



# AAUW of Michigan



Volume 32, Number 2

Winter/Spring 2009

## 87th ANNUAL CONVENTION MAY 2 & 3

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### Breaking through Barriers

**AAUW of Michigan 87th Annual Convention  
Saturday & Sunday, May 2 & 3  
Valley Plaza Resort, Midland**

The 87<sup>th</sup> Spring Annual Convention will soon be here. The theme, "Breaking Through Barriers," is the same one that is echoing throughout our Association. We are doing our best to make this theme come to life for you at the AAUW of MI Convention this May.



Carolyn Garfein

AAUW "Champions" are making presentations at every state convention this spring to preview proposed changes for the new AAUW. Michigan is pleased to have **Carolyn Garfein**, a Director of the Educational Foundation and candidate for AAUW President, as our "champion." Carolyn is being sent by our Association to discuss the proposed bylaw revisions and how that will impact the state and branch organizations. These bylaw changes, which the membership will vote on at the June Association convention in St. Louis, will bring about a restructuring of our organization if approved. Carolyn will also lead a breakout session to discuss these changes allowing our members an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

*(See CONVENTION on page 4)*

### 2009 AAUW National Convention will be "BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS"

AAUW-MO and the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) in St. Louis are hard at work planning the details of hosting the 2009 AAUW National Convention at the Renaissance St. Louis Grand and Suites Hotel, June 26-28, 2009. This historic convention, themed "BREAKING through BARRIERS," will discuss and vote on issues related to membership requirements, dues payments, public policy issues, and much more. The results will have a momentous impact on who and what AAUW is to be in the coming years. You don't want to miss it! Check out the AAUW website for full details on the issues, the convention, and things to do in St. Louis: [www.aauw.org/convention](http://www.aauw.org/convention).

Convention registration began on December 1<sup>st</sup> and you DON'T want to miss out on Best Value Registration! Hundreds of AAUW members are making plans to head for St. Louis next June to shape the future of our organization. The hotel has ample convention space, lovely rooms, great restaurants and is right in the heart of downtown St. Louis. The Cardinals will be playing ball, the Zoo is free, the Art Museum is world class, as is the Missouri Botanical Garden. Theater, opera  
*(See NATIONAL CONVENTION on page 11)*

***For those interested in taking a bus to St. Louis for the convention, it will leave Thursday, June 25 and return on Sunday, June 28, 2009. The cost is \$125 roundtrip. Call or email Martha Petroski at [marthp5@att.net](mailto:marthp5@att.net) or 734-761-3740 for route details and to sign up.***

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members,

This is a shortened version of a letter to AAUW of Michigan members that you can find on [www.aauwmi.org](http://www.aauwmi.org). Please go to that website and learn new things; help us make it a valuable communication tool to all our members. We publish this newsletter three times a year...the website can change hourly, daily, weekly...you get the picture.

The latest edition of 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&As. Take time and read through them. In addition the state board of Michigan has placed a Pros & Cons grid of key proposed bylaws and Every Member Survey on the state website. Please take time to read these and answer the survey. If you have questions about the proposed bylaws, 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.

Pay Equity Day is April 28, 2009. The date will be marked by a press conference at the Capitol in Lansing... we could use your support in person.

If you have *not* considered sending a college student to NCCWSL...please *do*. Look at the [www.aauwmi.org](http://www.aauwmi.org) website under "Programs on a Page" and you'll find the how to's of NCCWSL.

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!

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?

Has your branch decided to opt-in on the Pilot Dues Program? Please give it serious consideration. It is the way of our future...we need branches to seriously consider this pilot program. Ask your VP Finance/Treasurer how well the Member Service Database is working...base your decision on that model.

Throughout this edition of the newsletter you'll 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 new 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](http://www.aauwmi.org) or [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

Kathy Banfield Shaw

ksbanf@aol.com

# AAUW in the 21st Century

by Ruth Z. Sweetser and Barbara L. O'Connor

**W**ill 2009 be the year of AAUW's transformation? If so, each of us needs to be reminded that policies and procedures by themselves don't change an organization. Rather, it is YOU, the members, who have the opportunity to move AAUW from a 20th- to a 21st-century organization. Since transformation depends on the human factor, how does this happen?

[There are specifically three items Sweetser and O'Connor recommend; they can be found in the full article as referenced above.]

Each of these changes marks a departure from our business as usual, yet they are all designed to address our organizational shortcomings. It is up to us to take hold of what organizational development teaches us, leave behind AAUW practices and thinking that don't work, and build on AAUW's unmatched legacy to reshape its potential for the future. We need to be smart, as well as educated! The critical question is, How will you help AAUW move into the 21st century? As noted, the forward-looking framework and policies/procedures are being developed for your consideration and decision. How you think about AAUW, its future and its promise, will determine both how you receive proposed changes and, more important, what you do with the new AAUW once it is in place. You—both individually and collectively as the AAUW community—are the agent on which AAUW's success rests!

The new AAUW is going to be a force to be reckoned with. With a community of nearly 100,000 determined women and men, focused on a single objective—to break through barriers for women and girls—we will be unstoppable.

This article has been edited.  
You can read the entire article  
on the website:  
[http://www.aauw.org/member\\_center/champions/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=30725](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/champions/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=30725)

*From AAUW Current Topics Briefing #18*

## AAUW Structure Transition Summary

### Introduction

**O**n July 1, 2007, delegates to the AAUW National Convention in Phoenix voted unanimously to approve sweeping changes to AAUW's organizational structure. The vote signaled the Boards of Directors to move forward with strategic initiatives to help create a viable and sustainable 21st-century organization. As a result of the restructuring vote, the Association and the AAUW Educational Foundation are to combine many of their assets and activities to form a streamlined, mission-driven organization with a single set of elected officers. This restructuring is moving forward and will culminate in a vote on the bylaws for the restructured entity at the 2009 AAUW National Convention in St. Louis.

In July 2008, a Current Topics Briefing was posted to address the AAUW Branch Tax Status After Restructuring. This briefing compares AAUW's current organizational structure with the proposed new structure.

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## 2009 STATE CONVENTION

(from *CONVENTION*, page 1)

### Breakout Sessions

**The New AAUW**— Led by Carolyn Garfein. It's not just about bylaws. AAUW is changing to become more flexible and responsive to branch and member needs. This will be an informal Q&A session.

**Successful Branch Strategies**— Facilitated by our state board members: Mickey Edell, Sharon Belobraidich, Sally Doty and Jennie Lombard will focus on membership, leadership, program and fundraising, plus "tried and true" programs that may be new to you—this is an opportunity to share ideas and network.

**Navigating the AAUWMI Website**— Led by our webmaster, Janet Watkins—you will learn how to navigate the website as well as make the most of other AAUW internet connections.



Margaret Haley

**National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)**— Margaret Haley, 2008 program participant, (now a member of the Wyandotte Branch) will share her conference experience. Freda Ensign from Dearborn Branch and Suzanne Bergeron, Director of Women's and Gender Studies at U-M Dearborn, will tell us how they organized and supported a group of U-M Dearborn students to attend the 2008 Conference.

**United Nations & the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**—Presented by Kay McGowan, Ph.D, published author and instructor at Marygrove College and Fay Givens, Executive Director of American Indian Services. The twin sisters are of Cherokee/Choctaw Irish descent. They will address the need to promote the rights of indigenous peoples while protecting their lands, languages and cultures.

**Schools and the Education of Children in India**—Susan Hillman, Ph.D., professor of Teacher Education at Saginaw Valley State University,, will share observations and impressions of teachers and children in schools in the city of Mumbai, India and in remote areas in the state of Karnataka of southern India

**Peace Through Business Initiative (Afghan Women)**—Led by Nancy Barker from Northwood College at Midland. This session will acquaint us with a program founded on the premise that "it's possible to change the world by educating women about business and giving them tools to succeed."

### Panel

**Women Breaking through Barriers**—A stimulating roundtable discussion on Sunday morning will feature: Moderator Jenny Anderson, Publisher of the Midland Daily News and panel members Deborah Borg, Global HR Director, Dow Chemical Performance Products & Health, Agriculture & Infrastructure Groups; Elaine Crawford, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, President of Local 58; and Amanda L. Roggenbuck, Attorney at Law, newly elected Tuscola County Commissioner and a graduate of the White House Project.

## Liz Kummer Award

Jane Strand



**Jane Strand**, a member of the Detroit Branch of AAUW, was chosen by the State Board of Directors, as the 2009 recipient of the Liz Kummer Award. The award is given in recognition of Jane's work in advancing the goals and ideals of AAUW in an exceptional manner, particularly in the promotion of public policy issues, during her two terms as AAUW of MI Public Policy Director. The award will be presented at the state convention on May 2, 2009.

### LAF Sales

On Saturday, branches may sell items to raise funds for the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) or the Educational Foundation (EF). Tables for your sales will be conveniently provided in the Conference Center Lobby adjacent to our meeting rooms. Be sure to mark your request on the registration form so we will have the correct number of tables ready. You may also call Lynne Haley, LAF state chair, (269) 781-9383 to make your table request. Deadline for reserving a table is April 20.

# 2009 STATE CONVENTION

## AAUW of Michigan – Convention Book Ads

**O**ur 2009 Annual Convention Book will provide a wonderful opportunity to promote your branch through the purchase of advertising space in the Convention Book at very reasonable rates. This program has met with great success. It helps defray some of the costs incurred in generating the Convention Book, but more importantly, it provides a cost-effective forum in which branches, members and coalition members can offer:

...greetings!      ...promotion of your fundraiser!      ...congratulations!  
 ...honor a branch anniversary, special friends or members!

Inform AAUW members from across the state; promote your activities; honor those who help AAUW effect positive change locally and globally with an ad in this year's Convention Book!

### Prices for Ads:

Full page _____	\$100	1/8 page(cardsize) _____	\$25
½ page _____	75	BACK COVER _____	150
¼ page _____	40	INSIDE COVERS _____	150

### Final Ad copy deadline is APRIL 3.

All branches received a form in their President's Packets or you can find the form on the website:

[www.aauwmi.org/conventions](http://www.aauwmi.org/conventions).

## **Activities**

Saturday night dinner is on your own, with optional evening activities at 8:00 p.m.

- A Midland theatre group is performing "Urinetown, the Musical" –"this multi-award-winning satirical comedy musical will delight you as it pokes fun at capitalism, bureaucracy and petty small town politics." Tickets are \$20/person and are available by calling 1-800-523-7649. Maps to the theatre will be available. The musical is also on Friday at 8:00. If you are arriving on Friday, you may consider attending it then.
- A film, "What's Your Point, Honey?" at 8:00 p.m. in the Convention Center. This film puts a new face on political leadership by introducing seven possible contenders coming down the pipeline while revealing inequalities that still exist today. With the support of the The White House Project, CosmoGirl! launched Project 2024, an initiative to get more young women involved in politics so that we could see a day when just as many women as men run for the highest office in the country—getting beyond gender to agenda. Two other age groups, teen and tweens, weave in and out to present the next generations' take on the topic, giving a little jolt and some comic relief along the way. (The film runs 87 minutes) **If you arrive Friday** the film will be shown in the hospitality room at the hotel.

**Association Conventioneers:** Following the play and the film, (close to 10:00 p.m.), those of us planning to attend the Association Convention will gather in the hospitality room (where the film was shown) to discuss our plans for the event.

**Sunday Morning, 7:30 a.m.** You will have the opportunity to participate in the EF Eleanor Roosevelt (ER) Miniature "Shotgun" Golf fund-raising event. The miniature golf course is on the premises, inside the hotel complex. You can conveniently dress for the day, breakfast, play golf and be ready to attend the convention at 8:45. Your ER donation is \$25. A small portion pays the golf fee.

The registration form for the annual Spring Convention is in this issue of AAUW MI. When you find the form, fill it out and send it in—deadline is April 3. (Cancellation refunds will be made up to April 26) **NOTE: The reservation deadline for the hotel is April 1.**

Many thanks to the Midland Branch for being our hosts and to the program planning committee for their commitment to making this convention a success. We have so many great and fun activities planned for you, you just won't want to miss out. Mark this first weekend in May on your calendar; plan to attend and bring a friend.

# 2009 STATE CONVENTION

## REGISTRATION FORM AAUW OF MICHIGAN ANNUAL CONVENTION Valley Plaza Resort, Midland May 2 & 3, 2009

## About Valley Plaza Resort

5221 Bay City Road, Midland  
1-800-825-2700

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch \_\_\_\_\_ EF/LAF Tables Needed \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:  Branch Member  Member-at-Large  Past State President  
 Student Affiliate  State Board  C/U Representative  
 Visitor  Branch Board Member

I plan to participate in the \$25 Eleanor Roosevelt "Shotgun" Miniature Golf  
Sunday a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ (checks payable to EF the day of event, May 3)

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

Indicate 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice in each of the three sessions:

#### 11:15 - Noon BREAKOUT SESSION I

- A \_\_\_\_\_ The New AAUW - Carolyn Garfein  
B \_\_\_\_\_ Successful Branch Strategies  
C \_\_\_\_\_ Navigating the AAUWMI Website - Janet Watkins  
D \_\_\_\_\_ Nat'l Conference College Women Student Leaders - Margaret Haley  
E \_\_\_\_\_ U.N. & The Rights of Indigenous Peoples - McGowan/Givens

#### 3 - 3:45 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSION II

- A \_\_\_\_\_ Schools & the Education of Children in India - Susan Hillman  
B \_\_\_\_\_ Successful Branch Strategies  
C \_\_\_\_\_ Navigating the AAUWMI Website - Janet Watkins  
D \_\_\_\_\_ U.N. & The Rights of Indigenous Peoples - McGowan/Givens  
E \_\_\_\_\_ Peace Through Business Initiative (Afghan Women) - Nancy Barker

#### 4 - 4:45 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSION III

- A \_\_\_\_\_ Schools & the Education of Children in India - Susan Hillman  
B \_\_\_\_\_ Successful Branch Strategies  
C \_\_\_\_\_ Navigating the AAUWMI Website - Janet Watkins  
D \_\_\_\_\_ Nat'l Conference College Women Student Leaders - Margaret Haley  
E \_\_\_\_\_ Peace Through Business Initiative (Afghan Women) - Nancy Barker

**REGISTRATION FEE:** Includes Light Continental Breakfast & Lunch on Sat. \$50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Lunch Menu: Very Berry Salad-Breast of chicken over bed of mixed greens  
w/seasonal berries, dessert, bread & beverage.

Special Dietary Needs or vegetarian contact (989)496-2158 or  
Email: heidi@valleyplazaresort.com \_\_\_\_\_

All registrations received after April 3 must include **LATE FEE** \$10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No refunds for cancellations received after April 26, 2009.

Send this form with check payable to AAUW of Michigan to: Anne Johnson,  
AAUW Registrar, 4311 Congress Dr., Midland, MI 48642-6645. Phone:  
H-989-631-5138; W- 989-633-3712; email: amjcpc@charter.net

A block of rooms has been reserved for AAUW members **until April 1, 2009** at the daily rate of \$89 for a standard room, plus tax. After that date the group rate will be unavailable. Please call the hotel direct to make your reservation. No charge for extra persons in the room. Cancellations of the room must be made at least 24 hours of your scheduled arrival. You may check-in anytime after 4:00 p.m. and check-out time is by 12 Noon. Room features high-speed internet access and complimentary coffee and tea. **Sunday breakfast is at your hotel** (hotel fee includes breakfast). Resort features indoor swimming pools, movie theaters, bowling, putt-putt golf, health club, restaurants, and a 77-Site R.V. Park. To reserve at the R.V. Park call 1-800-262-0006. Complimentary shuttle to airport and area businesses is available. For more information and a map visit [www.valleyplazaresort.com](http://www.valleyplazaresort.com).

For Hotel reservations, call  
Valley Plaza Resort, 1-800-825-2700,  
Midland by  
April 1, 2009. \$89.00 + tax for rooms  
with 2 double beds.  
No charge for extra persons in room.  
Visit [www.valleyplazaresort.com](http://www.valleyplazaresort.com) for a  
map and further information.

RV Park available: call 1-800-262-0006  
for information

#### Optional Activity:

For reservations to  
"Urinetown, the Musical"  
for early-bird Friday or Saturday evening,  
call 1-800-523-7649 or  
[www.mcfta.org/A\\_TheatreGuild](http://www.mcfta.org/A_TheatreGuild).  
Tickets:\$20

**ROOM RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY APRIL 1, 2009**

## AGENDA

### Saturday May 2

- 8 – 9:00 a.m. Registration & Light Breakfast
- 9:00 - 9:15 **Greetings**-- Kathy Shaw, President  
AAUW of Michigan  
Opening Flag Ceremony & Pledge  
Welcome: City Official of Midland & President, Midland Branch-Lu Ellen DeLine
- 9:15 – 10:00 Keynote Speaker
- 10:00 – 10:15 Break and EF/LAF Sales  
10:15 – 11:15 Carolyn Garfein, Association "Champion"
- 11:15 – 12:00 Breakout Session I**
- A. The New AAUW – C. Garfein
  - B. Successful Branch Strategies
  - C. Navigating AAUWMI Website-J. Watkins
  - D. Nat'l Conference College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) – Margaret Haley
  - E. United Nations & the Rights of Indigenous Peoples -Kay McGowan/Fay Givens
- 12 -- 12:15p.m Break--EF/LAF Sales
- 12:15 – 1:00 Luncheon
- 1:00 – 1:15 Presentation of Liz Kummer Award
- 1:15 – 2:45 Business Session I – Kathy Shaw
- 2:45 – 3:00 Break-- EF/LAF Sales
- 3:00 – 3:45 Breakout Session II**
- A. Schools and the Education of Children in India – Susan Hillman
  - B. Successful Branch Strategies
  - C. Navigating the AAUWMI Website – Janet Watkins
  - D. United Nations & the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – K. McGowan & F. Givens
  - E. Peace Through Business Initiative (Afghan Women)-- Nancy Barker
- 3:45 – 4:00 Break-- EF/LAF Sales
- 4:00 -- 4:45 Breakout Session III same as II except for D**
- D. Nat'l Conference College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) Margaret Haley
- Evening**
- 8:00 p.m. **Dinner on your own**  
Choice of two evening activities **Fri & Sat.**  
- "What's Your Point, Honey?" 85 minute film  
  
- "Urinetown, the Musical" make own reservations – call 1-800-523-7649 or [www.mcfta.org/A\\_TheatreGuild](http://www.mcfta.org/A_TheatreGuild)
- 10:00 p.m. Special Session for members attending Assoc. Convention following movie/play on Sat. only.
- Sun., May 3**
- 7:30 - 8:30a.m. EF Eleanor Roosevelt "Shotgun" Miniature Golf
- 6:00 - 8:45 **Breakfast at your hotel-Valley Plaza**
- 8:45 - 9:00 Greetings: Kathy Shaw, President
- 9:00 - 10:15 Panel: Women Breaking Through Barriers  
Elaine Crawford - Intern'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Pres. Local 58  
Deborah Borg - Dow Chemical  
Amanda Roggenbuck – Tuscola County Commissioner  
Moderator: Jenny Anderson - Publisher, Midland Daily News
- 10:15 -10:30 Break
- 10:30 -11:45 Business Session II – Kathy Shaw
- 11:45 -12:00 Presentation of Branch Bridge Awards
- 12:00 -12:15 Installation of Officers

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE



### President-Elect—**Sally Doty, Birmingham**

Sally currently serves as Finance VP for AAUW of Michigan. A member of the Birmingham Branch since 2000, she has been Recording Secretary, Dues Treasurer, Social issues Chair, branch data person and e-mail contact. Sally acted as an incorporator for the AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation, Inc. and presently is its president.

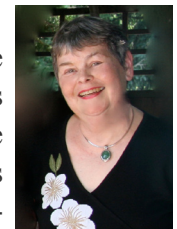
As a branch member she is active in the book sale, Explorathon and Women in Transition Conference. She has a BS in chemistry and a MSLS and worked in the Southfield Public Schools as a science and math educator and a media specialist chair. Sally held the positions of Treasurer and VP of the Southfield Education Association and was a member of many internal and external task forces related to the schools.

### Finance VP—**Polly Pan, Ann Arbor**



Pauline (Polly) Pan has been a member of AAUW for eight years, currently serving as President of the Ann Arbor Branch. Her background is in medical research, having been employed for almost 40 years at the University of Michigan Medical Center in the Department of Internal Medicine before retirement in 2002. Polly's activities in AAUW have been many and varied and include chairing Interest Groups, Hospitality, serving as Directory Editor, Dues Treasurer and President-Elect. Polly has also worked on many phases of the Ann Arbor book sale each year. Other activities outside AAUW include serving on several committees at First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor and as a Deacon Leader. Polly also serves on the Advisory Board of Motor Meals of Ann Arbor (now known as Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels) as well as actively delivering meals each week to the homebound.

### Membership VP—**Jennie Lombard, Ann Arbor**



Jennie was a member of AAUW in the 1970's. After 31 years of teaching mathematics to junior high and high school students, she retired in 2000 and rejoined AAUW. She has served in her Ann Arbor Branch as President-elect, President, and co-chaired the annual used book sale. After co-chairing the 2004 Spring Convention she joined the AAUW of Michigan board as Educational Foundation Director. She then took on the job of District Director and presently serves as College/University Relations Director. Other activities in which she is involved include Chairman of the University of Michigan Alumnae Council and treasurer of her church group.

## EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

### 50 Years and Stronger Than Ever

The Educational Foundation has completed its fiftieth anniversary, so it's time to celebrate the many accomplishments that this foundation supports. Consistently, it completes nationally and internationally significant research exploring important issues for women and girls in education and the workplace which is supported by the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund. It is the largest source of funding exclusively for graduate women in the world with over \$4 million in fellowships and grants provided to over 250 women in the 2007-08 year, and that's only a portion of the EF projects!

How does AAUW manage to continue these important activities? The AAUW branches through their members raise 85% of the funds that are given to EF to help support the work of the foundation. As you know all contributions to the Educational Foundation are tax deductible due to its 401(c)(3) status, so it makes a worthy philanthropy for AAUW members and for anyone who supports the mission.

It is absolutely critical that branches throughout the nation (with Michigan continuing as a consistent leader) support the Educational Foundation as well as \*NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) in order to increase the momentum for assuring women's rights as well as achievement in leadership. Let's make it a budgeted expectation in every branch.

Through AAUW support and the support of the new administration in Washington we will break through the barriers, both political and economic, to show with dollars and energy that we CAN and WILL support all women for the best future for our world. If we don't do it, who will?

\*Note: What is NCCWSL? It is the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders sponsored by AAUW and NASPA (college student affairs administrators' organization.) It was held June 5-7, 2008, at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Its purpose is to enhance leadership skills for college women at the campus and in the community. The 2009 conference will be held June 6 – 8 at the University of Maryland. Please find out more on the AAUW website ([www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)) or *Google* NCCWSL. Branch support is needed.



AAUW  
EDUCATIONAL  
FOUNDATION

Carol Pyke  
[cpyke@comcast.net](mailto:cpyke@comcast.net)

### FROM THE MEMBERSHIP VP

#### Membership Matters

January starts the period when AAUW dues are half-off. And, it is a great time to encourage friends and colleagues to join. It's also the perfect gift for an upcoming graduate using the Give a Grad a Gift program which allows AAUW members to gift an Association membership for free (normally \$49; half-off \$28.50). Reduced AAUWMI dues are \$5 (regular \$10); state student affiliate dues are \$8.50 (regular \$17). Branch dues vary but are also cut in half between January and May.

Visit the Association website's Member Center and from the drop down select Membership Campaigns. Scroll down to the Give-a-Grad a Gift link and fill out the online application or download the PDF version and mail it to the Association. It's never been a better time to share the power of belonging to a 100,000 strong national women-led organization whose members believe in and advance equity and education for women and girls. Membership Campaign link: [http://www.aauw.org/member\\_center/membership\\_growth/](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/membership_growth/)

Janet Watkins  
[jdwat53@aol.com](mailto:jdwat53@aol.com)

**Congratulations to  
Lynne Pierce  
on Her Investiture  
as a  
Third Circuit Court Judge  
in Wayne County**

This and other member news can be found on the website:  
[www.aauwmi.org/membership](http://www.aauwmi.org/membership)

## PUBLIC POLICY

### WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN!

As AAUW members, we've made fiery commitments to break through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance. Fortunately, we're part of a community of thousands which assures success when we're willing to work together at advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

While we've made valuable and measurable progress in years past, we must continue to advance our goals and to preserve and protect gains. That's quite a challenge considering the economic pressures and uncertainties we face. We wouldn't likely succeed with initiatives requiring massive new millions and billions of dollars, but there are many areas in which we must and will affordably work to break through more barriers and advance our mission.

By the time we receive the AAUW of Michigan publication, the Pay Equity legislation will have likely passed the House, thanks in part to our efforts. We must work tirelessly to get it through the Senate. Please go to the Association website for invaluable information and ideas on the new Pay Equity Initiative *Keep the Change Until Women Have Real Change*. Because Pay Equity is a priority, I'm confident we'll top our past Pay Equity efforts.

We can work to bring out Hate Crime legislation with the addition of gender. It passed both the House and the Senate but wasn't signed. It's to be signed this time.

The Family Medical Leave Act needs expanding especially in the area of paid sick leave. It's alarming that 1/2 of the work force has no paid sick leave.

No Child Left Behind will likely be up for reauthorization in 2010. We must make concerted efforts to improve it. We need to have our legislators relook at Bullying and Harassment in schools and improved STEM educational opportunities for girls. Title IX continues to be on our radar. We need to get the Department of Education to rescind the email approach to compliance and satisfaction. And, unfortunately, girls continue to have 1.3 million fewer opportunities than boys to participate in athletics.

I've mentioned only a few of the legislative areas in which we must work. There are many others of equal importance that you may wish to address. Take a look at the Association Public Policy Program for additional ideas. And yes, the election is finally over, thank goodness, but our commitment to the Michigan Election Reform Alliance continues. Please visit [www.michiganelectionreformalliance.org](http://www.michiganelectionreformalliance.org) to see how you and your branch can participate.

Jean Jokipii  
mjeanjokipii@hotmail.com

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### Technology/Website

The AAUWMI website ([www.aauwmi.org](http://www.aauwmi.org)) and blog is up and running. Web pages are contented with information to help members stay abreast of Branch, AAUWMI and Association activities and events. The AAUWMI blog will soon feature a series of discussions and podcasts profiling women and girls who are breaking through barriers, including interviews, commentaries, video essays, as well as ongoing topics about the economic, social and political issues impacting women and girls. So don't be shy! Let your voice be heard. Logon to initiate a discussion, post your comments, and help make our blog the liveliest discussion group on the net. The AAUW blog can be accessed from the AAUWMI website ([www.aauwmi.org](http://www.aauwmi.org)).



Visit Our Website:

Janet Watkins, Co-Technology/Website Director

**[www.aauwmi.org](http://www.aauwmi.org)**

The AAUW of Michigan Public Policy Committee met on February 1, 2009, and recommends that the 2007-2009 AAUW of MI Public Policy Principles be extended through 2010. We make this recommendation because we anticipate changes in the Association Public Policy Program.

### **AAUW of Michigan Public Policy Principles 2007-2009**

To preserve a strong system of public education, AAUW advocates:

- An increase in state funding for public education and equitable distribution of those funds.
- Increased and continued funding for public institutions of higher learning

To affirm the individual rights of all persons, AAUW advocates:

- The right of reproductive choice
- A criminal justice system that provides protection for the public and preventative and rehabilitative programs for adult and juvenile offenders
- Consumer protection under the law
- Just and humane treatment of immigrants

To achieve full recognition of women's worth, AAUW advocates:

- Working to achieve pay equity for all women.
- More women in elected and appointed offices and policy-making positions
- Recognition of the value and efforts of volunteerism and caregiving

To create sustainable, healthy communities, AAUW advocates:

- Access for all to reliable healthcare
- User-friendly healthcare delivery systems
- Emphasis on disease prevention
- Quality nursing home care

To promote the arts and humanities, AAUW advocates:

- Public and private funding of the arts
- Establishment and maintenance of historic sites in the state of Michigan
- Maintenance and expansion of library and media services

To protect the environment, AAUW advocates:

- Domestic and International policies for the prevention and control of environmental pollution
- Development and implementation of alternative energy technology
- Increased emphasis on energy conservation
- Preservation of natural resources

Association Public Policy Program is the basis for all AAUW of Michigan activities. The program can be accessed on the Association website ([www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)), as well as AAUW Fact Sheets and Position Papers on public policy issues.

#### **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.

## FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

One of the proposals that will be considered at the St. Louis Convention is regarding the position of regional directors. A proposed amendment would eliminate the position of regional directors and replace them with a “Leadership Corps,” a new network of support for branches and states. Some members have been asking why the position of regional directors is under consideration for elimination. One thing to keep in mind is that, instead of thinking that the position is going to be eliminated, focus on the fact that the proposal only calls for a change to a “Leadership Corps.” The work that regional directors have been doing will still be accomplished, just in a more defined way, and at less expense to the national organization. AAUW is downsizing to meet the needs of a smaller membership by eliminating layers of administration. AAUW is also looking for a consistent way in sending out the national message and in communicating messaging and information to members.

Goals for the proposed “Leadership Corps” are much the same as they are for regional directors:

1. Serve as an active, consistent conduit for two-way communication between AAUW and members through timely e-mailing, phone calling, and strategic participation at meetings.
2. Support state and branch leaders in their mission work through information and advice, sharing of resources, encouragement of collaborative efforts within AAUW and with other organizations.
3. Encourage and promote leadership development at state and branch levels.

The “Leadership Corps” will be well oriented and equipped to support members, will provide effective grassroots support, and will be supervised and supported by a staff person.

The Value Promise highlights the need to engage members in working together with the national organization to move the mission forward. Branch members need to feel valued and connected to the national organization. Thus, the new “Leadership Corps” will ensure that members feel engaged and that each member is a viable part of AAUW.

My term as your Regional Director is coming to an end on July 1, 2009. Until then, I remain at your service and look forward to serving all of the Great Lakes states on behalf of the national organization. It has been my honor to serve in this position.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Brown

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*(from NATIONAL CONVENTION page 1)*

and a great children’s museum also await you.

At the convention we’ll have welcoming activities on Thursday, stimulating workshops on Friday morning, First Timers’ briefings, lively business sessions each day, dynamic keynote speakers, an exciting CEO Women Leaders luncheon, bylaws briefings, Meet the Candidates reception, elections for new officers, Taste of Success displays, the elegant banquet on Saturday night, and a final business session on Sunday morning. All this surrounded by the popular CyberStop, AAUW merchandise sales, our friendly AAUW Missouri hospitality and much more. We want YOU to have a GREAT time at the convention!

Please join us in St. Louis! Plan now to send branch members and delegates to convention by budgeting for it, appointing delegates early, discussing the issues and bylaws. Treat yourself to a mini-vacation at the historic Renaissance Grand Hotel where spa treatments, great restaurants, and lots of extras await you. Don’t forget to invite your AAUW family and friends from across the country to “meet you in St. Louis” as we continue to “break through barriers” for women and girls.

For additional information, you may contact the Local Arrangements Committee:

Lynne Roney, chair ([lynneroney@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lynneroney@sbcglobal.net)), Diane Ludwig - local sponsorships ([dbludwig22@aol.com](mailto:dbludwig22@aol.com)), Pat Shores - volunteers/hospitality ([apatriciashores@charter.net](mailto:apatriciashores@charter.net)), and Julie Triplett - volunteers/hospitality ([julietrip@charter.net](mailto:julietrip@charter.net))



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**AAUW Association Convention**  
June 25-28, 2009  
St. Louis, MO  
Bylaws Voting  
Election of Officers  
Registration: <http://www.aauw.org/convention/conv2009/index.cfm>  
Bus transportation available \$125/person: [marthp5@att.net](mailto:marthp5@att.net)

