

Dear Members,

The proposed bylaws are on the Association website. Once on the home page click on the quick search and you'll see "strategic process;" it will take you to the member center, log in and from there you'll be on the page to choose the latest version of the bylaws, the introduction and a set of Q&A. Take time to read through them. If you have questions about them, feel free to call me. 269-965-2979 I don't have all the answers...and I may not have the answer you'll like, but we can talk.

In addition, on the website you'll find two versions of Proposed Bylaws Highlights. One is from Carolyn Garfein, current director of the AAUW Educational Foundation, candidate for AAUW President and one of our featured speakers at the May 2-3 convention in Midland. Carolyn attempts to provide members with those proposed bylaws and rationales that may be most contentious. The second version was written by Sandy Kirkpatrick, the Parliamentarian for California and AAUW Bylaws committee member. We hope these will help stimulate discussion at the branch level or maybe just between friends. We've included an Every Member Survey. We'd like to hear your feedback. Those of us who will be traveling to St. Louis would like to know what our members are thinking as it relates to these proposed bylaw changes.

Pay Equity Day, April 28, 2009 will be marked by a press conference at the Capitol Rotunda in Lansing at 12 Noon. This day designates when women finally catch up with men's wages from the prior year! The wage gap lessened last year...by one penny. AAUW is calling this program "Keep the Change Until there is real change!" There are lots of ideas of how your branch can take part in Equal Pay Day at www.aauw.org. And we could use your support in person in Lansing.

If you have *not* considered sending a college student to NCCWSL...please *do*. Look at the aauwmi.org website under Programs on a Page and you'll find the how to's of NCCWSL. We know of about nine students so far that are interested in attending and we have commitments from several branches for full scholarships or partial funding. Has your branch discussed it yet? Mickey Edell is keeping track of students and branches...AAUW of Michigan has set aside \$500 for NCCWSL. We'd like to see 14 students attend this year if possible...that's twice the amount from last year. We can do it!

Invite an EF Fellow to your meetings...get to know them and see where your money goes and the valuable contribution they are making to our lives! VP Programs for AAUW of Michigan, Jan Emery and I had the opportunity to attend the doctoral dissertation defense for Dr. Flora Myamba at Western Michigan University. I can call her *Dr. Flora Myamba* because her defense was successful! Dr. Myamba was our guest at the Fall Conference when she told us about her experience at a leadership training program which we helped send her to last summer. We wish her the best as she sets out on her new career. She has been offered a job based in Baltimore with a health organization, The

Catholic Health Initiatives, which provides international programs on health and associated issues including HIV and Malaria prevention and testing, animal projects for meat and milk, clean water and construction of pit latrines to prevent infection, and women's loans. Flora will travel back to Tanzania this summer for her new position. Congratulations Dr. Flora Myamba!

Continue to think, "How does this project or program or activity help keep AAUW's Value Promise?" In other words, how am I (or our branch) helping to break through education and economic barriers for women and girls? Use the Programs on a Page to help you find programs and projects that will fit under our mission and educate your members as well. Let us know how they work for you by sending your feedback to Mickey Edell at mousemick1@comcast.net

Has your branch decided to opt-in on the Pilot Dues Program? Please give it serious consideration. The two branches we know that are opting-in are Birmingham and Marshall. Let Sally Doty know if you are opting-in or if you have questions about it. srdrid@comcast.net

I'm sure by now you're read about our convention in May. Our board has worked hard to provide you with a convention full of challenging information, fun entertainment, opportunities to meet members from around the state and learn ways to move our mission forward. We need you to continue to make AAUW and AAUW of Michigan a valuable, viable organization that makes a difference in women and girls' lives. Join us.

Read more about all these issues at www.aauwmi.org or www.aauw.org.

Kathy Banfield Shaw