



Fall 2013

Volume 65 Issue 2

President's Message

Exciting Times for AAUW of Alabama

There are some exciting things going on with AAUW of Alabama, with more to come. A lot of attention got stirred up at national when Lilly Ledbetter agreed to serve as honorary co-chair of the state public policy committee alongside Elaine Hughes, our state public policy chair. So, watch for a short article about AAUW of Alabama in your November *Outlook*.

When I attended the AAUW of Alabama Ready to Run™ training in Jacksonville, Saturday, September 21, I ran into Lilly, who was also attending. Lilly and I seized a few minutes to talk about AAUW of Alabama. She was interested in serving on the public policy committee and ended by agreeing to serve with Elaine. (For information about the committee, see page 4.)



Lilly Ledbetter with Wanda Foster at Auburn

Lilly first came to the attention of AAUW of Alabama in early April 2008 as a speaker at a Legal Advocacy Fund banquet at our state convention, hosted by The Shoals branch. We took up a collection on the spot, one of the first groups to contribute money to help her. AAUW of Alabama has had a relationship with Lilly ever since and today she is a lifetime member at large of AAUW of Alabama.

In the meantime, Veronica Bryant, state membership vice president, and I are working with national along with other state officers and public policy committee

members to get the resources in place to build AAUW of Alabama and our branches. Veronica and the team will be working with people in Montgomery to revitalize that branch and with interested persons to try to reestablish the Jacksonville branch. We will also explore the possibility of establishing a virtual branch.

Our national liaison, Amy Blackwell, who serves on the AAUW Board of Directors, has been instrumental in helping us with all of this. We've also received considerable assistance from Claudia Richards, Senior Branch Relations Manager, and Cordy Galligan, Director of Marketing and Business Development, among others.

Right now, AAUW of Alabama has eight active branches and 702 branch members and members at large. I encourage the branches to extend an invitation to members at large in their areas. If the branch membership officer wants a list, I will be happy to provide it.

I'll also be working with national and our state board of directors to develop leadership training. Meanwhile, I encourage branches to check out resources on the national web site (<http://www.aauw.org/resources/>). It's a treasure trove of information.

To learn about our efforts to add more colleges (including 2 year) and universities as AAUW Partners, see the article on page 7.

We have a lot to do, but we have a core of dedicated women that I hope to see grow over the next few months, at both state and branch levels. The work doesn't end by June 30, 2014, when Char Singleton, our grassroots coordinator, finishes her job, but I look forward to our having made a substantial start. We're finalizing plans now. Stay tuned for how you can help.

Wanda Foster -- wlfoster001@yahoo.com

State President, AAUW of Alabama

Membership Matters – Membership VP report

As your state membership chair, I want to thank you for your ongoing support in spreading the awareness of AAUW and your recruiting efforts. A warm welcome to all new and current members for the fiscal year 2014 (July 1, 2013 –June 30, 2014).

As we all know, membership is pivotal for continued growth for AAUW of Alabama. AAUW says that “AAUW members are the organization’s lifeblood and membership vice presidents are critical to sustaining and growing the membership. But growing AAUW is every member’s business.” I challenge each of us to participate in helping to grow Alabama.

Our focus is to stay on track with the goals of Wanda Foster, State President of AAUW of Alabama, pertaining to recruitment and retention. These are to increase the numbers of college/university partners, expand recruitment of e-student affiliates, renew relationships with existing college/university partners, increase overall membership, and resurrect inactive AAUW branches.

AAUW has suggested the following three things we can do to recruit and retain members:

1. Utilize the numerous “[Programs in a Box](#),” such as; *The Princeton Review SCORE Program*, which provides free workshops and practice exams to women who wish to attend college or graduate school. Then the *Recruit & Retain College/University Partner Members* program guides us on how to recruit colleges and universities to become partners of AAUW of Alabama.
2. Be sure to create a recruitment table at your events, and it is critical to always have a supply of “[join](#)” brochures and “[student](#)” brochures.
3. Engage new and current members in annual orientation activities and make sure they are welcomed.

You can get additional information on recruitment and retention by clicking on the link <http://www.aauw.org/resource/membership-tips-and-tools-recruitment-and-retention/>. Another option is to go on the AAUW homepage, click on resources at the top center, then guides, then recruitment and retention to find this item.

AAUW has updated membership brochures as well as other AAUW program brochures, so be sure to recycle older versions and start the year fresh. Wondering where you can get brochures to help with your efforts? A complete [portfolio of AAUW brochures](#) were mailed to state presidents, branch and state membership vice presidents, and the AAUW Board of Directors. Additional copies are available by e-mailing connect@aauw.org, and larger quantities are available from [ShopAAUW](#) (800.225.9998). Please contact me if you need further assistance.

Let’s close out the 2013-2014 year with one of the biggest recruiting efforts in our history. Thanks for your continued support and growth.

Veronica Bryant – veronica.bryant@urs.com
State Membership VP, AAUW of Alabama
(205) 527-6190

Statewide Women’s Summit Announced

Amazing keynote speakers are lined up for the “Statewide Women’s Summit on Government Leadership” being held at the Alabama State Capitol Auditorium, Montgomery, AL, Tuesday, November 5, 2013, 9:30 am – 3 pm.

Get the facts about the Fair Campaign Practices Act! Speak with a political strategist to answer your campaign questions! And learn the latest tips and trends regarding women and politics!

Kicking off the event will be Adam Thompson, Deputy Chief of Staff, Elections Division, Office of Alabama Secretary of State, followed by Jenny Feinberg, Political Strategist, Democracy.org, Palo Alto, CA. Dr. Wendy Gunther-Canada, Chair, Department of Government, University of Alabama at Birmingham rounds out the agenda. Women government leaders have been invited.

This all-day training session is hosted by The 2014 Project Alabama. There is no cost for the event; however, all food and beverages are on your own. To register, send your name, mailing and email address, and phone number(s) to Audrey L. Salgado at audreythe2014projectal@gmail.com. For questions, contact Audrey at her home/office 205 437-0951, or call/text 205 249-7788.

DON’T MISS OUT! And while you’re at it, consider attending “Dinner and Discussions” on health care at 6:00 PM. (See page 3 for information.)

The 2014 Project

In conjunction with The 2014 Project Alabama, AAUW of Alabama's Ready to Run™ political training program was held in Jacksonville, Saturday, September 21. Twenty-five participants attended. Ready to Run is a nonpartisan program for women who want to run for office, work on a campaign, get appointed to office, become community leaders, or learn more about the political system. It is affiliated with Rutgers University Center for American Women and Politics. The 2014 Project Alabama is a statewide, nonpartisan campaign to increase the number of women in government leadership.

Greetings Branch Finance Officers!

I am providing you information here to show you how your responsibilities as a finance officer can be **simplified**. There is a more efficient way of paying dues.

Imagine **never** again writing checks for national and state dues and limiting postage spent. How would you like to receive monthly **automatic** payments to your branch bank account as payments are received at the national level? That is exciting!

You can accomplish this simplification by participation in the **Membership Payment Program (MPP)**, which is located within AAUW's Member Services Database (MSD) found at the bottom of AAUW's home page www.AAUW.org. FYI, AAUW of Alabama already participates in the MPP.

Briefly, the MPP is a secure, convenient, and free online membership processing alternative through centralized dues processing. Once enrolled in the MPP, you enter membership checks online through the MPP, remitting the entire membership dues payment (national, state, and branch). Then, you submit the dues report online and print out two dues reports, one for your records and the other to mail to AAUW Membership in Washington, DC along with the checks processed. The address is on the dues report. Dues reports are available online also for easy follow-up.

Accepting, entering and mailing checks could be altogether avoided if members renewed their memberships online by choosing "renew my membership" located under MPP and making payment via credit card/debit card. Then, AAUW National would automatically auto deposit dues paid to state and

individual branch accounts once per month around the 23rd of each month.

STEP 1 Complete the **MPP Opt In** online application form. It will request information on your bank, account number, Tax ID number, and branch dues.

STEP 2 Allow 10-14 business days for your branch banking information to be tested and verified to ensure successful deposits to your account.

STEP 3 Branch and state finance officers will receive an email when you are approved to begin use of the MPP system.

Please contact me if I can help you with the process of setting up MPP access.

Diane C. B. Marks – dcbm@live.com

Finance Officer – AAUW Alabama

(C) 205-283-1689

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please mark your calendars for the **Board of Directors** meeting on January 25, to be held at the Hoover Public Library in Birmingham, 1:00 – 3:30 pm. We'll be discussing AAUW of Alabama's direction, and we'd love to have your input.

- The AAUW of Alabama **2014 State Convention** will be held in Huntsville on April 4-6. Huntsville has a wealth of places and events, and the Space and Rocket Center is the premier Alabama tourist site. On Friday, April 4, the Huntsville Branch is planning a FULL day of pre-convention activities for our Student Advisory Council members plus other local college women. The branch is hoping to make this Alabama College Women's conference a comparable experience to NCCWSL—the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders—for those who may not have had the opportunity yet to attend that meeting.

- Nominations of state officers for the 2014-2016 term are now open. The offices are President, Program Vice President, AAUW Funds Vice President and Communications Director. Consider joining us at the state level to help us become one of the best state organizations in the country. It is important for us to have leadership from each region in our state. Please submit your nominations by December 31, electronically or in writing, to Audrey Salgado, audrey5190@yahoo.com or PO Box 383053, Birmingham, AL 35238-3053

- "Dinner & Discussions on Health Care Reform," Nov. 5, 6:00 PM, at TRUE, 503 Cloverdale in Montgomery, will be a kick-off event for the new branch.

AAUW Funds Report

AAUW of Alabama members and branches continue to give generous support to AAUW Funds. Members of AAUW of Alabama should be proud and pleased to know that the Eleanor Lienau Fund has now been completed so that it is fully vested

During the first six months of 2013, members of AAUW of Alabama contributed a total of \$3,457. Among the defined funds supported were the following:

- Leadership Programs, #4339;
- Educational Opportunities Funds, #4336;
- Eleanor Lienau Fund, #4276;
- Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, #9170;
- Legal Advocacy, #3999;
- Public Policy, #4337, and
- Unrestricted AAUW Funds, #9110.

Contributions to one or more of these funds were received from these branches: Birmingham, Decatur, Huntsville, Marion, Montevallo, Scottsboro-Jackson County, and the Shoals. It is gratifying to know that our state has led the way with such strong support for AAUW Funds. As you know, the success of AAUW's mission depends on such contributions from individual members and from branch fundraising efforts.

In the second half of the year, I expect that branches and individual members in our state will again show our commitment to these vital funds. Leaders of each branch may want to select particular AAUW Funds that your branch members wish to focus on for fundraising efforts. You might want to dedicate funds from a key fundraiser to go to a specified AAUW Fund which members will want to support. Or you may prefer to leave selection of funds to individual members. Whatever your preferred approach, it will be helpful to communicate from time to time with branch members about the importance of support for AAUW Funds and perhaps to discuss strategies to generate contributions. You might also want to share ideas about successful fundraising projects with members across the state.

The Executive Committee of AAUW of Alabama is interested also in your ideas about how to generate contributions to AAUW Funds at our April 4-6 State Convention in Huntsville. All of us in AAUW of Alabama will very much appreciate your ideas and suggestions of ways to generate support for AAUW Funds.

Sandra Lott – jlott285@charter.net
AAUW Funds Chair, AAUW of Alabama

AAUW of Alabama's State Organizer Grant and AAUW Public Policy Issues

AAUW of Alabama has received a State Organizer Grant from AAUW to increase membership, to pursue college and university partners, to recruit e-student affiliates and to develop coalitions with other state organizations on common public policy goals.

As AAUW of Alabama Public Policy Chair, I'm working with Chardonnay Singleton, State Organizer, from Tampa, Florida, to launch the program. Committee members from AAUW branches throughout the state have been recruited to join in this effort: Wanda Foster (Huntsville), Jo Ann Cummings (Decatur), Audrey Salgado (Birmingham), Lee Ann Webb (Montevallo), Nancy Wilstach (Montevallo), Susan Barrow (Birmingham), Leevones Fisher (Mobile), and Joan Hudiburg (Shoals). Representatives from Marion and Scottsboro Branches have been invited. Also joining this effort is Lilly Ledbetter, who will serve as Honorary Co-Chair of the committee. Committee members have been appointed to geographically represent the state and/or because of their particular expertise. On October 3, committee members had a productive phone conference to firm up plans.

On Thursday, October 24, the AAUW of Alabama Public Policy Committee launched this State Organizer Grant program at a Montevallo Branch meeting at the Carmichael Library, on the University of Montevallo campus. I moderated the event, which brought together Chardonnay as keynote speaker, as well as other committee members: Wanda Foster, AAUW of Alabama President; Dr. Elizabeth Hendrix, national AAUW Public Policy Committee member; Nancy Wilstach, retired journalist, and Lea Ann Webb, Medicaid specialist, to address the issues and discuss plans for achieving the goals of the State Organizer grant. The meeting was attended by members of various branches and was both inspirational and enlightening.

Pay equity is only one part of an ambitious program that the state public policy team is working out with our grassroots coordinator. By having Lilly Ledbetter join our team, we have a strong, recognizable voice to help us advocate this cause. She very graciously agreed to help and will lobby for pay equity. State Representative Laura Hall, who has worked so faithfully and so long to get a pay equity commission established, has agreed to pre-file the bill. Once that is done, sometime before the holidays, branch members will need to contact their legislators and ask them to sign on to the bill. We need as many cosponsors as possible.

Public Policy (continued)

In addition to pay equity, we will concentrate on the invalidation of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (the recent lawsuit, *Shelby County v. Holder*, originated in Alabama's Black Belt, battleground of the civil rights movement); Voter Photo ID; the Affordable Care Act and health care reform in Alabama; and the Alabama Accountability Act, which is supposed to give tax credits to families with children in failing public schools to offset the cost of tuition at private schools.

Besides Nancy Wilstach (Voting Rights), Lea Ann Webb (Affordable Care Act and health care reform in Alabama), and Wanda Foster (Pay Equity, Building Coalitions), the committee includes Jo Ann Cummings (College/ University Partners), Audrey Salgado and Susan Barrow (Membership), and Joan Hudiburg (New/Revitalized Branches). I will also work on the Alabama Accountability Act and Building Coalitions. The committee will work with appropriate state officers and our intent is to involve branch public policy chairs/committees. By June 30, 2014, we want to have helped establish a strong public policy network throughout Alabama.

Dr. Elaine Hughes – elainehughes09@gmail.com
AAUW of Alabama, Public Policy Chair

Branch News

Birmingham Branch

Susan Barrow, President

Our next general meeting will be November 5th with State Representative Patricia Todd speaking on issues about current Alabama politics. The meeting will be held in the Hoover Library starting at 10:30 am. Check the branch web site for further details. We are working on establishing a student affiliate branch with UAB. A very successful meeting was held, sponsored by the political science club, attended by university staff, students and members of AAUW. We are very encouraged by the progress being made. In the coming weeks we intend to pursue the other universities in the area and at least try to establish positive relations with them as well.

Huntsville Branch

Regina Hyatt, Co-President

On Saturday, November 2, AAUW of Huntsville will host **Dr. Esther Ngumbi**, post-doctoral researcher with the Entomology Department at Auburn University. She is passionate about issues of hunger, gender, education, youth activism, and sustainability. She is a co-founder of “Young Thinkers Kenya - *Creative and Innovative Towards Sustainable Development*,” a program that is engaging young Kenyan students attending high schools and universities in solving problems affecting their communities. She is also the co-founder of the Faulu Academy, a primary school in Kenya. Dr. Ngumbi will speak on her experience as an AAUW fellow and her outreach endeavors. She was recently named by One World Action as one of the Top 100 Women: The Unseen Powerful Women Who Change the World.

Please join us on Saturday, November 2, 2013, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 301 Drake Ave. SE, Huntsville, AL. Please bring a book to assist Esther in her effort to collect books for the library at Faulu Academy and support literacy for students in Kenya.

Huntsville Branch is participating in the Belks Charity Sale on November 9th as one means of fundraising for the branch.

Decatur Branch

Cathy Saenger, President

On November 21, the Decatur Branch will be hosting a public forum on the subject of the Affordable Care Act. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information to the public, including details about how the Act is structured and how it is impacting the students, the schools and the Education Budget in the state. Among panelists are those from the local school board, the Alabama Education Association and local legislators.

This meeting is open to the public and will be held at the Decatur Public Utilities Auditorium at 1002 Central Parkway. Doors open at 6:00 PM and the event will start at 6:30 PM.

On January 16, our meeting will be about the Voter Photo ID and the possible disenfranchisement of voters who do not have the correct ID or documentation. This meeting will be held at Logan's Steakhouse, 2315 Beltline Rd., Decatur, at 5:30 PM for dinner, or 6:00 PM for the program.

Montevallo Branch

Sandra Lott, Co-President

In 2013-2014, the Montevallo Branch will sponsor programs which offer opportunities for learning more about ideas and issues that affect women and their families, and for working with others to promote equity, research, and education. Our branch theme is "Educational Opportunities for Lifelong Learning." We will focus on educational opportunities at all levels and in a variety of settings, voter education and voter registration.

Our Public Policy concerns include voting rights and access to affordable health care, and our October meeting was devoted to these topics. Voter registration and absentee ballot information was available at the September and October meetings.

In accordance with AAUW's commitment to lifelong learning, literacy will be a major focus during the year. The Montevallo Branch will support Reading Is Fundamental for children, and the Branch will also support the Adult Literacy programs of the Literacy Council of Shelby County. At a reception for new and returning members on September 26, we explored ways in which our members can become involved in such projects to promote literacy and voter participation in our area.

Other educational initiatives include AAUW's national scholarships and research programs, our local AAUW Book Scholarship of \$500 for a deserving entering freshman student, and the AAUW Hallie Farmer Legacy Scholarship, initiated in 2011 to provide financial assistance to a UM junior or senior who plans to study Social Sciences with an emphasis on Human Rights and Public and Human Services. Periodically, the Branch does host fundraisers to help support such programs. These will include a Holiday Reception and Bazaar, scheduled for December 5 and a springtime Luncheon, Style Show, and Silent Auction.

We are planning an exciting Black History Month program in February with African American Studies Professor Wilson Fallin as speaker and Kenny Dukes, a young African American minister and NAACP member, as respondent.

We also plan to continue the ¡Adelante! Book Group, which brings together people from different generations and backgrounds to discuss multicultural books of special interest to women and their families. Book selections for the Fall semester include *The Iguana Tree*

by Michel Stone (October 9), *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini (November 13), and *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver (December 11).

At our annual celebration of Alabama authors in April, Margaret Wrinkle will speak about her book *Wash*, which tells the story of a Revolutionary War soldier and his slave.

Dates and times of our programs and book group sessions are listed on the Branch website (<http://montevallo-al.aauw.net>). All of our programs and activities are open to the public, and we especially welcome our AAUW friends from across the state to join us for any of these events.

College/University Partner Recruitment Drive

One of our main priorities for AAUW of Alabama is to increase our membership numbers, and two ways that we can do this are through re-establishment of dormant branches and expansion in the numbers of colleges to become C/U Partners with AAUW. When we recruit college partners, we not only reach students on campus but we also have the opportunity to engage and recruit staff and faculty into AAUW membership, as members-at-large, or as part of a local branch.

These two things are tied together, because many of the branches in the past were established in cities that had colleges nearby. These include Tuscaloosa, Auburn, Montgomery, Tuskegee, Jacksonville, Enterprise, Troy and Dothan. That is why, as part of the College/University Partner recruitment program, we are targeting colleges in those towns to become members.

Currently AAUW has 13 C/U Partners in Alabama, and we are targeting an additional 23 schools throughout the state, including many in those cities. Because there are so many schools in their communities, the Huntsville and Birmingham branches have established committees in charge of recruiting schools in their area. For other regions, JoAnn Cummings, our acting C/U Partner Chair, is going on recruitment trips to meet with appropriate advisors on campus.

A complete packet full of information about all aspects of AAUW has been prepared for each existing and target college, and is used to assist in the recruitment effort.

If anyone would like to assist in recruiting their alma mater, contact Jo Ann Cummings, 256-606-7179 or joannc1972@charter.net



HEALTH CARE REFORM UPDATE

October 1, 2013 marked the beginning of a major component in the Affordable Care Act, **the Insurance Marketplace**, where many people will be able to enroll in health insurance policies. The Marketplace is designed to help those who are without insurance or whose private or job-based insurance is too expensive, if those people (in Alabama) have incomes between 100% and 400% of Federal poverty level.

Since Alabama’s leadership declined to set up a state-operated insurance exchange, our state has joined 33 other states in using the massive www.Healthcare.gov website as the place to get more information and enroll. But as everyone knows, the launch of this website has had major difficulties.

Currently, the Department of Health and Human Services is projecting that the website might not be fully functional until late November, so they are recommending an alternate strategy to get people enrolled. On the front page of the Healthcare.gov website there are two very useful links that will help you (or your family) preview the important information that you will need to make your decision about a health plan:

- **“Find out if you qualify for lower costs”** provides you with an estimate of any cost savings (tax credits) you may be eligible for on your premiums.

- **“See plans and prices in your area”** lets you see which health plans are available in your county and gives an estimate of premium cost differences between them.

After you have reviewed the information, and evaluated your budget and your medical needs, you can call the Marketplace (1-800-318-2596), talk with a “live” assistant, and sign-up for your health plan choice by phone.

As noted in our last issue, Alabama leadership chose to not participate in **Medicaid Expansion**, which would provide Medicaid health coverage to all of those people below 138% of Federal poverty level. In Alabama, this represents about 300,000 low income people who are

left without access to affordable health care. The state is also missing out on the infusion of federal funds that can cause up to \$20 billion in economic activity in the next seven years, and produce up to 31,000 jobs.

AAUW of Alabama has joined with others in a statewide “Medicaid Expansion Coalition” to develop strategies that might convince our state leadership to embrace the Affordable Care Act and expansion of Medicaid.



AAUW Huntsville Wins Tech Trek Grant

As part of a continuation of AAUW’s dedication to promoting STEM careers for women and girls, AAUW has initiated two pilot programs to introduce young girls to careers in science, technology, engineering and math. These are **Tech Savvy**, a daylong STEM career conference for sixth through ninth grade girls and their families, and **Tech Trek**.



Tech Trek is a weeklong STEM summer camp for rising eighth grade girls. It is designed to develop girls’ interest, excitement, and self-confidence in STEM fields.

AAUW California began Tech Trek in 1998 with an AAUW Community Action Grant, and it has grown in California to 10 camps on eight college campuses across the state. Due to the success of the program, AAUW is bringing Tech Trek to three new states (Alabama, New Mexico, and Oregon).

AAUW of Alabama would like to congratulate the Huntsville Branch for being awarded a grant to establish our new location that will start the Tech Trek program for local middle school girls. For more information on Tech Trek, visit here: <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/stem-education/tech-trek/>

AAUW of Alabama
JoAnn Cummings
Communications Director

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AAUW - Events Calendar

Important Upcoming Meetings

Please mark your calendar for these meeting dates and events:

November 5, 2013

Statewide Women's Summit on Government Leadership,
Alabama State Capitol Auditorium, Montgomery, 9:30 am –
3:00 pm.

Dinners & Discussions – on Health Care Reform
TRUE, 503 Cloverdale, Montgomery, 6:00 pm.

November 15, 2013

AAUW American Fellowships – Application deadline

December 1, 2013

AAUW *Daybreak* Winter Newsletter Deadline

December 15, 2013

AAUW Career Development grant Deadline

January 1 – March 15, 2014

Half-price membership enrollment period

January 15, 2014

AAUW Community Action Grant deadline

January 25, 2014

AAUW AL Executive Committee & BOD Meetings
Hoover Public Library, EC-10:30am, BOD-1:00pm

January 30, 2014

NCCWSL 2014 registration opens.
Scholarship application can be submitted.

February 15, 2014

AAUW *Daybreak* Spring Newsletter Deadline

April 4-6, 2014

AAUW of Alabama 2014 State Convention, Huntsville

June 5-7, 2014

NCCWSL, University of Maryland, College Park