

President's Perspective

Welcome to a new AAUW year. Last year was a struggle for AAUW of AL and several of the branches. This year will be a time of dialog in the hopes of making things better for all of us. Four new state officers were elected at our convention. Prior to that meeting, the state treasurer left the state and a new one was elected to complete her term. This summer the state membership vice president informed us that she is also leaving Alabama. So we are in the process of finding a replacement for Veronica Bryant. Veronica has been a mainstay for the state board for many years and she will be sorely missed.

A majority of the members of the state board met in August. We discussed the struggles and successes of the previous year. We also had a dialog about the possibilities of changes to the state organization. No changes will be made immediately. Much more thought will go into this effort. And we want your input. Please let me or your branch president know if you have any suggestions or of things you like that the state is doing.

Building our membership is one area to work on. When I was state president previously there were 16 branches and about 900 members. Right now we have eight active branches and less than 400 members. Our organization will survive best if we can attract younger members. I would encourage you to look at the AAUW website (www.aauw.org) to see suggestions for mission based activities that will attract this group. I have appointed a Younger Members Chair to the board. You will find Heather Harwell's contact information elsewhere in this newsletter or on the state website (<http://aauw-al.aauw.net>). Make use of her or any younger members of your branch.

The AAUW website is a wealth of information. First is your personal information. Once on the website, go to Member Service Database (with the link near the bottom of the left side of the home page). You will need your AAUW membership number (found on the address label of Outlook) to enter this area. Please keep your information updated as it is used by others, like the emailing of this newsletter. If you don't have access to the AAUW website, please call the Help Line at 800.326.AAUW (2289) or get your membership vice president to help you.

Those of you in leadership positions in your branches will find many helpful ideas at the AAUW website. There is a wealth of information under the resources tab. Much time and effort has been spent on the information.

Elaine Hughes will be leading an effort to get us more politically involved this year. Hopefully some of you can get involved either locally or at the state level. Please let me or Elaine know if you would like to serve on her committee. In addition to being the state AAUW Funds VP, Audrey Salgado will lead the Ready to Run effort this year. You will be hearing more about a R2R event



on November 8 for college women. Lisa Maatz, AAUW's Vice President for Government Relations will be a guest speaker.

Members of the Executive Committee would like to be invited to some of your events. I hope that during my two years in office I can personally be invited to your branch and meet many of you. I welcome your input on things you like about the state organization or things that can be improved.

Ellie Lienau
AAUW of AL state president
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Ready To Run: Lisa Maatz, Keynote Speaker

Saturday, November 8, 2014
9 am - 4 pm



Lisa Maatz, AAUW Vice President Government Relations, will be the keynote speaker at the Ready to Run™ Campaign Training for Alabama Women to be held at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Heritage Hall on Saturday, November 8, 2014. The event will run from 8:30 am - 4 pm. As AAUW's top policy advisor, Maatz works to advance AAUW's priority issues on Capitol Hill, in the White House, and in coalition with other organizations. She is a sought-after speaker across the nation and in our nation's capital. Maatz has been with AAUW since 2003. During that time, she also spent 16 months serving concurrently as the interim director of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. Maatz will also conduct a special session for AAUW of Alabama and branch leaders and members. She is specifically interested in meeting AAUW Public Policy Chairs.

Committed to achieving women's economic and social equality, Vision 2020 national delegates Dr. Barbara Baker, Director, Women's Leadership Institute, Auburn University, and Evelyn Douglas will address political parity for women in government leadership. "Alabama ranks 47th in the nation for women serving in its legislature," says Douglas.

Presidents of four UAB student organizations hosting the event will serve on a panel moderated by Trisha Powell Crain, Executive Director, Alabama School Connection and past President of the League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham. Serving on the student panel are Shefa Suhaila, AAUW at UAB; Jalisa Burrell, Political Science Club at UAB; Miesha Williams, Women for Political Progress at UAB; and Melodi Stone, Women's Rights Commission at UAB.

The afternoon interactive sessions include: Campaign Training led by Mary Cosby-Moore, Alabama District 25 Circuit Clerk; Leadership Development conducted by Dr. Nancy Borkowski, Professor, UAB Development of Health Services Administration; and Government Relations shared by Maatz. Other local and state leaders have been invited to serve as panelists, workshop leaders, or moderators.

AAUW of Alabama and Rutgers University Center for American Women and Politics are the sponsors. AAUW Birmingham and Huntsville Branch will join the UAB student organizations in serving as hosts. Funding is provided by EILEEN FISHER.

No Cost for Event - Register [online](#)

AAUW Funds Second Quarter Report

The 2014 AAUW Funds second quarter report with individual details received from Tremayne

Parquet has been distributed to all branch Presidents and AAUW Funds Chairs. From January 1 - June 30, 2014, a total of \$6,000 was contributed by members from the Birmingham Branch, Huntsville Branch, Montevallo Branch, Scottsboro-Jackson County Branch, and Shoals Branch including a \$2,500 contribution by AAUW of Alabama to the specific 5005 Tech Trek Alabama Fund. The remaining contributions were distributed among the following fund classifications: 2504 NCCWSL, 3999 Unrestricted LAF Support, 4336 Educational Opportunities Fund, 4337 Public Policy Fund, 4339 Leadership Programs Fund, 4371 Tech Trek Fund, 9110 AAUW Funds, and 9170 Eleanor Roosevelt Fund. For more information, contact Audrey L. Salgado, AAUW of Alabama AAUW Funds Chair, at audrey5190@yahoo.com



Finance Officer News

If you are a new Finance Officer for your branch, WELCOME to your new job. You will find a wealth of information on the AAUW website, in the "Branch and State Finance Tool Kit". It is available using this link: <http://www.aauw.org/resource/finance-tool-kit/>.



This toolkit includes information about duties of the Finance office, budgeting and financial management for your branch, records maintenance, and various tax issues.

In July, all branch finance officers would have received an email reminding branches that their AAUW Group Tax Exemption Annual Form needs to be submitted by October 15, 2014 to AAUW National. This form is located within the Member Services Database, and instructions to fill it out are in the Appendix of the Toolkit. If you have a problem with the form, please contact me, or for more direct assistance, contact AAUW National directly.

I would also like to remind branches that the AAUW Membership Payment Program (MPP) is still available for those branches that are not yet using it. Many branches who use MPP find that it simplifies and automates collection of local, state and national dues. After payments are made online by members, accumulated local and state dues are deposited monthly into the branch bank account thru electronic deposit. If you have members who still prefer to just write a check, you can still collect their dues that way. But you will find there is much less paperwork for you to fill out. Please contact me if you'd like to initiate using MPP for your branch, or just follow the instructions available through this link: <http://www.aauw.org/resource/membership-payment-program/>

Jo Ann Cummings, joannc1972@charter.net
State Finance Officer

Update from the Birmingham AAUW Branch

The Birmingham Branch has an active year planned, but first our two main accomplishments from last season. Our branch sent six women to NCCWSL this past May and we've awarded four young women \$1500.00 scholarships. Many thanks go to the efforts of our members who worked for these causes.

Members from our branch helped interview students from local middle schools that were chosen to attend Tech Trek in Huntsville.

September starts off with our annual coffee, we will be having the Shape The Future Membership Campaign. The October 14th meeting the speaker will be Leanne Townsend "the importance of Voting". Save the date: November 8th a Ready to Run all day session will be held on UAB

campus. Lisa Maatz will be the speaker. See you all there.

Susan Barrow Birmingham Branch President

Update from the Huntsville AAUW Branch

Tuesday, October 7, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Covenant Presbyterian Church
301 Drake Ave SE, Huntsville, AL 35802

Ellin Jimmerson, creator of the award winning documentary on immigration, The Second Cooler, will be our speaker. She was inspired to make this documentary after doing a program for AAUW several years ago. She will share her journey and current status of immigration reform. Visit <http://thesecondcooler.com/> for more details of awards won and her bio. Reservations for the October meeting can be made [online](#).

Update from the Shoals AAUW Branch

The Shoals AAUW Branch is continuing to partner with Alabama Arise to raise awareness of the issues involved in the new health care law. AAUW has cosponsored a public meeting at the Florence library for interested citizens, and has introduced Alabama Arise to the Northwest Alabama Smartstart coalition. Our AAUW branch is deepening its ties to Leading Edge by inviting university students involved in Leading Edge projects to inform our chapter of the issues they are working on and how we can be involved. We continue to provide two \$600 scholarships for students at the University of North Alabama this academic year.

Nominating Committee by Marilyn Robertson

The Nominating Committee is looking for members to nominate for the positions of membership vice president, recording secretary, and treasurer for a two year term, starting July 1, 2015. We would like to have the slate ready before the end of the year. Please send your suggestions to me. My contact information is marilyn.robertson@knology.net and 256-536-2701. The other members of the committee are Barbara Patterson and Leevones Fisher.

Wanted: State membership vice president and C/U chair

Please look at members of your branch and get Ellie Lienau any suggestions you have for a Membership Vice President to serve for the rest of this year and for a C/U Chair to serve on the board for two year. Let Ellie Lienau know if you need more information for either of these positions. These are two important people to be on the state board. You can contact Ellie by emailing aauwalpres@yahoo.com

If you have content you would like to appear in this newsletter pertaining to AAUW of Alabama, please submit it online using this [link](#).

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