

Alabama Daybreak

Volume 61

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Issue 1

President's Message



Several years ago, as membership vice president of my branch, I found myself contemplating how I would present AAUW as an organization that is worth joining.

I know I joined because I wanted to meet intelligent women who were working on important issues that make a difference in people's lives. And since then, I have befriended many such women in my branch and throughout the state.

But AAUW is more than just a group of wonderful women working together on local issues. AAUW is a national organization that brings together women from across our country to tackle important issues that impact women and girls in all stages of our lives.

AAUW gives you the opportunity to have a voice in national issues, to join with thousands of other women to become a force that can make things better. And AAUW gives each of us the opportunity to grow and become a leader in our local community, our state and our country. So let me tell you some of the things that AAUW is doing nationally.

Education for women has always been at the fundamental center of AAUW,

because an educated woman has the tools she needs to make a better life for herself and her family. Over the years, AAUW members have supported education through the variety of **AAUW Funds** that were formally known as the Educational Foundation. Amanda Melcher, our AAUW Funds Vice President, provides more detail about the current structure of AAUW Funds in an article on page 3. Your support for AAUW Funds is very important.

Our individual concern for the needs of women and girls is manifested in the **AAUW Public Policy Program**. It builds upon more than 125 years of responsible public participation and our principles provide the basis for AAUW members' actions at the local, state, and national levels. AAUW members can have a voice in the next version of Public Policy principles as they had the opportunity to provide input for them earlier this fall.

Of course, those of you who wish to be more personally involved in these issues on a local level can work as a state officer, on one of our state programs, or on a special program promoted by your local branch.

Statewide, we have the following activities for you to work on:

- Support the Ready to Run™ program to train women on how to run for public office.

- Lend your efforts to promote pay equity and establish an Equal Pay Commission in Alabama.

- Support the Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform and Alabama Arise.

- Promote student leadership through the Alabama Student Advisory Council.

- Help establish programs throughout the state to educate young girls about careers in science and technology.

- Help establish a College/ University relations committee to promote AAUW related activities and fellowships on college campuses in our state.

- Participate as an active member of the State Board of Directors.

So why be involved with AAUW? If even just one of the AAUW priorities is an important issue for you, you now have an opportunity to take action. With AAUW, you can pick your passion from the many issues that we support, and do something to make a difference. If we don't have a local or state program that interests you, then you can help us start one. AAUW needs active, passionate women to move ahead. **AAUW needs YOU.** To learn more, you can reach me at joannc1972@charter.net

Jo Ann Cummings,
AAUW of Alabama President

Branch News

Huntsville

The Huntsville AAUW branch hosted a cluster meeting of other North Alabama branches on Saturday, November 6. The main topic for presentation and discussion were the issues presented in the book "The Shriver Report: A Woman's Nation Changes Everything," compiled by Maria Shriver.



AAUW's mission to promote "equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research" is clearly advanced through the Shriver Report. AAUW of Alabama President Jo Ann Cummings addressed some of the key policy issues arising from the Shriver Report. A related issue is pay equity for women. Alabama Arise reports that "on average, Alabama women earn 72 cents for every dollar earned by men," and with more women as primary breadwinners, "shortchanging women hurts families, too."

Anna Blair, Public Policy chair for AAUW of Alabama, discussed these pay equity issues and the argument for making the Alabama Equal Pay Commission permanent in order to close the pay gap. Shriver's findings were first published as *A Woman's Nation Changes Everything*, and a newly updated edition was released October 15 (the 2009 edition is available online at <http://www.shriverreport.com/awn/>).

Montevallo

For the coming year, the theme for the Montevallo Branch of AAUW will be "Making a World of Difference through Advocacy, Education and Research." This year's programs 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 lifelong learning. Our program included a session on October 20 on Issues in Literature for Children and Young Adults, a December 2nd program by Montevallo Professor Daniel Deffenbaugh on the Intersection on Faith and Ecology, and a holiday dinner and bazaar to benefit AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund. On January 27 we will focus on educational opportunities for nontraditional students, featuring a presentation by UM graduate and attorney, Ahrian Davis, who directs the prestigious Smith Scholarship Program. On February 24, we plan a community-wide Black History/Women's History Month event with a Reader's Theater presentation of Pearl Cleage's poem "We Call Their Names" and a discussion of *Women of Uncommon Valor* by Dr. Geraldine Bell and Dr. Hattie Griffin Lamar. On March 24 we will have a style show, luncheon and silent auction to raise money for AAUW's Educational Funds and Reading Is Fundamental. On April 28, Kelly Wacker will coordinate a program on Sustainability Projects such as Community Gardens and Farmers Markets.

We continue the Adelante! Book Group in which we review and discuss books of special interest to women and their families. The Adelante! Book Group sessions started September 29 with a discussion of Elizabeth Gilbert's *Eat, Pray, Love* and *Committed* (9/29; 4:00 p.m. Hill House). Reviewers for this first session were Mary Lou Williams and Michele Hill. Book group participants also enjoyed a discussion by Montevallo Professor Daniel Deffenbaugh of *The Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv (on November 10). On December 8, reviewers Becky Cox Rodgers and Cheryl Patton led a discussion of Tracy Chevalier's *Remarkable Creatures* and Georgina Howell's *Gertrude Bell*, two books

about prominent 19th century women in science.

Decatur

On December 10-11, the AAUW Decatur Branch held its Holiday Used Book Sale at the Decatur Mall. The net proceeds from this sale will be used to fund scholarships for women to attend Calhoun Community College.

The Decatur Branch encourages all AAUW of Alabama branches to seek out similar opportunities to help girls within their local community and find ways to provide similar support.



Auburn

The Auburn Branch has been disbanded for several years, but there is a core group of women at the University of Auburn who are interested in re-establishing the branch.

State President JoAnn Cummings, Program Vice President Wanda Foster and former State President Audrey Salgado met up with leaders at Auburn while attending a lecture featuring Lilly Ledbetter sponsored by the Women's Leadership Institute.



AAUW Funds Demystified By Amanda Melcher, AAUW Funds Vice President

As AAUW begins a new year, please remember that your donations allow AAUW to deliver programs that support the equality of women and girls. There are several ways to give to AAUW that are tax deductible as a charitable gift on your personal federal tax return. Unrestricted gifts to **AAUW Funds** (#9110) are the most useful way to help women and girls break through educational and economic barriers. You make it possible to respond to the most urgent needs and to take advantage of the best opportunities so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

The Educational Opportunities Fund (#4336) supports educational and lifelong learning opportunities. Some of our programs include: *Fellowships and Grants*, which has hundreds of endowed fund numbers, each for a specific fellowship, career development grant, community action grant, or selected professions award; *The Fellows Alumnae Initiative*, which inspires women by providing access to the network of past and current AAUW fellows and grantees; and *The Undergraduate Scholarship Clearinghouse*, which educates women by allowing students to find and apply for much-needed scholarships from AAUW branches across the country.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund (#9170) supports AAUW research to provide analysis, data, and accurate information about issues that are important to women and girls. This includes reports such as the *Pay Equity Gap* and *Why So Few Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math*.

The Legal Advocacy Fund (#3999) supports the protection of the legal rights of those who are facing discrimination. Some of LAF's programs include: *Legal Case Support*, which protects LAF plaintiffs by supporting workplace sex discrimi-

nation cases; *LAF Case Support Travel Grants*, which protect AAUW members through educational programs about legal rights delivered by LAF plaintiffs and lawyers; and *Campus Outreach Projects*, which protect college students from discrimination, harassment, and assault through on-campus program grants.

The Leadership Programs Fund (#4339) supports programs that develop women's potential to lead in their schools, communities, and country. Leadership programs include:

- **The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders:** Develop leadership skills, networks, and ambition at this three-day conference held annually in Washington, D.C.

- **Campus Action Projects:** AAUW awards grants to campus leaders to deliver programs guided by the findings of AAUW research to address a gender-based issue in their community.

- **Elect Her:** Teaches leaders the skills needed to run for student government and successfully increases the number of women who are involved in making decisions that affect all students on campus. These student leaders are also introduced to a national network of women who are running for and holding public offices.

The Public Policy Fund (#4337) supports advocacy for public policies and laws that are fair to women. Public policy programs include: *Government Relations*, in which AAUW advocates on Capitol Hill and in the White House, ensuring that our voices are heard; *Civic Engagement*, with information and tools to build robust woman-to-woman voter registration and turnout drives in their communities; and *Field Organizing*, which engages individuals and branches in public policy advocacy.

The only contributions not eligible for a tax deduction as a charitable gift are those to the AAUW Action Fund, which operates our Lobby Corps and voter education activities. To make a gift to support these activities, you should

make your check payable to **AAUW Action Fund**.

AAUW of Alabama Wins National Awards for AAUW Funds

I am proud to announce that AAUW of Alabama has received four awards that recognize our achievement in fundraising in 2009. We did not receive these awards until mid-summer 2010.

The AAUW Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, established in 1988, supports groundbreaking research on the educational experiences of women and girls, Teacher Fellowships, and an annual Teacher Institute. AAUW of Alabama has been awarded **Second Place** for **State Per Capita** giving for our contributions to the **Eleanor Roosevelt Fund**.

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund works to combat sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace, providing support to workplace sex discrimination cases that have the potential to make a difference for all women. AAUW of Alabama has achieved **Eighth Place** for **State Per Capita** giving for our contributions to the **Legal Advocacy Fund**.

The AAUW Leadership Programs Fund supports the Campus Action Projects, the National Student Advisory Council, Elect Her, the Smart Start Salary Negotiation Workshop and the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). We received **Fifth Place** for **Total State** giving and **Second Place** for **State Per Capita** giving for our contributions to the Leadership Programs Fund.

Congratulations to our members for their efforts – and I hope that our state can continue this tradition of exemplary generosity. It is not too late to mail your donations in for 2010!

AAUW of Alabama Ready to Run™



Currently, women hold just 17 percent of the seats in Congress and 24 percent of the seats in state legislatures. In Alabama, we have no women serving in Congress and only 12.9 percent of our state legislators are women. Ready to Run™, sponsored by AAUW of Alabama, is a nonpartisan program that trains women who want to run for office, seek higher office, or work on a campaign.

Montgomery -- AAUW Montgomery sponsored its first Annual Ready to Run™ Training on July 24, 2010, at the Capitol Hill Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail clubhouse in Prattville, Alabama. Ten women, ages 16 to 60, participated in the training. Wanda Foster, State Program vice president and co-director of Ready to Run™, attended to lend her support.

The keynote speaker was The Honorable Sharon Yates, of the 15th Judicial Circuit Court. Judge Yates shared her experiences in campaigning for public office. She is the first woman to serve on the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals and was the presiding judge from 2001 to 2005.

Jill Nolin of the *Montgomery Advertiser* gave a humorous presentation on how to handle the media during political campaigns. Other trainers included AAUW's own Susan Sheppard, co-director of Ready to Run™; Anna Blair; Audrey Salgado; and Janet Smith.

The Ready to Run™ team regretfully announces that they had to cancel the workshops scheduled for Birmingham (October 16) and Huntsville (October 23) because of low registration, though interest has been high. We've discovered that October in an election year is a bad time to schedule a workshop. We will reschedule sometime in 2011 and keep you informed. If you're interested in attending a workshop or finding out more about Ready to Run™, please view the Ready to Run™ website at

http://www.aauw-alabama.org/rtr_main.htm and/or contact Team Co-Directors Wanda Foster or Susan Sheppard. (Our contact information is on the website.)



The **Elect Her** initiative from AAUW aims to close the longstanding political leadership gender gap by empowering and training women to run for office at all levels. The initiative consists of a full continuum of programming. The centerpiece is Elect Her — Campus Women Win, in which AAUW, in conjunction with Running Start, trains college women to run for campus-based elective office. Additionally, AAUW promotes Running Start's successful Young Women's Political Leadership Program for high school girls and the Women's Campaign Forum's She Should Run campaign, which also has Running Start's support. For more information, visit:

<http://www.aauw.org/learn/LeadershipPrograms/electHer.cfm>

Elect Her — Campus Women Win is a collaboration between the American Association of University Women and Running Start. Next year, it will be held on 20 campuses around the nation, including the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. The program, which aims to encourage more young women to run for office, will return to its nine original program sites and will debut at 11 new campuses in 2011. See the full [list of participating schools](#) on the AAUW website.

Elect Her — Campus Women Win is such a vital program because it engages a whole new generation of college women in the pursuit of running for student body leadership positions. Many of these students have never considered running for office before, but Elect Her challenges them to change the statistics that show men dominating student governments. The experience these women gain is the very best training for running for office later in life.

AAUW National Convention

The AAUW National Convention for 2011 will be held June 16-19 at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington D.C. Join us to celebrate AAUW's 130 years as a nationwide community that is breaking through barriers for women and girls.

At the 2011 AAUW National Convention, you will join AAUW members from across the country as we advocate for change with a Lobby Day on Capitol Hill; are inspired by nationally recognized speakers and learn new leadership skills and AAUW best practices to take home to our communities; and play a personal role in creating a road map for AAUW's future by participating in our strategic breakout sessions.

Now is the time for branches to begin planning and budgeting so that one or more branch members can take the opportunity to attend the Convention.

ACCR- Fourth Annual Bailey Thomson Awards Luncheon

On August 19th in Tuscaloosa's Bryant Conference Center, almost 400 supporters gathered to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform and the Fourth Annual Bailey Thomson Awards Luncheon. The keynote speaker was Dr. David Mathews, former University of Alabama president. He currently serves as President and CEO of the not-for-profit research organization, the Kettering Foundation. He also served as the Secretary for Health, Education, and Welfare in the Ford Administration. He traced the progress made in the constitutional reform movement over the last 15-20 years.

The four awards given at this year's luncheon are:

Edgar C. Gentle III:

Bailey Thomson Award

A Birmingham attorney and Rhodes Scholar, Mr. Gentle is an active proponent of constitutional reform who takes his message around the state, educating Alabama citizens about the urgent need to build a modern frame-work that will enable our state to reach its full potential.

Melanie Jeffcoat:

Educator of the Year

An experienced filmmaker, Ms. Jeffcoat researched and co-produced Open Secret, an award-winning documentary that persuasively advocates for reform of the 1901 Alabama Constitution. The film has been screened to enthusiastic audiences statewide since its premiere in February, and was shown at our state convention in April 2010.

Hill Carmichael and Mark Berte (AAUW member): ACCR Foundation Spirit Award

Committed supporters of constitutional reform, Hill Carmichael and Mark Berte have been at the forefront of grassroots efforts for

many years. Influential and articulate, they are credited with developing and implementing creative strategies to build public support for a new constitution.

Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham: Partner of the Year

A vital ACCR funding partner, the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham helped underwrite the mock constitution convention as well as the Bring It Back Home grassroots education project. The Foundation's generous support is integral to growth of reform efforts.

The current ACCR newsletter discusses the Listening Sessions that were held this year. Here is a link:

http://www.constitutionalreform.org/newsletters/Volum5_3d.pdf

In addition, ACCR has a new website to cover activities of the "Bring It Back Home" campaign:

<http://www.bringitbackhome.org/index2.html>



Equal Pay Commission and Alabama Arise

On September 18th, Alabama Arise held its annual meeting in Montgomery to determine the legislative priorities that it will pursue in 2011. In addition to the recurring topics of adequate state budgets and tax reform, members voted on five other topics to focus on in 2011.

AAUW of Alabama proposed that Arise support a bill to establish an Equal Pay Commission for Alabama, which we have lobbied for the last five years. Jo Ann Cummings made the presentation to the group. All AAUW branches who are members of Arise were represented

at the meeting when the votes were cast, and the Equal Pay Commission was accepted as a 2011 priority.



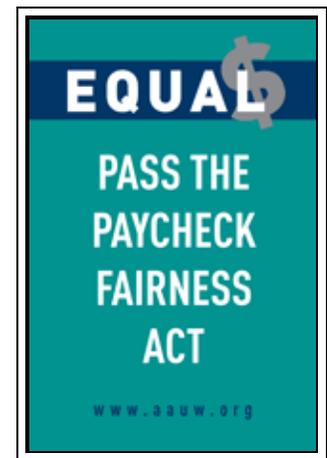
Wanda Foster casts her vote for Equal Pay Commission as an ACPD priority

After November 2nd, when our next group of Alabama representatives and senators are elected, we will begin our planning to gather co-sponsors and supporters for the bill that will be presented in 2011. All Alabama members are requested to help us to lobby for passage of this bill.

The other issues for 2011 that were adopted are: constitutional reform, public transportation, worker savings incentives and the death penalty moratorium.

You can get a summary from Arise that lists the candidates for state office:

<http://arisecitizens.org/> After the election, Arise says that they will provide a listing of all the winning representatives and senators, with contact information links.



AAUW of Alabama Participates in Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure!



On Saturday, October 9, three teams of AAUW members and friends participated at the Komen Race for the Cure in Birmingham to raise funds to support breast cancer research and education for North Alabama. We joined over 15,000 other participants at Linn Park downtown, and there were so many people that it was impossible to get together for a group picture. However, I know that, for those who came to run or walk the 5K or 1 mile event, it was very inspirational to be among so many breast cancer survivors and supporters.



Running for the AAUW Montevallo Activists Team were Amanda Melcher, Becky Cox Rodgers, Mary Beth Rodgers, Loren Leigh Baggett, Brian Hippensteel, Allison Westley, and Ashley Stiglich. Team members Sandra and John Lott and volunteer Kelsey Dobyne were there as well. Team members who cheered from home were Dorothy Grimes, Judy Rogers, Anna Lott, Kara Bryant, Carolyn Miller Kirby, and Tennie Holmes. AAUW members Barbara Williams and Dee Woodham also supported the Montevallo team. The team raised a total of \$500 in

donations, plus \$450 in registration fees for this race.

The Huntsville Chargers for the Cure team members were Tamara Wright, Carolyn Moore, Erica Ball, Jake Chandler, Leonard French, Mary Ingram and Shane Wright. They raised \$70 in donations, plus \$210 in registration fees.

The AAUW of Alabama Angels team



members were JoAnn Cummings, Cathy Moncrief, Tommye Rowell, Wanda Foster, and Susan Sheppard. The team raised \$430 in donations and \$150 in registrations.

I am very proud of everyone who participated or donated to the cause. In total, we collected \$1000 in donations from 32 contributors and \$780 in registration fees from 28 participants. I hope that more of our members will continue their walking or running fitness programs and be able to be in more races like this to support other worthwhile causes.

Jo Ann Cummings,
Team Captain
AAUW of Alabama Angels
<http://womenacrosstheworld.ning.com/>



AAUW of Alabama History Project

AAUW of Alabama has been around for many years. It was organized as a state organization in 1927, but several branches were established before that date. Montgomery and Birmingham were both established in 1921. So far, the history of our state organization has been documented in two volumes. The first book, *A Half Century of AAUW in Alabama*, covers the years 1927-1977. The second book covers the fifteen years 1976-1991. Now, the time has come to update our history from 1991 to 2011.

We are establishing a History Project to help us preserve the history of our state and branch organizations. The History Project will be composed of three parts: a) research and documentation of the history 1991-2011; b) digitalization of the existing two books; and c) production of a complete-to-date history, combining the original information with the "new" information.

Each branch will need to examine their records to develop a year-by-year summary that highlights the activities and accomplishments of their branch, and the state will have to do the same. Officers and branch historians from the last 15-20 years may be able to help to compile this data.

We are researching a way to scan in the earlier documents to have them transcribed into an electronic format. Then we will have a way to preserve the complete history of our state and branches before all of the details are forgotten. This project will probably take at least a year, and we will target the document release for the 2012 state convention. If you are interested in helping with this project, contact Wanda Foster (wlfoster002@yahoo.com).

AAUW of Alabama 2011 Annual Meeting in Scottsboro

Mark your calendars!! In 2011, AAUW of Alabama will hold the annual State Business Meeting in the beautiful city of Scottsboro on Saturday, April 9th. Starting at 10:00 AM, there will be several speakers, a catered or boxed lunch, followed by an additional speaker and the state business meeting, where reports will be made and elections will be held.

The Executive Committee will hold its meeting on Friday night, April 8th, and the Board of Directors will meet on Saturday 8:00 – 10:00 AM. Workshops for Student Advisory Council members will be held on Friday and during the business meeting Saturday afternoon.

As approved at the 2010 meeting, during the years that an AAUW national convention is held (odd years), we will hold a one-day business meeting hosted by one of our smaller branches. During even years, we will hold a three-day convention hosted by a larger branch. This gives each branch a chance to participate and mingle with other members from around the state.

Scottsboro is a lovely town adjacent to Lake Guntersville. It is also home to the Unclaimed Baggage store, so you may want to come a day early, just to go shopping there!

NATIONAL UPDATE

One Member, One Vote

Adopted at the 2009 AAUW National Convention, the concept of **One Member, One Vote** moved AAUW national elections beyond a delegate-only process to an every-member opportunity. Under **One Member, One Vote**, members can now propose and discuss bylaw changes, resolutions, and Public Policy Program amendments online and “meet” the candidates through biographies, video, and candidate links.

In addition to frequent website and other online updates, key information will be available to all members in the Fall, Winter, and Spring/Summer issues of *AAUW Outlook* as well.

Please log in, explore the **One Member, One Vote** online system, and familiarize yourself with the process. A [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document (FAQ) is available to assist you. To access the online system from the AAUW home page, click on Member Center (in the top right corner), log in with your member ID, and then select **One Member, One Vote**.

As a reminder, members can find their member ID on the *AAUW Outlook* mailing label or by using the [Member ID Lookup](#) link, which is also available from the log-in page of the Member Center.

For an overview of the **One Member, One Vote** process, please visit the [Current Topics Briefing Series](#) online. Here is a brief summary:

4/15/11

Personalized paper ballots will be mailed to all members.

5/01/11 Electronic voting period begins – this is the preferred method.

5/31/11

If you are casting a paper ballot, it must be postmarked by this date.

6/17/11

Electronic voting period ends either online or at the convention.

Votes will be tallied and election results announced at the convention.

Links:

One Member, One Vote-
<http://www.aauw.org/login.cfm>

Member ID Lookup-
http://www.aauw.org/aauw_id_lookup.cfm

Current Topics Briefing-
http://www.aauw.org/member_center/briefings/

AAUW **Events Calendar**

Important Upcoming Meetings

Please mark your calendar for these meeting dates and events:

December 31, 2011

Deadline for 2010 AAUW Funds

January 1, 2011

Beginning of half-price membership period (thru March 15). Time to do those mid-year promotions.

January 10, 2011

Selective Professions Fellowships
Deadline

January 21, 2011

Deadline for "Best Value"
Registration for AAUW National
Convention

AAUW of Alabama
Sarah Barbré
Communications Director
331 Jasmine Drive
Madison, AL 35757

Address Service Requested

January 22, 2011

AAUW State Executive Committee and
Board of Directors Meetings Robert
Trent Jones (RTJ) Golf Trail – Oxmoor
Valley Clubhouse 100 Sunbelt Parkway,
Birmingham, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

February 1, 2011

NCCWSL Registration opens

January – March 2011

Ready to Run™ Workshops for women
interested in running for office RTJ –
Dates & Locations TBD

April 9, 2011

AAUW of Alabama State Board of
Directors and Business Meeting Hosted
by Scottsboro Branch

April 12, 2011

Equal Pay Day- possible Lobby Day in
Montgomery to support Equal Pay
Commission Bill.

June 2-4, 2011

NCCWSL, University of Maryland,
College Park, MD

June 16-19, 2011

AAUW National Convention,
Renaissance Hotel, Washington DC

August 26, 2011

Women's Equality Day: 90th
anniversary of passage of the 19th
amendment, gave women the
right to vote.



Non-Profit Organization
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Huntsville, Alabama

AAUW Advances Equity for Women and Girls through Advocacy, Education, Philanthropy, and Research.

www.aauw-alabama.org