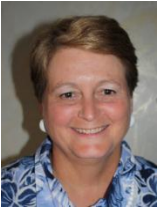


Alabama Daybreak



President's Message

At AAUW, we continue to emphasize the need for women to be in positions of leadership. A woman's voice makes a difference at the table, because we have a different perspective, and so much

experience with the everyday issues of life.

At our State Annual Meeting, we focused on the need to elect women to political office at the local, state and federal level. At National Convention, we got to meet and listen to many women in power at federal agencies, non-profits and universities, who are working to make a better place for women and girls in our schools and communities throughout the country.

As AAUW members, many of us joined up to meet friends and to make a difference in the lives of others. AAUW supports a broad range of social issues affecting women and girls – places where YOU can make a difference. AAUW offers ideas for mission-based programming that branches can use to plan a variety of special events and projects in your community. (See

http://www.aauw.org/member_center/programs/branchProgramIdeas.cfm.)

Among these ideas are:

- Programs or workshops about AAUW public policy issues, such as pay equity, retirement security, health care, financial literacy, etc.
- Programs relating to education issues, like dropouts, bullying, STEM/technical education, Title IX, assault and harassment on campus.
- Events that promote political participation, like “Get Out the Vote” activities, voter registration, political forums, and lobbying for relevant issues.
- Workshops on AAUW research, like “Why So Few” or special showings of feminist or civil rights movies, such as “Iron-Jawed Angels”, “Miss Representation” “Made in Dagenham” or “North Country”.

Ways to develop many of these projects are fully explained by the “AAUW Program in a Box”

(http://www.aauw.org/member_center/programs/PIAB.cfm) resource, so that branches don't have to “re-invent the wheel”

when trying to set up a program. Over twenty-five programs are currently listed.

An excellent way to expand your audience, enhance your reputation, and increase the impact of your special programs, is to form a collaborative presentation with a school, college or other non-profit local organization with a common interest in the subject material. For instance, the AAUW Montgomery branch joined with Zonta and the League of Women Voters for a special showing of “Iron-Jawed Angels”, on the anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment (August 26, 1920), which gave women the right to vote.

One recurring theme in the workshops we attended at the AAUW National Convention was the need to keep our branches vibrant and relevant in our community. We need to keep the members we have, and add many more new

members, especially younger women who are affected by so many issues that we support. Many states and branches are now expanding their use of social media, especially websites and Facebook pages, as a means to improve communication with current and prospective members.



Speakers at 2011 AAUW National Convention

If we want to inspire new members to join with us, then we need to offer programs that reflect the values and philosophy of AAUW and include events that contribute to the good of our community. If we want to retain current members, we need to remain the organization that originally inspired them to join, while sharing the responsibilities and respecting their contributions. But we must remember that AAUW is more than a social club, and our actions supporting our mission will provide justification to those who want to join to “make a difference”.

I hope that each branch and member will renew their commitment to the principals of AAUW and will work together to make our meetings and programs truly inspirational and beneficial to our members and our community.

Notes on the National Convention Program

By Wanda Foster, AAUW of Alabama Program Vice President

In 2009 in St. Louis, AAUW convention delegates voted to institute One Member, One Vote. Because the time involved in discussion and voting was freed up at the 2011 convention in Washington, D.C., the schedule was packed with great speakers and programs. Ruth Jurenko, Huntsville branch member and convention attendee for the past 32 years, declared, "This was the best convention ever," and a lot of attendees agree with her.

The convention began Thursday, June 16, and ran through Sunday, June 19. The banquet speaker was Sarah Brokaw—a psychotherapist involved with Women for Women International; author of *Fortytude*, a celebration of women approaching 40; and daughter of former NBC anchor Tom Brokaw. One of the general sessions was the timely "A Conversation on Justice," with Edith Arana, a named plaintiff in the groundbreaking *Wal-Mart v. Dukes* anti-discrimination lawsuit. Heartbreakingly, immediately after the convention, the Supreme Court rejected the suit in a 5-4 decision.

One of the panel discussions was "Women in Power in the Obama Administration." Speakers included Tina Tchen, Chief of Staff for First Lady Michelle Obama; Patricia Shiu, Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs at the U.S. Department of Labor; Jocelyn Samuels, Senior Counselor to the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice; and Russlynn Ali, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education. Other panel discussions were "Transforming the 21st-Century Workplace: Women and Men as Allies," addressing work-life balance and how men are necessary advocates for workplace flexibility; "Why So Few? 2.0: Putting Research into Practice"; and "Safe Schools: Bullying and Sexual Harassment in America's Middle Schools."

Our Saturday luncheon speaker was Cynthia D'Amour, who spoke on the topic, "Lead, Laugh, or Get Out of the Way: The Lazy Leader's Guide to Outrageous Results." Through some boisterous role-playing with the audience, she taught us the value of not hoarding power ("being a martyr") but sharing it ("What happens to the organization if you get hit by a bus?"), in the process encouraging others to join a fun organization. Breakout "Skill-Building Sessions" included "How to Get the Best Out of All Four Generations in Your AAUW Community," "How You Will Change the World with Social Media," "Leading Inclusively Among Diverse Communities," and "Understanding and Managing Conflict."

There were workshops aplenty, including "What Makes Women Decide to Join or Stay in an Organization Today?," "How to Create an Irresistible State or Branch Officer Experience for Your Volunteer Leaders," "Actions for Equal



Women in Power in the Obama Administration: AAUW's Lisa Maatz (center) with Patricia Shiu, Tina Tchen, Russlynn Ali and Jocelyn Samuels

Pay: Advocacy and Programming to Close the Gap," "All You Need to Know: Engaging College/University Partners," "Demystifying Social Media," "Developing New Leadership Structures for Your State or Branch," "The Power of Philanthropy," "Title IX: Leveling the Playing Field," "Washington Update," "Women and STEM Globally," "Shortchanged: Why Women Have Less Wealth and What Can Be Done About It," "Sharing Successful Recruitment and Retention Stories," "Branch Fundraising Ideas: Tried and True, Creative and New," "Grassroots Advocacy," "Mission-Based Programming 101," "Scholarships Best Practices and Fellowships and Grants Alumnae Accomplishments," "Strategizing for Success," and "Women in Politics: Growing the Pipeline with Elect Her." There were also numerous special interest sessions, such as archiving, finances, programs, fundraising, membership, public policy, international delegations, web managers, and young members, and briefings from AAUW committee chairs and staff about nationwide activities.

Attendees could sign up for a number of optional events, including a local volunteer opportunity at the DC Central Kitchen, a national model nonprofit that builds long-term solutions to the interconnected problems of poverty, hunger, and homelessness; the Women's Suffrage Newseum Tour, highlighting artifacts of the suffrage movement; and Women at the National Portrait Gallery Tour, viewing portraits of prominent women, many of whom have an AAUW connection; and AAUW national office tours. Jimmie Anderson (Birmingham branch president) and I attended AAUW's "Evening at the Embassy," a visit to the Brazilian embassy where we met Ambassador Mauro Vieira. The ambassador spoke about Brazil's new woman president, Dilma Rousseff, who has vowed to continue fighting inequality and poverty, and promoting human rights. He informed our group that she had added a new word to the Portuguese language: "Presidenta."

Alabama attendees were privileged to go up Capitol Hill with Lilly Ledbetter to be part of AAUW's Lobby Corps, the "big teal machine." With Lilly, we lobbied Senator Richard

Shelby's staff. After Lilly had to return to the hotel for another event, we moved on to Senator Jeff Sessions' staff before breaking up to visit various representatives' offices.

Other events included a movie viewing of *Miss Representation*, a look at women's underrepresentation in the media and their consequent limited and often disparaging portrayal. (The film was an official selection of the 2011 Sundance Film Festival.) AAUW of Alabama got an honorable mention for our Student Advisory Council during the Breaking Through Barriers awards. And a number of AAUW of Alabama members attended a reception for AAUW "Insiders" (donors, state officers), at which we toasted AAUW's 130th birthday with champagne.

It was all great fun, but we learned a lot, and we came home enthused and exhausted and determined to share the experience with state and branch members. At the end of convention, Gloria Feldt, author of *No Excuses: Nine Ways Women Can Change How We Think About Power*, spoke movingly about "Taking AAUW Home." An activist concerned with helping women redefine power and "lead themselves with intention," Feldt addressed ways in which we could put the things we'd learned during convention into practice in our state and branch organizations. Convention attendees concluded the convention rousingly with a mini-celebration of the 2013 national convention, to be held in New Orleans. It's not too far for Alabama AAUW members to travel, and our sister state organization deserves our support, so y'all come!



Growing with College Partners

By JoAnn Cummings, AAUW of Alabama President

The national convention workshop on the AAUW College/University Partner program provided some excellent ideas on how this partnership can be used to accelerate expansion of local branch membership. When a college becomes a member, it provides them the opportunity to share all of the benefits of AAUW with their students, faculty and staff. They can collaborate with branches on community programs and benefit from AAUW's powerful network that supports them and advocates on their behalf.

You may know that as a C/U Partner, all of their undergraduate students are eligible for a **free** AAUW e-student affiliate membership. In addition to being able to receive electronic copies of AAUW's publications and research, students have access to our leadership and professional development resources, more than \$3 million in fellowships, grants and awards, and opportunities for networking and outreach on campus and beyond.

In addition, there are exclusive AAUW member benefits and discounts that are relevant to students. These include auto, health, and dental insurance, on-line job search services, and testing discounts with The Princeton Review. Also, don't forget that in honor of the 130th anniversary of AAUW, new C/U Partners can join for the discounted cost of \$130. When colleges join as AAUW partners, it includes membership privileges for two faculty/staff members, and representation at State Board meetings.

When branches take action to add C/U Partners or develop their relationship with their existing partners, creative leaders can combine e-student affiliate membership, community program collaborations on campus, fellowship and grant opportunities and other C/U Partner benefits to maximize the potential branch growth from the students and staff.

Current AAUW College/University Partners are the University of Alabama – Huntsville and the University of North Alabama. The following are past partners whose membership has lapsed: Samford University, the University of Alabama, and the University of Montevallo. If **each branch** would commit to adding just ONE new C/U Partner this year, and develop an active relationship with them, then we have the potential to add many more students, teachers and staff to our membership roles. Contact me for more information on the C/U Partner program (Joannc1972@charter.net) or visit <http://www.aauw.org/about/join/colleges/index.cfm>.

Public Policy: Lobby Day in Washington D.C.

By JoAnn Cummings, AAUW of Alabama President

On Thursday at the AAUW National Convention, AAUW members were briefed by Representatives Jan Schakowsky (D, Illinois), and Carolyn Maloney (D, New York), and Senator Susan Collins (R, Maine) about the issues that AAUW members would be lobbying for on our trip to Capitol Hill. Given the current economic climate, three topics were selected that were “win-able” for our members to present.

AAUW believes that it is vital to women’s economic security to provide for the long-term solvency of Social Security and to maintain its current guaranteed benefits, and strongly opposes attempts to cut Social Security. Right now, Social Security is under direct attack for changes and reduction, even though it is not the cause of the nation’s debt. Representative Schakowsky presented attendees with supporting facts to use during lobbying on the Hill about the importance and viability of Social Security.

The National Women’s History Museum Act of 2011 (S. 680/H.R. 1269) is legislation to ensure that there is a place of honor for the generations of women who played a role in shaping our communities and country. Senator Susan Collins advised us that this legislation directs the General Services Administration to sell a lot (on the Washington Mall) at fair market value to the nonprofit National Women’s History Museum so that the museum can be built with private, donated funds.



AAUW of Alabama marches on D.C. (Wanda Foster, Jimmie Anderson, Cindy Branham, Marilyn Robertson, Ellie Lienau, Lilly Ledbetter)



AAUW of Alabama Delegation to Capitol Hill (Cindy Branham, Amanda Jarrett, Lilly Ledbetter, JoAnn Cummings, Wanda Foster, Ellie Lienau, Jimmie Anderson, Marilyn Robertson)

Representative Maloney told us about the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE - H.R. 2016/S. 834). This bill would help end sexual assault and violence on college campuses by requiring schools to spell out their policies, conduct prevention activities, and ensure necessary assistance for victims. Sexual harassment, sexual violence and sexual assault on college and university campuses have a damaging impact on the educational experience of many college students. Yet few of these crimes are reported because there is little assurance that any remedy will occur.

Finally, on Friday, after inspiring speeches by Representatives Cynthia Lummis (R, Wyoming), Gwen Moore (D, Wisconsin) and Rosa DeLauro (D, Connecticut), nearly 700 convention-goers joined ranks to march on Capitol Hill to meet lobby senators and representatives at our AAUW Lobby Day event.

Members, dressed in AAUW teal, visited more than 250 offices and met with lawmakers, or their aides, from all 50 states. They shared their own concerns about Social Security, and for many lawmakers, provided their first introduction to the legislation about the Women’s History Museum and the SaVE Act.

We are asking that all Alabama AAUW members contact your Washington leaders and let them know that you too support these bills.

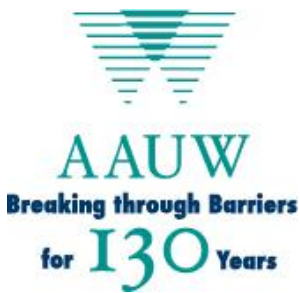
AAUW Funds – National Awards

By JoAnn Cummings, AAUW of Alabama President



AAUW Funds Awards for Huntsville Branch and Alabama State (Ellie Lienau, Wanda Foster, Ruth Jurenko, Jo Ann Cummings, Lilly Ledbetter, Marilyn Robertson, Amanda Jarrett, Sarah Barbre, Cindy Branham, Jimmie Anderson.)

At the AAUW 2011 National Convention, awards were presented to states and branches for their major contributions to the various AAUW Funds for the two year period of 2009 – 2010. The Huntsville Branch was among the top ten branches for donations to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund and the Leadership Programs Fund. Alabama was among the top ten states for per capita donations to these same funds. Thank you for your continued support for these important programs – and let’s see what we can do to earn these awards again!



Celebrate the 130th Anniversary with Membership Discounts

By JoAnn Cummings, AAUW of Alabama President

Special membership discounts are still available thru November 30, 2011, as AAUW continues to celebrate its 130th anniversary. National memberships for graduate students are only \$18.81 and new College/ University institution memberships are \$130.

In addition, if your branch increases membership by 13 (or 7) percent over headcounts of 2/1/2010, your branch can earn 2 (or 1) free memberships for new members. Individuals who recruit one new member will have their name entered in a drawing for a free membership on 11/30/2011.

Bylaws Update

By Ellie Lienau, AAUW of Alabama

All of you should have received a ballot to vote on changes to the Public Policy Program and the AAUW Bylaws and the new AAUW board. I am pleased to report that all the bylaws changes passed. Soon we will receive information about making any changes that must be made to the state and branch bylaws. As soon as we get guidance from the AAUW Governance (“bylaws”) Committee, we will make sure to forward it to all branches.

Each branch must make these mandatory changes and send them to one of the state bylaws co-chairs (Ellie Lienau and Marilyn Robertson) by the end of the year. I would encourage you to get this done sooner. You should make these changes using your existing bylaws.

This is also a good time to look at the branch bylaws for any other changes. Bylaws should reflect the way that the branch actually functions, including the number of officers and other board members and how they are chosen. These proposed changes are to be sent to the state for review prior to the membership vote. These changes can happen at any time during the year and are not required by the December 31 deadline. Let us know if you have any questions.

We would like to thank Jo Hempstead for the great and conscientious job she did two years ago. Hopefully the process will go as smoothly this time.

Ellie Lienau
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256-852-4802

Marilyn Robertson
marilyn.robertson@knology.net
256-536-2701

AAUW of Alabama 2011 Annual Meeting

By JoAnn Cummings, AAUW of Alabama President

This year, our state’s annual meeting was hosted by the Scottsboro/Jackson County Branch at the Comfort Inn in Scottsboro, Alabama. This is the first year that our state has



Amy Cameron, branch president of AAUW Scottsboro/Jackson County Branch, welcomed members from around the state to the 2011 Alabama State Annual Meeting.

held a state business meeting instead of a full convention, so that we could reduce the costs for members who wished to attend both the national convention and the state function.

As we have done in our other recent state conventions, Friday was dedicated to workshops for our AAUW of Alabama Student Advisory Council members. These included workshops on Ready to Run™ and Financial Security, as well as a student

dinner/mixer discussing Sexual Harassment on Campus and in the Workplace. A total of eleven students from six colleges attended.

The focus of this year’s meeting was “The Importance of Electing Women Leaders”. Amy Cameron, President of the Scottsboro/Jackson County Branch, welcomed AAUW members to her city on behalf of branch members.

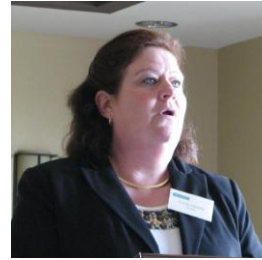


JoAnn Cummings and State Representative Juandalynn Givan pose with Alabama Student Advisory Council members

State President JoAnn Cummings led the meeting with opening remarks. She discussed how critical the battles are that are going on now in Congress and in state houses around the country, as they are having a

direct impact on our schools, women’s jobs, and the structures that support our families and our seniors. Proposed or enacted cutbacks will impact education, health care, childcare, Medicaid and Medicare and more and could have a devastating impact on our lives and our families. She discussed how important it is for women to become involved, to become politically active and to run for local or state office.

Tracy Snoddy, from the Women’s Leadership Institute at Auburn University, was our keynote speaker and discussed the challenges that women face when running for public office. Our luncheon speaker was State Representative Juandalynn Givan (D-60), who shared her personal story about running for office in 2010 and the challenges she has faced since then.



Tracy Snoddy, from the Women’s Leadership Institute at Auburn University, spoke on the importance of women running for public office.

Mildred Hoffer-Foushee, AAUW Finance Vice President, provided a briefing for attendees on the various activities and lobby actions at the national level, answered questions and then invited all members to attend the AAUW National Convention. This was followed by Leadership Training, led by speakers Sandra Shattuck and Lyndsey Torok. They spoke to members about how to use social media, such as blogs, websites and Facebook, as a means to communicate with members and promote their activities and programs.

Jo Ann Cummings led the annual business meeting as the last program in the afternoon. Mary K. Carlton, Scottsboro Branch Host Committee Chair, reported a total attendance of 53. Mary K. Carlton and Amy Cameron received a standing ovation for the excellent work done by the branch to coordinate the meeting.

The following state officers were elected by acclamation: Membership Vice President – Veronica Bryant, Secretary – Ruth Sundberg, and Treasurer – Diane Marks. Congratulations, ladies, thank you for your service, and we look forward to your leadership! Our heartfelt thanks go to departing officers Jimmie Anderson, Veronica Bryant and Janet Smith for the time and effort they dedicated to the responsibilities of their positions. It was announced that Julie Blair was elected at the Board of Directors meeting to fulfill the unexpired term of Communications Director, Sarah Barbré. Beverly Watson has volunteered to assist Julie with the newsletter and website. Elected to the Nominating Committee for 2011-12 were Audrey Salgado Sandra Lott and Sarah Barbré.

In recognition of Lilly Ledbetter, AAUW of Alabama collected over \$500 in funds to honor her at the national convention. These funds were combined with others from around the country at convention to establish an AAUW Fund in her honor. Members also approved sending student leaders Kelsey Dobyne (Montevallo) and Jesica Holly (Tuskegee) to NCCWSL, and members donated the additional funds needed to be able to send both girls to the meeting.

All AAUW members are encouraged to attend our next state meeting on Saturday, August 20, at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Course Clubhouse in Oxmoor, near Birmingham. There will be meetings of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, as well as Leadership Training in the afternoon. For more information, contact JoAnn Cummings (joannc1972@charter.net).

A Ready to Run™ Update

By Wanda Foster, Ready to Run™ Co-Director

So far this year, AAUW of Alabama's Ready to Run™ program has conducted two workshops and participated in another, and we plan to do more in the latter part of the year.

On May 6, the Women's Leadership Institute (WLI) at Auburn, the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) 2012 Project, and Vision 2020 partnered for the "Alabama Women Running and Winning" workshop at Auburn. Speakers included Kathy Kleeman from CAWP and our own Audrey Salgado, AAUW of Alabama's Ready to Run™ liaison with the 2012 Project. The purpose of the commented, "Every woman who has ever thought about running for office, running an organization, or running a Fortune 500 company should read this book." If you are interested in the event, please contact the Women's Leadership Institute at 334-844-2491, or visit their website at www.auburn.edu/womensleadership.

Ready to Run™ offered a well-received student workshop at the state convention in April. On June 4, the Huntsville branch sponsored an all-day workshop at the Robert Trent Jones clubhouse in Hampton Cove. Eighteen women registered and fourteen attended, ranging from a 17 year old high school student interested in finding out about women and politics to several seasoned community leaders who would qualify for the 2012 Project. The Ready to Run™ presenters, Audrey Salgado and Susan Sheppard, offered a more interactive

workshop was to address the women's leadership gap in Alabama, currently ranked 48th in the United States for the number of women in legislative positions. I attended as co-director of AAUW of Alabama's Ready to Run™ program.

The meeting provided helpful information to women interested in running or supporting a campaign and served to network women leaders from across the state. As a follow-up, WLI will hold another event October 13, with Marie C. Wilson, founder of the White House Project, delivering the Extraordinary Women Lecture in the Telfair Peet Theatre at Auburn. She is also the author of *Closing the Leadership Gap: Why Women Can and Must Help Run the World*. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi

program than in the past, helping attendees assess their own skills and consider roles in which they might want to serve. Attendees felt the workshop was helpful and several called it "excellent." It's the intent of Ready to Run™ to help build a network of women throughout Alabama interested in running, supporting a campaign, or gaining political appointments. Our trainers and support staff look forward to working with these wonderful women in the future. The networks we are building through "Alabama Women Running and Winning" can only enhance our purpose.

AAUW of Alabama and the Ready to Run™ team, including co-directors Wanda Foster and Susan Sheppard, want to thank the board of the Huntsville Branch for their warm support, and especially the branch's new president, Cindi Branham, who helped with recruitment.



Branch News

Birmingham

By Patti Steelman, Publicity Chair

The Birmingham branch of AAUW met in the Vulcan Room at "The Club" on Saturday March 12, at 11 a.m. Bennie Mendelson, Programs Vice President introduced the featured speaker Stuart Oats, executive director of Oak Hill Memorial Association. He gave a brief history of Oak Hill Cemetery, which was the original public cemetery of Birmingham. The cemetery is the resting place of some of Birmingham's early titans of the coal industry, blockade runners and the famous and infamous who helped found the city. The 23.5 acres was called the City Cemetery until 1913 and was maintained by the town. Following Mr. Oats Terri Hicks, a local history buff, delighted the audience by appearing in period costume, and in character told the story of Lucille Wooster, a pioneer woman in the Magic City who is interred at Oak Hill. She was a successful business woman, running a brothel. Among her clients were some of the city's elite. She led a colorful life. Before Ms. Wooster died in 1913, she wrote her life story, "Autobiography of a Magdalene, A Woman About Town". Her gravesite is the most visited in Oak Hill.

On Tuesday, May 10, the branch heard **J. Walden Retan, M.D.**, at the Cahaba Heights Pumping Station. Doctor Retan retired after a career that spanned nearly 50 years, and has become an advocate for everyone having high quality affordable health care. He noted the polls show a remarkable stable public attitude toward the Affordable Care Act that passed last year. Nationwide, about half of people polled look on the Affordable Care Act favorably. The other half regard it unfavorably. Of these, about half want it repealed and the other half feels it doesn't go far enough.

Dr. Retan explained the reasons for the Affordable Care Act and described the three ways possible to mandate insurance coverage for everyone. He discussed the budget proposal (regarding Medicare and Medicaid) by Congressman Paul Ryan, as well as the proposed cost cutting features of the Affordable Health Care Act. He also presented information about the "Healthcare for Everyone in Alabama" proposal.

Huntsville

By Cindi Branham, President, Huntsville Branch

Huntsville Branch installed new officers in May: Cindi Branham, President; Rose Norman (continuing), Programs VP; Amanda Jarrett and Ellie Lienau, Co-VP's, Funds; Beverly Watson, Secretary; and Lenore Dunn (continuing), Treasurer.

Our May meeting was procrastinator's dream: member and professional speaker Melody Blair Wade presented "The Procrastinator's Guide to Action," leaving us with a tool to help us get past the things holding us from action.

Seven branch members attended the AAUW National Convention in Washington, DC: Ruth Jurenko, Ellie Lienau, Marilyn Robertson, Wanda Foster, Sarah Barbré, Amanda Jarrett, and Cindi Branham. The group was able to participate in Lobby Day on Capitol Hill, visiting Senators Shelby and Session's Legislative Assistants, and dropping by the offices of a few Representatives. A highlight of the day: Lilly Ledbetter accompanied us to Sen. Shelby's office, along with AAUW cameras!



Huntsville members on Lobby Day

Everyone agreed that the convention was wonderful in many ways. We learned a lot, met many interesting and storied women, and those of us who were new to Convention came back with a

greater understanding of AAUW's history, programs, and impact. The branch's September Program will include a presentation on the take-aways from the experience.

The branch's officers and appointed directors will meet over the summer to develop our strategic direction, goals and action plan for the coming year.

Thanks to successful Breaking Through Barriers luncheon (with keynote speaker Melissa Musgrove) and members' hard work at the local Belk Charity sales, the Huntsville Branch was able to send 5 women from UAH and Oakwood University to NCCWSL in June. The students have been invited to give a presentation on their experience at the September meeting.

Hold the Date: Huntsville Branch's November Program is set for Saturday, November 5th. On November 4, Annie Houle of the Wage Project, will be here to lead a **Start Smart** wage negotiation workshop for students at UAH, followed by a workshop to train facilitators. She has agreed to stay and present at our November program.

If you are interested in attending the Friday facilitator's workshop, please contact Rose Norman at rose.norman@gmail.com. The Saturday meeting will be a brunch-time event, and details will follow.

For more information on \$start Smart: www.aauw.org/learn/LeadershipPrograms/StartSmart.cfm

Montevallo

By Sandra Lott, President, Montevallo Branch

The Montevallo Branch concluded the year with several special events.

In April the Montevallo Branch's Adelante Book Group hosted a special book group session with authors Sena Jeter Naslund and Gin Phillips. The event, which was held at Eclipse Coffee and Books, included a program and book signing with area authors whose works explore the experiences of women, girls, and their families. Featured books were *The Well and the Mine* by Gin Phillips, *Adam and Eve* by Sena Jeter Naslund, and *Enchanted Evening Barbie & the Second Coming: a Memoir* by Rheta Grimsley Johnson. Presenters were Sena Jeter Naslund, Gin Phillips, Beth Hughes Wilder, Elaine Wood Hughes, and Marcia Sears. A reception followed to honor the presenters and other area authors who address issue of special interest to AAUW members. The additional honorees were Barbara Belisle, Bill and Loretta Cobb, Conchita Hernandez Hicks, Norman McMillan, David Morgan, and Danny Gamble. The event was open to the public and was very well attended.

In April the branch also hosted a public program on *Community Sustainability Projects*, such as *Seed to Table Community Gardening*, *Area Farmer's Markets*, and *Shared Biking for Montevallo Trails*. Presenters were Chamber of Commerce Director Mary Lou Williams, Reverend Leanne Reed, and UM student leader Aaron Traywick. Kelly Wacker was the program coordinator.

The Montevallo Branch also celebrated the end of the year through several special awards. The annual AAUW Pathfinder Award, given at the community Citizens Award Banquet, "recognizes members of the Montevallo Branch of AAUW, who, through longstanding membership and continuing service both to the organization and to the community, have come to represent most clearly the principles that AAUW stands for, including equity, education, research and philanthropy." This year's recipient was longtime

AAUW member Mary Lou Williams. Mary Lou is co-chair of AAUW Funds for the Montevallo Branch, and she is director of the Montevallo Chamber of Commerce. Before her retirement, she served for many years as director of the University of Montevallo's Alumni Affairs.

The branch also recognized several senior women through the AAUW Senior Awards, given annually at the University of Montevallo's Honors Day program. This year, nine senior women with perfect grade point averages received this award. In addition, the branch established a need-based AAUW Book Scholarship for an incoming Freshman woman. This year's recipient is Tiffany Lilly.

Prior to the April program, the branch sponsored an end-of-year reception to recognize special achievement of student leaders and AAUW award recipients. In addition to those mentioned above, honorees included AAUW's Student Advisory Council representatives, Kelsey Dobyne, Ryeshia Albright, and Delores Williams. AAUW Student Affiliate Members, recipients of the AAUW Senior Awards, and recipients of the AAUW Student Leadership and Service Awards were also recognized. In addition, the AAUW Leaders of Tomorrow enrolled in the Upward Bound program in area schools were recognized. Special recognition went to Upward Bound Leader Jennie Cotney, who received one of this year's prestigious Smith Foundation Scholarships. The public was invited to the reception.

Show Your Support!

Web versions of the stickers that were used during the Capitol Hill Lobby Day at convention are available in three versions: Social Security, Safe Campus, and the National Women's History Museum.

See them and get the code at

http://www.aauw.org/act/issue_advocacy/lobby_webstickers.cfm.

2011 Legislative Results in Montgomery, by Cindi Branham, ACCR/Alabama Arise Liaison.

ACCR Issues

Senate Pres. Pro Tem Del Marsh offered **SJR82**, providing for a Constitutional Revision Commission. With a time limit through 2014, it allows for an article-by-article rewrite of the Constitution. The bill was passed and signed by Gov. Robert Bentley.

Former Speaker Pro Tem, Demetrius Newton sponsored **HJR 34** in the House, a Resolution which called for a constitutional convention. Senator Roger Bedford sponsored **SJR 27**, in the Senate, a Resolution that called for a constitutional convention. Neither made it out of committee.

Senator Arthur Orr sponsored **SB 112**, a constitutional amendment which will eliminate the racist language from our Constitution. It will be brought to the voters of the state in the next general election.

Rep. Mike Hill sponsored **HB 181**, a constitutional amendment which will allow limited home rule to counties that vote to accept it. This bill will not allow the counties to raise taxes or fees. Also to be voted on in the next general election.

Alabama Arise Issues

Gov. Robert Bentley signed the Individual Development Account (IDA) bill into law in early June. The program will allow the state to provide matching funds – up to \$2000 – for low-income participants to spend to attend college or job training programs, purchase a first home, or start a small business. Combined, federal and state matching funds could provide \$6,000 in assistance.

SB 295 was sponsored by Sen. Priscilla Dunn, D-Bessemer, and handled in the House by Rep Mike Ball, R-Madison. The bad news is that no funding was appropriated. Lawmakers in a future year will decide how much money, if any, the state will provide for IDA matching funds. Gov. Bentley named a study commission to plan for the new Health Insurance Exchange – but didn't appoint anyone to represent *consumers*.

All other issues supported by Alabama Arise (Equal Pay Commission, grocery tax elimination, public transportation, and death penalty moratorium) either did not make it out of committee, or did not pass.

Education and other public services, including the court systems, will suffer a fourth straight year of funding cuts.

In Washington: Following June's [supremely disappointing decision](#) (pun totally intended) in *Dukes v. Wal-Mart*, women's champion Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY-14) has [reintroduced the Equal Rights Amendment](#). (from MsRepresentation newsletter; www.wcfonline.org)

NCCWSL 2011 By Kelsey J. Dobyne

I am pleased that for the second year, I was able to represent AAUW Student Affiliates at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland, College Park. The 26th Anniversary (NCCWSL) 2011 was a weekend full of opportunities for young college women to be empowered and grow as individuals through leadership. Many sessions and workshops were offered at the conference this year. I took advantage of a variety of workshops, which included Putting Together the Financial Jigsaw and covered setting goals and dreams as it pertained to finances and different budgeting techniques. Important information was also given on learning how to manage credit scores, how to pay off debt, and save at the same time. Focus was also put on investing for beginners, small or big because the sooner investments get started the better. A second session that I attended that was Leadership, Professional Branding, and You. This workshop was instrumental because it helped participants discover and define their unique professional branding by knowing who we are, what we do, and why anyone should remember us. The term "Professional Branding" was defined as everything that makes a person exactly the individual he/she is. The most appealing line learned from this workshop was this: "If you do not know your brand, your competition will decide for you."

Another major component of the conference was the Women of Distinction Ceremony. This ceremony honored some amazing women across the country. One woman that highly interested me was Connie Chung, who has had a remarkable history in television news. Her words of encouragement and empowerment for young women at the ceremony were inspiring. First, she noted that in growing up in a family of all women was different and she always thought that her father dearly missed not having a son. But nonetheless, her parents managed to raise very strong women who were driven and determined. She encouraged us as young women to speak up and say what you what is on our minds, so that when someone else mentions the exact same point we had, we will not have to say, "That is exactly what I was going to say." Ms. Chung also noted that once her career began as an anchor, her sisters were shocked because they did not know she could speak that well because she never got a word in when they all were together. Chung learned very fast as an anchor that she had to be aggressive if she wanted to be a successful individual on TV. The most influential knowledge gained from her speech was that as young women, we needed to learn to have a presence in any setting and be ourselves, never pretending to be someone else. Finally, Chung stated that because each woman present is the only one to know what she is doing and where she is trying to go and it would be up to each individual to figure it out by doing and do her homework.

Student Action for ACCR

Two young women from Auburn University, one from rural Alabama, and one from Shanghai China, take on Alabama constitutional reform this summer. As interns for Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform Foundation Inc. (ACCRF), Jessica Melton and Ye Huang have their own plans to support the grassroots movement to enact a new Alabama Constitution that will ensure opportunity, self-determination, and justice for all the people of Alabama, primarily through educational activities.

Jessica states that “the 1901 Alabama Constitution is the longest active constitution in the world. Who is going to read a document that is 40 times longer than the United States Constitution? No one will. The state constitution must be revised.” Under SJR 82, enacted in April 2011, the Alabama Legislature plans to do just that. SJR 82 created the Constitutional Revision Commission, which will consider reviewing portions of the Alabama Constitution by 2014. Articles such as private corporations, banking, distribution of powers, legislative and executive department, as well as education will be considered. On the other hand articles on taxation, oath of office, state boundaries, and mode of amending the constitution will be excluded from consideration. The creation of this commission seems to be a positive step for constitutional reform.

Ye is researching and gathering data on the House of Representatives, Senators, and the 105 Delegates from the 2009 Mock Constitution Convention. She is currently creating a database to map out the political districts of Alabama. Ye said, “Even though I was not born in or grew up in Alabama, it is meaningful for me to be involved in the ‘140 Voices for a

Better Alabama’ Project because it is a valuable lesson on the democratic process for Alabama citizens.” Once the maps and database are completed, ACCR Foundation will be able to network and better communicate with the citizens in each district as well as their elected officials. The goal of this project is to recruit one citizen from each of the 105 House Districts and 35 Senate Districts to be a voice for constitutional reform. The 140 Voices will reflect the diversity of Alabama.

Jessica will be involved with motivating the college student population to become informed, educated, and involved with constitutional reform issues and have their own voice. Jessica says that “Alabama has an active college population that exceeds 300,000 students. We need to get these students involved with state and local government, and that starts with learning about constitutional reform issues in the 1901 Constitution.” She has researched 30 different universities throughout the state of Alabama and documented the processes to establish an on campus organization.

Ye and Jessica will also work at establishing an Alabama Students for Constitutional Reform (ASCR) at Auburn University. Then energize organizations like ASCR at the University of Alabama, University of South Alabama, University of Montevallo, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Together Ye and Jessica work to motivate all Alabama citizens and students to get involved in state and local politics, and that begins with learning about the 1901 Constitution and current reform issues. For more information on constitutional reform, please visit www.bringitbackhome.com or www.constitutionalreform.com.



Jessica Melton and Ye Huang



AAUW
Events Calendar

Please mark your calendar for these meeting dates and events:

August 20, 2011

8AM Executive, 10AM Board Meetings,
1-5PM, Leadership Training,
RTJ Oxmoor Golf Course Clubhouse.

August 26, 2011

Women's Equality Day:
19th Amendment Anniversary

September 17, 2011

Alabama Arise Annual Priorities Meeting
Montgomery, Location TBD

September 23, 2011

Bailey Thompson Luncheon,
Samford University, Birmingham

September 15, 2011

Article Deadline, Fall Daybreak

November 4, 2011

\$mart \$tart workshop and training
UA Huntsville.

January, 2012

Executive & Board Meeting, Leadership Training
Location, date TBD

April 27-29, 2012

AAUW of Alabama State Convention with
Student Workshops, Leader Meetings
Birmingham

AAUW of Alabama
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