



### President's Perspective

It is hard to believe that we are almost half way through an AAUW fiscal year. There have been some successes and AAUW of AL also still has challenges.

This year the newsletters will mainly be sent to those with email addresses, which will help us save money. Branches are expected to get the newsletters to those without email addresses. We would like to welcome Alabama Members-at-Large (MALs) and Student Affiliates to those receiving this newsletter. Please look into a branch or a student organization if one is in your area. The eight branches are in Birmingham, Decatur, Huntsville, Marion, Mobile, Montevallo, Scottsboro-Jackson County, and the Shoals. The state website (<http://aauw-al.aauw.net>) will have contact information for each branch. Student affiliate groups are at Athens State, the University of Alabama, and at UAB. We are excited that it looks like a branch will be reactivated in Tuscaloosa under the guidance of Char Singleton, our designated AAUW State Organizer. Hopefully more branches can follow. It would be great if AAUW of AL could again have 16 branches.

AAUW of AL will be having our one day state meeting in early March in Mobile. Details will be available in the next newsletter. Also the branch presidents will receive information as it becomes available and can pass it on to you. It would be great if we could have a large group there.

Take advantage of the wealth of information available on the AAUW website ([www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)). You or your branch can apply for funds for activities. The Huntsville branch received money last year from AAUW to have a Tech Trek camp to introduce rising eighth grade girls to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) activities. They will have their second one next summer. Even though Tuscaloosa hasn't had a branch for several years, they will be hosting their fifth Elect Her training in January. This program is designed to encourage and train college women to run for and win student government positions on their campus. The next application process will be in August if other colleges are interested in holding this training. I would especially encourage the three campuses with student affiliate groups to do this next year.

I have attended several events so far this year. In early September I represented AAUW of AL at the Alabama Arise meeting. I was the program at the Decatur branch meeting in September. In October I attended the Public Policy Forum sponsored by the Montevallo branch. I combined that with a trip to Mobile to meet with branch officers about the upcoming state meeting. The Ready to Run event in November in Birmingham was an inspirational event with many students in attendance as well as the others. I am now looking forward to attending events at the rest of the branches.

We also have some new board members. Dr. Wendy Gunther-Canada is the new C/U Relations Chair. Unfortunately Elaine Hughes had to resign as Public Policy Chair. But Lea Ann Webb and Jacquie Osborne agreed to serve as co-chairs. AAUW of AL still doesn't have a Membership Vice President. Please get me any suggestions. This person will only serve until June 2015. This position as well as Finance Director and Secretary will be elected at the state meeting for a two-

year term.

We still need to have dialog about what the state organization should look like, whether it stays the same or is modified to have fewer positions. So I welcome your input on things you like about the state organization or things that can be improved.

I hope that all of you have a wonderful (and relaxing?) holiday season.

Ellie Lienau  
AAUW of AL State President  
aauwalpres@yahoo.com  
256-655-9452 (cell)

## Elect-Her



Elect Her-Campus Women Win will be held in the Anderson Room, Ferguson Center, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, on Saturday, January 31, 2015 from 9 am - 3 pm. Elect Her is the only program in the country that encourages and trains college women to run for student government and future political office. A collaboration between AAUW and Running Start, Elect Her addresses the need to expand the pipeline to women running for office and to diminish the longstanding political leadership gender gap. The training is open to ALL UA students.

Montevallo Mayor Hollie Anderson Campbell Cost will be one of the guest speakers. A Professor of Special Education and the Service Learning Coordinator at the University of Montevallo, she was elected Mayor of Montevallo in October 2012. Dr. Cost is committed to growing and supporting Montevallo's assets and promoting a more sustainable and cleaner natural environment. Her vision is to fully realize Montevallo's vision of college culture, country charm through community connections. Her B.A. in Psychology, M.Ed. in Special Education, and Ph.D. in Special Education were earned from Auburn University. Behavioral disorders is her special education area. She is married and has two sons.

UA students can be nominated or self-nominated to participate online. For more information, contact Jackie Northrup at [JMNorthrup@sa.ua.edu](mailto:JMNorthrup@sa.ua.edu), or 205 348-0595.

## March 2015: Shaking Things Up a Bit



The Mobile Branch is hard at work planning our 2015 State Meeting. Stay tuned for details.

The odd-year meeting is traditionally a business meeting, but we're planning something special for members and branches. The meeting will be set up to include collegiates, and will take place on a Saturday, with a full board meeting over Friday evening dinner.

Our meeting will roughly coincide with Mobile's famed Azalea Trail, so attendees will be treated to glorious, colorful blooms.

Self-enrichment and branch development workshops being planned for Saturday programming. Programming will be planned around our mission of empowering women as individuals and as a community.

So put March, 2015 on your radar and plan to join us in Mobile. We promise you'll return to your branches with some value - for them and yourself.

## A focus on younger women by Heather Harwell



I was first introduced to AAUW while I was a student leader on campus at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. AAUW empowered me to be a leader by sponsoring me to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). The conference transformed me and motivated me to return to my community and to seek change to benefit women in my community and beyond.

After graduating, I returned to AAUW as a member. Working with AAUW has provided me with wonderful mentors and leadership opportunities, as well as very close friends.

### What AAUW Can Do For You

Here are a few AAUW programs that are inspiring young women:

[NCCWSL](#)- a life-changing conference that inspired me to become a leader in my community and further develop my talents and passions. The next NCCWSL will be held 28-30 May 2015, at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Want to take action on your campus for women's rights issues? Campus Action Projects can help. Find out more [online](#).

Interested in empowering girls in STEM fields? Since 1998, AAUW has transformed young girl's lives through Tech Trek. A weeklong camp geared towards increasing women in the STEM fields. More information can be found [online](#).

## Ready to Run™ to focus on Rural Alabama



In 2015, the Ready to Run™ Committee is excited to announce they will be working on a strategic

plan to develop a model for training women for government leadership in the rural areas of the state. Over the last eight years, AAUW of Alabama has focused on Legislative Districts in the major cities in the state for their Ready to Run™ training. However, all Alabama Legislative Districts have the same population. During this past year, the Ready to Run™ Committee came to the realization that women in the rural areas have some unique needs in comparison to the bigger cities and urban areas of the state. It is important the voice of rural women be heard. Vision 2020, affiliated with Drexel University, has been invited to participate in this Ready to Run™ strategic planning process. Evelyn Douglas who serves on the Ready to Run™ Committee is also one of two Alabama national delegates on the Vision 2020 Team.

Thanks to Rutgers University Center for American Women and Politics and EILEEN FISHER, Ready to Run™ has the funds to engage experts from the rural community to design a pilot project to test some new creative solutions to encourage rural women to run for elected office. "Leadership Development and Campaign Training will continue to be a priority from January 1 - June 30, 2015," states Dr. Elizabeth Hendrix, Ready to Run™ Committee. In collaboration with the Women's Leadership Institute, Auburn University, AAUW of Alabama will focus on Leadership Development in Clay, Coosa, Talladega, and Tallapoosa Counties. Specific dates and locations will be announced soon.

If you are interested in working on this new endeavor, contact Audrey L. Salgado, Ready to Run™ Chair, [audrey5190@yahoo.com](mailto:audrey5190@yahoo.com), or 205 249-7788.

## Membership is everyone's priority! Especially Ours!



As you all know AAUW offers a number of services to help support the work of the branches, which also includes an AAUW Organizer to help you plan effective memberships events, help mass advertise your branch meetings to AAUW members and supporters in your area, assist with doing public policy work, among a host of other things.

If your branch could use some energy or help getting local members and supporters to you branch events or just needs some new strategies for getting new people, contacting our AAUW organizer is a great way to start working towards these goals.

### HOW DO I TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY?

Contact Char Singleton, the AAUW regional field representative (organizer), and she will work with you on memberships goals, strategies for growth, implementing public policy plans, etc.

Please don't let this opportunity for revived energy and growth pass your branch by. She will not only help you take action, but also teach you some new strategies. Forward this information to you branch Membership/ PR person and encourage them to get in contact with our Regional Field Representative.

Char Singleton  
727 495 3553 | 202 247 7735  
[Singletonc@auw.org](mailto:Singletonc@auw.org)

**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](mailto:marilyn.robertson@knology.net). The other members of the committee are Barbara Patterson and Leevones Fisher.

## AAUW Fund: Your End of Year Gifts

# SUPPORT THE AAUW FUND

## The AAUW Fund: Greatest Opportunity, Greatest Need

The AAUW Fund advances AAUW's mission by sustaining all our programs and activities.

Your unrestricted gift to the AAUW Fund helps incubate and disseminate programs that

- above all, advance equity for women and girls
- strengthen AAUW's role in the global community
- respond to and eradicate the persistent challenges facing women and girls
- leverage new opportunities and attract new audiences to our mission

In short, the programs listed here get results for women and girls. And that's AAUW's top priority, now and in the future.

Please make a tax-deductible gift to the AAUW Fund today!

## Your gift to the AAUW Fund helps support

AAUW **Advocacy**



**outlook**

**MEMBER LEADER  
PROGRAMS**

**LAF**

**TechSavvy**  
by AAUW

Selected  
**Professions  
Fellowships**



**CAPGrants**



**YOUNGER WOMEN'S  
TASK FORCE**  
powered by AAUW

**STUDENT  
ADVISORY  
COUNCIL**



**C/U  
PARTNERS**



Campus Outreach Grants Career Development Grants

Community Action Grants Civic Engagement

Field Organizing Eleanor Roosevelt Fund research

Fellows Alumnae Initiative Government Relations

LAF Case Support Travel Grants Leadership Programs

Legal Case Support New Program Development

**and so much more!**



News from our Branches

## AAUW Birmingham

We had a very successful new member coffee in September and gained six new members.



Birmingham branch along with Huntsville branch under the direction of Audrey Salgado, with help from four student organizations hosted a Ready to Run event. Of eighty six registrants approximately one third attendees were young college women student leaders. Welcoming speeches were give by Dr. Linda Lucus, Provost, UAB, Ellie Lienau, President, AAUW of Alabama and Dr. Elizabeth Hendrix Founding Co-Director, Alabama Ready to Run. Dr. Barbara Baker, National Delegate, Vision 2020, Women's Leadership Institute, Auburn University, updated us to the status of women in leadership roles in local and national universities. The keynote speaker was Lisa Maatz, Vice President. She was able to take the complexity of getting a bill passed in congress and make it an understandable process. She stressed the sway we as AAUW members have on our congressmen and representatives and the need to let them hear our voice. Campaign training and leadership development classes were also available to the attendees. Our branch gained five student affiliate members and another new member joined as well. We are looking forward to a successful white elephant sale during our December meeting. Happy Holidays, Susan Barrow, Birmingham branch president

## AAUW Huntsville

Fall has been productive for the AAUW Huntsville branch with monthly meetings in September, October, November and December. We are planning now for our spring calendar of events and look forward to our annual Breaking Through Barriers luncheon on Friday, March 6. Breaking Through Barriers is the primary fundraiser for our branch which goes to fund scholarships from each of the colleges/universities in our area so that one woman can attend the NCCWSL conference from each campus. If you are available, we would love to have you attend- more information will be forthcoming.

The AAUW Huntsville branch is also pleased to be hosting Tech Trek again in 2015. Planning is well underway and we look forward to sharing more information about how girls across the state can participate!

## AAUW Montevallo

The Montevallo Branch of AAUW has had a very busy semester. In addition to an evening to discuss public policy at a meeting in November, two Adelanté Book Groups were held in the months of October and November. In October, John and Sandra Lott led a robust discussion of "The Round House" by Louise Erdrich, Winner of National Book Award, 2012.

During the Public Policy Forum in November, AAUW Public Policy plans for the state (2014-2015) were presented and discussed. Presenters were Robyn Hyden of Alabama Arise Citizens Policy Project and Lea Ann Webb who retired from Alabama Medicaid Program. Among the issues discussed were the efforts to accomplish expansion of Medicaid in Alabama and increased enrollment in the Affordable Care Program. We also welcomed state officers Ellie Lienau and Audrey Salgado to join us for the evening.

The semester was rounded out by a lively holiday party that was standing room only. Members were encouraged to bring a potential new member to enjoy festivities that included a choir performance by the Montevallo High School Audition Choir and selected holiday readings by Upward Bound students and University of Montevallo students. Branch members sold poinsettias donated at-cost by a local nursery to raise funds for programs and efforts supported by the Branch.

The next book discussion in January will be lead by Kathy Daum, Dorothy Grimes, and Emily Pendleton. They will be presenting The Twelves Tribes of Hattie by Ayana Mathis.

All are invited to attend the February 26th meeting, which will be focused on a Black History Month Celebration with a combined branch program and Adelanté Book Group Session. We will provide poetry readings by Upward Bound Students, from "Voices Beyond Bondage: An Anthology of Verse by African Americans of the 19th Century" (New South Books). Professor Paul Mahaffey will review Clifton Taulbert's memoir "The Invitation."

## AAUW Tuscaloosa

AAUW members in Tuscaloosa are working to resurrect a local branch. We will host an interest meeting at Mellow Mushroom on Monday, February 2nd 2015 at 6pm. In addition to offering information on AAUW membership and local branch development, we will also host a talk on pay equity. For more information, please contact Jackie Northrup at [JMNorthrup@sa.ua.edu](mailto:JMNorthrup@sa.ua.edu) or Elle Shaaban-Magaña at [LShaaban@sa.ua.edu](mailto:LShaaban@sa.ua.edu). Jackie and Elle can also be reached by phone at 205-348-5040.

## SUPPORT THE EXPANSION OF MEDICAID IN ALABAMA

By Jacque Osborne, Public Policy co-chair

One of the Public Policy priorities of AAUW of Alabama is the support of the new affordable health act which extends health insurance to many more working people in our country. Before we can get excited about lobbying for the Medicaid expansion part of this act which Alabama is not implementing to date we need to understand why this is so important for our state.

Every time I volunteer at our local food bank program I meet people who are suffering from the lack of medical care. When your problem becomes acute you can turn to your local hospital and they will treat you. What many people do not realize, however, is that when you have no insurance the hospital will treat and release. My husband and I have found people in pajamas out on the street on a cold night because the hospital put them out. We have taken people who have had a heart stent put in yesterday to a motel because they are homeless and the hospital has treated them and now released them to the street. Medicare expansion means that people are treated before they need the stent. It means that they are treated until they can go home able to cope with their condition.

Did you know that 17 hospitals have closed in Alabama since 2000? And that ten of those have closed in just the last three years? Alabama is a largely rural state, and AAUW members tend to cluster in urban area. Many of the closed hospitals were serving rural areas. If you are a pregnant woman, this means that there may no longer be a hospital close to you in which to deliver your baby, making it much more likely that you may need to schedule a caesarean birth rather than make a long drive when you go into labor. That decision means that your child is more likely to have problems at birth. New evidence indicates that there may even be a relationship between caesarean birth and the incidence of autism.

It is facts like these that can motivate us to write the letters, make the calls, and talk to our friends about the need to take better care of our low income population, many of whom are working but would qualify for Medicare because their pay checks are so low (yes, another priority item for AAUW).

For more facts about Medicaid expansion and Alabama's hospitals go online.

### [Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to [regina.hyatt@uah.edu](mailto:regina.hyatt@uah.edu) by [aauw huntsville@gmail.com](mailto:aauw huntsville@gmail.com) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



AAUW of Alabama | 115 Fred Atkinson Road | Huntsville | AL | 35806