and now it's off to St. Louis! I'm sure we'll return with lots of news.

Although many branches "take the summer off" there are still many activities dedicated to the AAUW mission going on...book sales, NCCWSL attendees returning with many stories, Women's Equality Day celebrations, branch program planning and on and on.

Please keep in mind our state board of directors will gladly come speak at any of your meetings (you just need to ask us...sometimes, we're shy). Mickey and Sharon have a great Equal Pay program; Carol Pyke will come talk about Educational Foundation and its MANY projects/programs whenever/wherever you want her (well, almost); Jean Jokipii travels more than any of our directors and when she comes to troll-land (below the bridge) I'm sure she'd attempt to fit in a branch visit to talk about the many public policy issues; if you have a college or university in your backyard, call Lynne Haley...she's more than willing to talk about NCCWSL, WAGE, CAP and more; Amy Seetoo wants all the Districts to consider a fall district meeting...I'm sure you've heard from her! So you see... there are many resources at your disposal...use us!

Most likely bylaws will be on the minds of many members after we hear the results of the vote at the convention. Betty Chenoweth and I are preparing for many changes and will be at your disposal to field questions (you'll notice I didn't say *answer* questions).

Have a great summer...be thinking how your branch can move the mission forward in the next year. What would AAUW be without U?

Kathy Banfield Shaw
President, AAUW of Michigan
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AAUW Mission Statement:

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

AAUW Vision Statement:

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.



(Upper Left) Members of the State Board 2009-2010...in front from left, Polly Pan newly elected VP Finance, Carol Pyke, VP Educational Foundation, Jennie Lombard newly elected VP Membership, Kathy Shaw, President, Sally Doty, newly elected President-Elect, Jan Emery, VP Programs, and Janet Watkins, Technology Director. Back row, Heather Buchanan, AAUW of MI Editor, Barbara Bonsignore, Parliamentarian, Deb Ensign, State Services Manager, Ulla Roth, Secretary, Betty Chenoweth, Bylaws & Policy Director, Dr. Lynne Haley, College & University Director, Amy Seetoo, District Director, Pat Jennings, Communications Director, Jean Jokipii, Public Policy Director, Mickey Edell, Initiatives Director and Sharon Belobraidich, Diversity Director.

PROGRAM VP

What a great two days in Midland! What a wonderful time! Our hats are off to the Midland Branch for a very smoothly run convention! All the “i”s were dotted and the “t”s were crossed thanks to their good organization. We were pleased with our fine speakers: Dr. Randall made us wish we were back in college again under the direction of such a forward looking college president; Carolyn Garfein earned kudos from us with her patient and thoughtful answers to all our questions on the Association bylaw changes; we learned new branch strategies; Janet helped us with using the internet; and National Conference for College Student Women Leaders included first-hand reports of what this exciting opportunity to attend a leadership conference really means to our college women students. Related to women’s rights we learned about “Rights of Indigenous People”, “Peace through Business Initiatives by Afghan Women” and the “Education of Children in India”. Sunday’s highlight was our panel on “Women Breaking through Barriers.” It was inspiring to hear from some unique fields for women: a newspaper publisher, entrepreneur and president of her business, an electrical worker that is currently president of her union and an attorney/newly elected county commissioner and graduate of the White House Project’s *Michigan Go Run*.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund raiser “Shotgun” Miniature Golf Match was a blast by all reports (and raised over \$500). We had a lot of good fun besides all the serious stuff while we mingled with AAUW members from all over the state.

Again thanks to Midland Branch for making us so welcome and being so attentive to our needs and to Bay City Branch for their support to Midland in this effort.

Next year our 88th State Convention will be hosted by the Livonia Branch at the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College. The date is Saturday, May 8, 2010. Plan to attend and put that date on your calendar now.

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INITIATIVE DIRECTOR

At the state convention in Midland this May a number of members attended the three break-out sessions for Successful Branch Strategies. These were interactive sessions so that branches could share their successes. Feedback from these meetings has been compiled and will be emailed to all branch presidents.

Although many branches at times continue to struggle with garnering and retaining members and securing leaders, it is apparent from the discussions at state convention that our branches continue to be active, creative, and dedicated to the AAUW mission.

In a nutshell branches have continued to be vital and involved by doing the following:

- Holding membership recruitment events.
- Mentoring new members.
- Promoting an annual project that supports equity for women and girls.
- Formulating partnerships with other like-minded groups in the community.
- Continuing a variety of fund raising efforts.
- Securing visibility in the local newspapers.
- Encouraging mission based programming.
- Contributing to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.
- Utilizing interest groups to encourage and retain new members.

Congratulations to all of our branches for the work that they continue to do. However, it is crucial that we make renewed efforts to establish partnerships and programs that will break through barriers for all women and girls.

Micki Edell, Initiative Director, mousemick1@comcast.net

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Susan, Uma & Meena for Girls (KRCRSG) in the village of Kittur, state of Karnataka. These ladies are visiting the US for several weeks on an exchange program with SVSU and as part of their partnership with Carrollton Schools (Saginaw County). Along with the teachers four Kittur students are attending school there during their “summer vacation” & staying with families in Carrollton.

Dr. Susan Hillman, Professor of Education at Saginaw Valley State University, presented a breakout session at AAUW-MI convention about education in India, where she has traveled to study and observe on several occasions including a sabbatical. Those who attended her session enjoyed meeting two teachers, Mrs. Uma Math and Ms Meena Patil, from Kittur Rani Channamma School

India is about one-third the size of the US, but considered a rural country. The literacy rate is 65 %; the country has 26 different languages. Hindi is the official national language, but many speak at least three different tongues; native language, national language, and an international language. The country’s motto is to provide education for all and the goal is to reach this goal for students through 9th grade by 2014.

Betty Chenowith, International Affairs, bwinechen@earthlink.net

MISSION-BASED PROGRAMMING FOR BRANCHES

Although our local branch Program Vice Presidents and the programming committee are responsible for our annual programs, it is up to every branch member to support our mission. It is essential that all members become familiar with the resources and encourage this effort at the local level if we are to break through the barriers and continue to seek equity for all women and girls. The following are two important resources:

PROGRAMS ON A PAGE

Last year this project was launched by AAUW of Michigan. These short programs, referred to as PoPs, were developed to familiarize all of our members with those vital issues supported by AAUW. We hope that branch members will provide the creativity to incorporate these mini programs into the already planned programs. Let us renew our passion and use the power of our programs and projects to assure a fair chance for all women.

PROGRAM IN A BOX

Just recently the Association created a new programming tool entitled Program in a Box (PIAB). This new tool is a collection of programs, which outlines an activity that members could choose for their branch with the “what, why, and how” to implement that program. These PIABs focus on a wide range of AAUW activities, including education, advocacy, communications, membership, fundraising, etc. and are available on the website at www.aauw.org.

MEMBERSHIP VP

Give the Gift of Membership/Member Get-A-Member Campaign/ Give-a-Grad-a-Gift

AAUW members are a group of individuals who are passionate about the organization and its work — because equity is still an issue. The years have proven that a member sharing their passion about AAUW with someone else has helped to keep our numbers strong. The stronger we are, the more we can accomplish on behalf of women and girls.

SHARE your passion: Call someone you know or tell someone you may have just met about AAUW; tell them about the parts of the organization that make you so passionate. Tell them about the mission, the research, the advocacy, the philanthropy and why you are a member.

THEN — ASK them to become a part of this organization that means so much to you. Invite them to join, either as a branch member or as a Member-at-Large.

EVEN BETTER — GIVE the gift of membership. What better way to show your passion about AAUW than to share membership in the organization with someone you care about. Contact your local college or university and offer the gift of membership to a recent graduate. Give a Grad a Gift is a perfect introduction to AAUW and the value of its 100,000 member network.

FIND – information about these and other AAUW member campaigns at www.aauwmi.org. Click on the Membership tab and select Join AAUW.

*Janet Watkins, Membership VP
jdwatk53@aol.com*

**Congratulations to
Janet Watkins (Membership VP),
guest speaker
at the
Global Women's Conference
at
Wayne County Community College
July 11!**

Increasing and Retaining Members in AAUW

*by Jennie Lombard, Incoming
Vice President of Membership*

In the spring and during the summer, AAUW branches should begin to think of strategic plans for next year. Recruiting and attracting new members to the branch and retaining the membership is vital. The officers, particularly those involved with programs and membership, should consider how to achieve this with good programming and visibility in their community, which incorporates our mission.

The first step is to define our product, our target market, and take advantage of what AAUW provides. That means utilizing mission based programs or programs on a page or projects that emphasize our mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. The AAUW of Michigan website, www.aauwmi.org has many ideas and links, and www.aauw.org provides much information about the scholarships, research and campus initiatives of our national organization. Below are some suggestions to try.

- Include a line for members to recommend potential members on the membership renewal form with address, phone and email so that a special invitation can be sent. Many join because they have AAUW friends.
- Use the lists of Members-at-Large in your zip code areas that are available from the Association and extend personal invitations to them. Some may not be aware that there is a local branch which they can join.

(see INCREASING MEMBERSHIP page 6)

PUBLIC POLICY

FAIR PAY LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN THE MICHIGAN HOUSE AND SENATE—AGAIN

These Pay Equity bills have been introduced in the Michigan legislature. Please review them at www.legislature.mi.gov and contact committee members to urge timely hearings. If we don't lobby hearings, they'll die in committee again. The House bills have been referred to House Committee on Labor: Lindberg, Kennedy, Kandrevas, Liss, Bettie Cook Scott, Slezak, Young, Amash, Daley, Haveman, McMillin. The Senate bills have been referred to Senate Committee on Commerce & Tourism: Allen, Gilbert, Stamas, Clarke, Hunter. You'll find addresses in the *Michigan Citizen's Guide*.

HB 4851 Civil rights; employment discrimination; discrimination for failing to provide equal compensation for comparable work; prohibit under certain circumstances.

HB 4852 Crimes; other; provision regarding wage discrimination based on sex; modify.

HB 4853 of 2009 Civil rights; employment discrimination; penalties for wage discrimination based on gender increase under certain circumstances.

HB 4854 Labor; fair employment practices; commission on pay equity; establish, and specify duties.

SB0486 Civil rights; employment discrimination; equal compensation for comparable work; require. Amends secs. 102, 103 & 202 of 1976 PA 453 (MCL 37.2102 et seq.).

SB0487 Crimes; other; provision regarding wage discrimination based on sex; modify. Amends sec. 556 of 1931 PA 328 (MCL 750.556).

SB0488 Labor; fair employment practices; commission on pay equity; establish, and specify duties. Amends 1976 PA 453 (MCL 37.2101 - 37.2804) by adding sec. 202b.

SB0489 Crimes; other; penalties for wage discrimination based on gender; increase under certain circumstances. Amends sec. 556 of 1931 PA 328 (MCL 750.556).

Jean Jokipii, Public Policy Director, mjeanjokipii@hotmail.com

(from INCREASING MEMBERSHIP page 5)

- Make AAUW well known to *newcomers* in the area by brochures, informational sheets or bookmarks. Realtors in your group may be helpful with this.
- Get publicity in the media, regarding projects that raise money for scholarships, assist in educating young girls and women about career options and those that promote gender equity.
- Collaborate with other women's groups with similar values or combine with other nearby branches on equity programs and projects.
- Schedule branch meetings on college campuses and issue invitations to faculty and students. This is an opportunity to share ground breaking research of the Educational Foundation and the campus action work of the Legal Advocacy Fund. Faculty members are a good source for programs. Don't forget to invite speakers from the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).
- Utilize a branch member who is a faculty staff member as a liaison for your efforts in establishing a Transitions Conference for women returning to school.
- Schedule some of your meetings, interest groups and projects to attract women in the work force.
- Mentor new members by teaming them up with a seasoned member who sees that they are informed and welcomed.
- Above all, be enthusiastic and informed about what AAUW is doing. The latest campus projects involve workshops for college women to learn how to negotiate a better salary and others that encourage women to run for public office.

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AAUW MICHIGAN PARTNERS WITH THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
The 21st Century Voter: Promoting Michigan Voter Power

On April 24, 2009, the LWV sponsored a conference about making it easier to vote and reducing the influence of money in elections. Sally Doty and Carol Pyke, AAUW of Michigan state board officers, attended as representatives of AAUW of Michigan which was a sponsoring supporter.

Jocelyn Benson, Assistant Professor of Law at Wayne State University Law School, spoke about the role that a state's chief election administrator plays in the electoral process. She cited examples of decisions made by Secretaries of State across the nation that have opened elections for more convenience for the voters. Examples included same day voter registration, no-fault absentee voting, and quick verification of voter eligibility.

A panel of municipal and county election officials presented their perspectives on the pros and cons of various reforms to make it easier to vote. Twenty-eight states presently allow no-excuse absentee voting and 31 provide for some form of early voting. What other changes in election law could make voting easier to improve voter participation?

Dr. Marjorie Sarbaugh-Thompson, Ph.D. and Associate Professor of Political Science at Wayne State University discussed the research she has completed in the ten-year study of the effects of term limits. A full disclosure of the research is available in the book she authored entitled, The Political and Institutional Effects of Term Limits. She was joined by a number of term-limited legislators and Dr. Richard Cole of Michigan State University who re-enforced the fact that term limits have not led to the types of changes proponents had expected. Constitutional change and proposals for changing term limits were discussed.

A high point of the program included remarks from Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, Marilyn Kelly, addressing the effects of money and politics in campaigns for the Michigan Supreme Court and how to safeguard public confidence in the Court's impartiality. The statistics she presented were shocking.

The final panel was a debate between Mark Brewer, Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party, and Robert LaBrant, Senior Vice President & General Counsel for the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. Rich Robinson, Executive Director, MI Campaign Finance Network, moderated the discussion revealing the lack of financial accountability in Michigan Supreme Court election campaigns. The 2008 Michigan Supreme Court election campaign was the most expensive yet for a single seat on the court, and one of the most rancorous in memory. The pattern raises questions of recusal and due process that can undermine faith in the impartiality of Court decisions. Should Supreme Court justices be appointed instead of elected? How can campaigns be conducted that don't impede First Amendment rights and don't undermine trust and confidence in the impartiality of the Michigan Supreme Court?

This was a full day of thoughtful presentations that will require careful analysis and specific action plans to create election processes that are more convenient and impartial for the voter and reduce the influence of money, particularly in Michigan Supreme Court elections.

The full conference was recorded for webcasting on MiVote.org. The article and MiVote conference video link can also be accessed from our website homepage at www.aauwmi.org.

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SAVE THE DATE!
AAUW OF MICHIGAN
Districts 7 & 8 Fall Conference
October 31, 2009
www.aauwmi.org