



Summer 2013

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President's Message

Fueling Growth with Convention Ideas

For the lucky few of us who got to attend the AAUW national convention in New Orleans, it was an exhilarating experience. But we didn't just eat and party, we worked pretty hard attending meetings, networking, and gathering ideas to bring back to the state and branches. Already, at state, a couple of them are being implemented. At the meeting for state presidents, held the day before the rest of the convention, I got a lot of information and enjoyed networking with other presidents.

The goals for AAUW of Alabama that I would like to pursue for 2013-14 are:

- Reach out to add new College/University Partners, enhance existing partnerships and expand recruitment of e-student affiliates.
- Develop coalitions with other state organizations on common public policy goals and strengthen public policy.
- Increase overall membership and resurrect prior AAUW branches.

Part of the public policy goal will be getting a state pay equity commission established; addressing the need to recruit and train women to run for public office and in the process to help build a network of women leaders in the state; continuing to try to reform our unfair and regressive state constitution (written in 1901 and "reformed" only piecemeal since); and bringing more awareness to the Equal Rights Amendment.

Thanks to what we learned at convention, we've come back with tools to work on these goals. Jo Ann Cummings is doing a masterful job serving as temporary College/University Relations chair. We also learned about a new State Grassroots Organizer program offered by national AAUW. I applied for this program, and have just learned that we've been ACCEPTED. (See page 6 for story.) And this is just a

start to what we all hope to implement at state and branch levels.

Something else to keep in mind: Auburn University's Women's Leadership Institute and its Women's Studies Program are bringing—are you ready for this?—Gloria Steinem, that great pioneer of the feminist movement, to the university in February 2014. And it's free. Mark your calendars.

So you can see it's going to be a busy year. Please pick your passion—whether it's growing membership, college/university relations, public policy, fundraising, publicity and marketing, program planning, mentoring, or anything else AAUW, and join us in growing AAUW of Alabama. We can't do it without you. Particularly, as details unfold with the State Organizer project, please consider becoming involved. We can make a difference.

I encourage all branches to send their representatives to our State Board meeting August 24 at Hoover Public Library, as it will be followed by a strategic planning session for the following year.

And last, I want to take a moment and acknowledge, as AAUW does on its web site, the passing of Helen Thomas, intrepid member of the White House press corps, pioneer journalist, role model for women, and AAUW member. She was also a 1985 NCCWSL Woman of Distinction. I was incredibly lucky when I sat down next to her without realizing it at a National Women's Political Caucus luncheon many years ago. I found her witty, charming, and one of the most intelligent women I've ever encountered. President Obama said, "She covered every White House since President Kennedy's, and during that time she never failed to keep presidents—myself included—on their toes." In short, she danced backwards and in high heels, to borrow the phrase, and she made it look good.

Wanda Foster -- wlfoster001@yahoo.com
State President, AAUW of Alabama

AAUW National Convention 2013 – New Orleans

Jo Ann Cummings

Alabama had fairly a good showing of members to attend the National Convention in New Orleans June 9-12. We even had some members take the train!

While Wanda attended the full day of events for state presidents, the rest of us who arrived early spread out through the city to explore the exciting local life. We had dinner at two excellent restaurants (of course NOLA is all about the food!) and even had a Saturday night jaunt down Bourbon Street.



AAUW of AL State President Wanda Foster joins other State Presidents in New Orleans at AAUW National Convention

There were many events in the main hall, where everyone assembled for dinners, speaker panels, and even a fashion show with the NEW AAUW colors. There were SO many workshops to attend between all of the main events that it kept us busy. The time between events was spent either networking with new friends or shopping in the Shopping Zone and at Everything AAUW.

We had many excellent speakers who shared their compelling stories or advice with us, including Linda Alepin, Melissa Harris Perry (via taped message), former Senator Olympia Snowe, Cynthia D'Amour and Lilly Ledbetter.

With the new One-Member One-Vote system for elections, all members had the opportunity to cast their votes for our bylaw changes, public priorities and elected officers. They could do this on-line prior to the convention, or at the convention itself. This has made the event much more enjoyable and provided more time for the excellent workshops.

The changes to national bylaws are slight, and are discussed later in the newsletter.

Our new National Officers are:

President – Patricia Ho;
Vice President – Julia Brown; Finance Vice President – Rosalyn Homer; and Secretary – Sandra Camillo. The new AAUW Board of



Director members are: Amy Blackwell, Kathryn Braeman, Malinda Gaul, Charlene Goehring, Sally Anne Goodson, Eileen Hartmann, David Kirkwood, Betsy McDowell, Rebecca Norlander, Pamela Thiel, and Peggy Williams.

And, whether you were at convention or not, for anyone wanting to access PowerPoints, handouts, videos, photos, the convention program booklet, and other resources from National Convention, they're at <http://convention.aauw.org/2013/07/10/2013-convention-materials-workshops-and-more/>

In addition to State President Wanda Foster, the rest of the Alabama group was made up of Diane Marks, state treasurer; Jo Ann Cummings, state communications chair; Audrey Salgado, head of The 2014 Project Alabama and director of AAUW of Alabama's Ready to Run™ project; Bobbie Piper, 2012-13 Birmingham branch president; Barbara Patterson, current Birmingham program vice president; Lucy Harris, Shoals branch president; Cindi Branham, Huntsville branch president; Carlotta Russell, Mobile branch president; Sherry Anderson, Huntsville membership co-vice president; Beverly Watson, Huntsville branch secretary; Ellie Lienau and Devon Reynolds, Huntsville branch members; Elva Bradley, member-at-large from Tuscaloosa, and Esther Ngumbi, member-at-large from Auburn; Shefa Suhaila, a student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham; and, of course, we're going to claim Lilly Ledbetter, who is a state member-at-large. Shefa was, as far as we know, the only student sponsored to the convention, and she was a joy to be with. She is definitely one of our future leaders.



AAUW Alabama members pose with Lilly Ledbetter at 2013 AAUW National Convention in New Orleans

Branch News

Huntsville: Planning for the Future

Regina Hyatt –Co-President

The AAUW Huntsville branch has used the summer months to plan for the future. Beginning in June, the Huntsville Board of Directors gathered for a strategic planning meeting. Three critical questions were discussed.

1. What programs/services/activities does our branch do really well (needs little improvement)?
2. What programs/services/activities does our branch do that need some improvement?
3. What programs/services/activities should we be doing that we aren't?

From these three critical questions, several themes emerged. These themes included: communication, engaging members, college/university connections, and outreach. Each theme was taken on by a workgroup of current board members and general members of the branch. Reports from the workgroups will be discussed at our August board meeting and we will make decisions on which ideas will be moved forward for action. We look forward to sharing the outcomes of our planning with our colleagues around the state.

Meanwhile, in the midst of our planning for the upcoming year, we also are working to finalize our program calendar. We look forward to reconvening the branch in September for a visit with the students whom our branch sponsored to attend NCCWSL. This year, we were pleased to be able to add Drake State to our list of participants. In addition, we sponsored students from UAHuntsville and Alabama A&M University. The stories our students share about their experiences at NCCWSL motivate us to continue our fundraising efforts so that more women have the opportunity to be inspired by the NCCWSL experience.

Montevallo

Sandra Lott & Mary Jo Buff, Co-Presidents

Memberships in the Montevallo Branch of AAUW for the coming year are now being accepted. We plan a membership reception in September, and we encourage people from throughout the community to renew memberships or to become a new member. The Montevallo Branch has just completed a great year, in which we made significant strides on the local and the national levels in our support of equality of educational

opportunity from kindergarten through graduate school. Educational programs we support include Reading Is Fundamental (K-1), Upward Bound (Middle and High School), Upward Bound College Students, and recent college graduates. We offer a book scholarship for a deserving entering freshman student at the University of Montevallo, and we support the AAUW Hallie Farmer Scholarship for a rising junior UM student studying Public Policy and Human Services. Of course, we also support the national AAUW funds for Educational Opportunity, and Research, Leadership Training, and Public Policy,

Plans are now underway for an exciting new series of projects and programs for the coming year, and we invite all our members and friends to help shape and implement plans. We hope to strengthen our team and committee structures, so that leadership roles are shared by a larger number of members from diverse backgrounds and age groups.

Our nominating committee is seeking new officers to fill some of our key leadership slots. We are encouraging members to let us know of their particular interests and areas of expertise. We welcome suggestions from members of other branches as well. As in past years, we plan to offer informative programs and projects on local, national, and international issues affecting women and their families. Our focus will include social, economic, governmental, and intercultural concerns related to topics such as immigration, education, gender equality, voting rights, health care, the environment, and many more. Our program committee will welcome suggestions about how best to incorporate some of these key concerns of women and their families into our programs and projects for the year.

The ¡Adelante! Book Group selections will complement the branch programs and projects. Books which have been suggested for the coming year include Khaled Hosseini's *And the Mountains Echoed*, Margaret Wrinkle's *Wash*, Elizabeth Strout's *The Burgess Boys*, Barbara Kingsolver's *Flight Behavior*, M. L. Stedman's *The Light Between the Oceans*, Kristina Baker Kline's *Orphan Train*, and Michel Stone's *Iguana Tree*. The Book Group Committee will meet soon to make selections among these and other works from different cultures and timeframes. We hope you will send us your suggestions to add to the list of possibilities.

We plan to work in coalition with other groups in our area and with AAUW members from across the state and nation to help promote our shared concerns and our vision for a better society for women and their families.

AAUW of Alabama 2013 Annual Meeting



AAUW members and SAC Students at 2013 Annual Meeting at Judson College.

We held our AAUW of Alabama Annual State meeting on April 6th at Judson College in Marion. As always, we preface our annual meeting with a student day on Friday, April 5th, for our Student Advisory Council members. This year, twelve students from seven colleges in our state attended the meeting, where they participated in workshops learning about AAUW, political participation for college or public office, and financial planning. The evening was topped off with a pizza party and discussion about the film *Iron-Jawed Angels* about the women's suffragette movement.



Audrey Salgado speaks to SAC students on the Ready to Run™.

On Saturday April 6th, members from around the state joined together to hear presentations themed around *Continuing the Legacy of Women's Leadership*. Elaine Hughes, former Chair of the National AAUW Public Policy Committee, discussed how the foundations laid by our strong past of women leaders are the steps to our future leadership opportunities. Melissa Oliver, the Alabama Arise Citizens' Policy Project Legislative Coordinator, gave a summary of the Alabama legislation that impacts the group's priority issues. Amy Blackwell, an AAUW Director-at-Large, provided us with an update on AAUW National programs and advocacy issues. Students completed presentations with a brief summary about their *Iron-Jawed Angels* discussion group.

The State Business meeting was held after presentations. Wanda made the announcements that Elaine Hughes had accepted the position of state public policy chair, and

that the 2014 State Convention would be hosted by the Huntsville Branch.

The following slate of officers of AAUW of Alabama for the 2013-2015 term was presented:
Vice-President
Membership: Veronica Bryant; Finance: Diane Marks; and Secretary: Jimmie Anderson. Approval was obtained via email vote after the meeting.



Bylaws Update

Ellie Lienau, Bylaws Chair

The proposed changes to the National AAUW Bylaws passed. The good news is that this didn't result in any mandatory changes to make to either the state or branch bylaws. So this would be a good time to look at your branch bylaws to make them reflect the way you do business. When I sent the branch the results of my review of the mandatory changes from the previous convention, I also sent a suggested checklist for the branch to look over to see if they are covered in the branch bylaws. Any changes made need to be sent to me for review. Contact me if you have any questions.

Ellie Lienau -elienau@yahoo.com

AAUW Legacy Circle

You can join the AAUW Legacy Circle by making a planned gift to AAUW National, affirming your commitment to women and girls. As a member of the Legacy Circle, you will receive a beautiful pin. There are many ways to make this planned gift. Some suggestions are: charitable gift annuity, or naming AAUW as the beneficiary in your will, trust, insurance policy, or IRA. These gifts can be given to AAUW's general fund or directed to your preferred program. And it doesn't have to be a large amount of money.

Legacy Circle members are special to AAUW. If you attend the National Convention, you will be invited to a special luncheon and be assigned to a table at the convention banquet. AAUW Huntsville branch member, Ruth Jurenko, belongs to this select group. Please consider joining her. You can visit www.aauwlegacy.org for general information. Or call 202-785-7766 or 877-357-5587 to get details on how to do this.



**Welcome to Elaine Hughes,
New State Public Policy
Chair!**

In April, AAUW of Alabama President Wanda Foster appointed Dr. Elaine Hughes as our state public policy chair.

Elaine is a longtime AAUW member and has a distinguished leadership record at national, state, and local levels. An active member of the Montevallo branch since 1975, where she served two terms as branch president, Elaine has served in AAUW state offices, as public policy chair, program vice president, and president. She co-authored the Voter Education Impact Grant which Alabama received for the 1998 congressional elections. Her experience will be an asset in working with the part-time grassroots organizer AAUW is providing Alabama.

As a member of the AAUW public policy committee, Elaine represented the committee in presentations at both SEC regional and national conventions. She served as chair of the committee 2003-2007.

Elaine is Professor *Emerita* of English at the University of Montevallo, where she earned her BA in 1969. She earned her Ph.D. in English in 1979 from the University of Alabama, where she was a National Defense Education Act Fellow. She was named the Carnegie Foundation CASE Professor of the Year for Alabama in 1998-99 and received the Eugene Current-Garcia Award as Alabama’s Distinguished Literary Scholar in 2007. She was the 2011 recipient of the Alabama Humanities Award.

She and her husband, Robert, live in Brierfield, Alabama; they have three married children and eight grandchildren.

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW of Alabama Faces Challenges

Elaine W. Hughes, Ph.D.
Public Policy Chair, AAUW of AL

The U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in June to invalidate Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 continues to have reverberations across the nation. Attorney General Eric Holder announced on Thursday, July 25, that the Justice Department will support a lawsuit challenging Texas’s redistricting plans. Texas and eight other states

(including Alabama) had been required under the Voting Rights Act to submit all election changes to the Department of Justice for “preclearance” due to a history of discrimination. The Court’s ruling in this case, *Shelby County v. Holder*, struck down the decades-old formula that determined which states were subject to this “preclearance” requirement. Holder stated in his announcement that this is the first effort of the Department to protect voting rights following the Shelby County decision but that it will not be the last. AAUW plans to work with Congress to develop a bipartisan response to the Supreme Court decision that will ensure equitable political participation and nondiscriminatory voting laws for all Americans.

While other states are in various stages of enacting changes in voting laws, the Alabama legislature actually passed its voter ID law in 2011 without seeking preclearance and plans to implement it in 2014. “Free” voter ID cards will be provided to those who do not have other valid forms of ID. The problem is that the requirement of photo ID will discriminate against minorities, the poor, and the elderly, many of whom are undereducated and many of whom live in rural areas and do not have transportation. While AAUW is working with Congress and legal challenges are pending, AAUW of AL wants to join with activist organizations to educate these challenged people, helping them to know what documents must be provided to obtain the photo ID, registering them to vote, helping them follow up and correct problems if their voter registration is challenged, and educating them on public policy issues facing Alabamians.

AAUW of AL is currently in coalition with ACCR (Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform), Alabama Arise, and The 2014 Project Alabama, non-profit groups that work to improve the quality of life for Alabama’s poor, to achieve justice for low-income, unrepresented populations of Alabama.

Other issues in Alabama are among AAUW’s current policy priorities: immigration reform; fair pay; redistricting for 2014 elections; and the Alabama Accountability Act, which gives tax credits to families with children in failing public schools to offset the cost of tuition at a private school. These issues remind members of AAUW of AL of the mission of AAUW: to promote equity and education for women and girls. In 2013-2014, AAUW of AL has the opportunity and the obligation to take leadership positions on these issues affecting all aspects of our lives.

AAUW of Alabama Gets a State Organizer!

Wanda Foster, State President

AAUW Vice President of Government Relations Lisa Maatz announced at national convention that AAUW was launching a state-based organizer pilot program where regional field organizers would work with volunteer member leadership to coordinate grassroots activities on local, state, and federal public policy issues, as well as working with campus leaders and recruiting new members. The professional organizer would be provided to 20 states that applied. One organizer would be shared between several states.

In early July, we applied. Just recently, we were informed that AAUW of Alabama was one of the states chosen. The program starts September 1 and runs until June 30, 2014. AAUW of Alabama will share an organizer with Georgia, Tennessee, and Florida.

The application states, in part:

“What we are concerned about is: Developing coalitions with other state organizations on common public policy goals. AAUW of AL wants to keep alive the fight to bring awareness to pay equity and to establish a state pay equity commission; the need to recruit and train women to run for public office and in the process to help build a network of women leaders in the state; the effort to reform our unfair and regressive state constitution (written in 1901) and “reformed” only piecemeal since; and the need at least to bring more awareness to the Equal Rights Amendment.

AAUW of AL held an impact grant from national several years ago which involved building a state lobby corps, working on pay equity, and doing a small pilot door-to-door project based on the *Woman to Woman Voter Turnout Manual*. Each of these projects had limited success, but we'd like to revisit building a state lobby corps.

The issue we think we can use as a “wedge” issue in coalition building is the gutting of the Voting Rights Act and imminent legislation to “prevent” voting rights fraud. Both AAUW and AAUW of AL are deeply concerned, and this is one of the issues we most need a professional organizer to help us with. It is an issue ripe for the building of coalitions, raising awareness of AAUW and AAUW of AL, building membership, and bringing in college and community college students. The suit, *Shelby County v. Holder*, originated in Alabama's Black Belt, battleground of the civil rights movement.

The 2014 Project Alabama/ Ready to Run™

Audrey L. Salgado



AAUW of Alabama is an ally of The 2014 Project Alabama, which Audrey Salgado, our Ready to Run™ project director, chairs. Like our state Ready to Run™ project, The 2014 Project Alabama is associated with the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) in the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers. CAWP is nationally recognized as the leading source of scholarly research and current data about American women's political participation. For more information about The 2014 Project Alabama, see its web site at <http://www.the2014projectal.org/>

CAWP received a Kellogg Foundation Grant to provide for a meeting of National Network Partners on campus in New Brunswick, New Jersey. CAWP has rolled in all the continuing 2012 Projects around the nation into this National Network Partners Program. Their Ready to Run™ programs are also included. I am honored Alabama is included as one of the 16 states invited as part of the National Network Partners. The meeting will be held on October 17-18, 2013.

At least one major fall event is being planned in Jefferson, Lee, Madison and Tuscaloosa counties. The next Women's Summit, August 13, and Ready to Run™ training, September 12, will be held in Calhoun County at the Jacksonville Hampton Inn.

"Election, Voters, and the Law" kicked off July 11 in Shelby County with County Probate Judge James W. Fuhrmeister. The next session will be in Jefferson County on Tuesday, August 27, 10 - 11 am, with County Probate Judge Alan King. County Probate Judge Alice Martin (Calhoun County), County Probate Judge Bill English (Lee County), and County Probate Judge Tommy Ragland (Madison County) have agreed to conduct future sessions. Attempts will be made to schedule "Election, Voters, and the Law" in every county through December 2014.

For more information, contact:

Audrey L. Salgado, Chair,
AudreyThe2014ProjectAL@gmail.com.

Alabama Arise Update

(<http://www.arisecitizens.org>)



Alabama Arise will hold their Summer Membership Meeting on August 10, from 10 am to 12 pm, at St. Steven's Episcopal Church in Birmingham. All member organizations are encouraged

to attend and vote on ACPP bylaws changes, which will change the representing and voting laws, hopefully involving member organizations more fully. The problem of Predatory Lending will also be on the agenda.

The ACPP meeting will commence at noon and run until only 12:10 pm.

Arise Citizens' Policy Project (ACPP), founded in 1994, is a statewide nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of 150 congregations and community groups and hundreds of individuals united in their belief that low-income people are suffering because of state policy decisions. Through ACPP, groups and individuals join together to promote state policies that improve the lives of low-income Alabamians.

Arise's Annual Meeting will be September 21. At this meeting, the legislative priorities for the 2014 Alabama legislative session will be voted upon.

ACPP is seeking to hire a second organizer for North Alabama. Organizers work to expand the base of member groups and individuals and equip them for advocacy. Arise's team of six organizers make the case that people are hurting because of policy decisions made in Montgomery and Washington, and that informed constituents can do something about it.

[Read the job announcement here](#) (or at their website) to find out more about this exciting opportunity. Please pass the word to anyone you know who may be interested.

Alabama Arise sends out an excellent daily summary of articles and editorials pertinent to their mission. You may sign up at <http://arisecitizens.org/index.php/contact-arise/join-arise-daily-news-digest>. This is highly recommended if you want to be up-to-date on issues!

AAUW of Alabama is a contributing member organization of Alabama Arise, as are many individual members and branches in the state.

ACCR Update

(www.constitutionalreform.org)

Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform invites you to The Sixth Annual Bailey Thomson Awards Dinner on August 15 at the Wynfrey Hotel Ballroom.

This year's event will honor the outstanding public service of the members and staff of the Alabama Constitutional Revision Commission. Beginning with a social hour that offers a cash bar, the event will feature dinner and program with former Governor Albert Brewer as speaker. Individual tickets may be purchased by clicking at their website (above), or you may choose to become a sponsor.

The late Bailey Thomson was a distinguished Alabama journalist and a pioneer in the effort to give Alabama's citizens a modern constitution. To read more about Bailey Thomson click, see: <http://www.constitutionalreform.org/aboutthomson.shtml>

The Constitutional Revision Commission is charged with revising three articles this year:

The Education Article, the Declaration of Rights and the Executive Department Article.

Vicki Drummond is Chair of the Education Article sub-committee together with Senators Bryan Taylor and Quinton Ross, Rep. Randy Davis and John Anzalone. Matt Lembke is Chair of the Executive Article sub-committee together with Al Agricola, Greg Butrus and Senator Cam Ward. Jim Pratt, is Chair of the Declaration of Rights sub-committee together with Carolyn McKinsty and Representative Patricia Todd.

Check the Alabama Law Institute web page www.ali.state.al.us for updates on meeting times. The public is invited and welcomed.

Program Vice President Resigns

Patti Steelman, our Program Vice President, has resigned due to health reasons, and we regret seeing her go. Contact Wanda Foster, state president, at wlfoster002@yahoo.com by August 18 with any suggestions for a replacement who will serve through June 2014. The board of directors will choose this replacement in late August. AAUW of Alabama is in the preliminary stages of working on the 2014 state convention to be held in Huntsville.

AAUW through the Eyes of Youth

One of the most important things about AAUW is its outreach to young women, to develop them as future leaders and future members. A KEY element of this is AAUW's leadership in developing and promoting the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). This event is held annually in early June at the University of Maryland in College Park and it was recently attended by about 700 young women from across the country. AAUW has also established other programs such as *Start Smart*, *Elect Her* and the National Student Advisory Council.

AAUW of Alabama, under Audrey Salgado's guidance when state president, was the first state to establish a State Student Advisory Council in 2004, and our SAC alumni have gone on to become leaders of AAUW branches here and in other states. Two students from our April meeting in Marion, Shefa Suhaila and Crystal Williams, were inspired to get more involved in AAUW.

Both students attend the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Shefa wrote, requesting help, right after the business meeting: "Crystal and I would love to start an AAUW organization at our university and we want to be as well informed (as we can) with AAUW, its missions, and its policies by attending such events." Inspired by their leadership, we selected Crystal to attend NCCWSL, and Shefa (because of her schedule) to attend National Convention in New Orleans with us. These are their reports:

NCCWSL 2013 – Crystal Williams, UAB

Attending the National Conference of College Women Leaders was an experience I will never forget. Not only did I get to see our nation's capital, I also got to meet women from across the United States and beyond who changed the way that I see the world I see around me. These women are all taking the steps necessary to not only make a difference on their college campuses, but elsewhere, and have truly inspired me to do the same.



Crystal Williams (left) and new friends at NCCWSL 2013

The conference itself was amazing and I loved every minute of it. My favorite part

of the conference was Women of Distinction awards night. I sat beside my friend Karelohn and listened to

these women talk about their lives and how they had worked to make a difference in our world, and afterwards I got the opportunity to meet some of these women. They were extraordinarily nice and willing to speak to each student and offer advice, guidance, and aid.

I also loved that the conference provided me the opportunity of having time to go sightseeing around Washington D.C. with my new friends Ashleigh, Karelohn, and Amanda. We got to see the White House, the Jefferson Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial, though I must admit that the subway and taxi rides to and from the memorials were a fun, new experience.

It was incredible to see and be a part of so much history both in Washington and at NCCWSL while making new friends and learning about how we as students and adults can make a difference in our country. NCCWSL was an inspiring conference and one that I look forward to returning to again.

AAUW National Convention 2013 – NOLA

Shefa Suhaila, UAB

My experience at New Orleans with the women of AAUW for the National Convention was much needed and I'm thankful to have had the opportunity to attend with the help of my university and the state organization. I was exposed to several women who knew their worth and were willing to share the secrets to discovering (it) with others. I learned about what the whole of AAUW has done in the past, where we are now, and what we plan on doing. I also gained some leadership skills in planning and networking, as well as some policies in the workshops.

Shefa Suhaila (left) and Esther Ngumbi (AAUW member-at-large) at New Orleans 2013



I also got to see and experience a bit of New Orleans, which was definitely a plus!

The convention made me more confident as a woman pursuing a career in STEM. It has also taught me more about AAUW and its values, which have encouraged me to start a student organization using AAUW resources and ideas at my university campus.

AAUW College/University Partner Program

AAUW has our roots tied deeply to the college community, and the **College/University Partner Program** is the primary way that AAUW makes a connection between our organization and people on college campuses.

Recognizing the financial challenges higher education institutions face, AAUW offers many programs that expand the competitive resources available to students, administrators, faculty, and staff. This includes direct support through scholarships and project grants as well as powerful, life-changing programs. The C/U Partnership provides the link to help everyone take maximum advantage of these AAUW resources.



Membership growth is a **KEY** issue to maintaining the vitality and effectiveness of our state organization. One of the best ways to do this is to take advantage of the opportunity that the C/U Partner Program provides us. We need to develop a comprehensive plan to improve access to value-added experiences for students, faculty and staff at current and new College/University Partners. We can reach more, younger women as potential new members who infuse local branches with enthusiastic talent, program development and project leadership.

The number of AAUW C/U Partners has almost tripled to 830 participating colleges. In Alabama, we have 13 colleges currently enrolled as Partners and we are hoping to at least double that in the next year or two.

After several successful “anniversary” promotions in the last few years, AAUW has decided to revise their C/U Partner membership fee to a **FLAT RATE** for colleges of **ANY** size. As of July 2013, the annual fee will now be **\$175, regardless of institution size**, with a **FIRST YEAR introductory fee of ONLY \$125** for new C/U Partners. **ALL** students at a C/U Partner are eligible to join for **FREE** as an e-student affiliate, and use any of

the benefits available to regular AAUW members.

This C/U Partner membership includes **free** AAUW national (and state) membership for **two C/U representatives** who are faculty or staff on campus. These representatives act as the conduit of communication between the AAUW national, state and branch organizations to the students, faculty and administration on campus.

At the state and branch level, AAUW needs to get more involved with those on college campuses. This means inviting students and C/U representatives to meetings, maybe including a campus-focused topic as a program agenda item, helping to recruit more colleges to join as C/U partner members, helping to enroll students on campus as e-members, ensuring that students are aware of critical AAUW-related deadlines, and helping students to schedule a student leadership program on campus.

At the AAUW of AL Board of Directors meeting on Saturday afternoon, August 24th, we will be including a Strategic Planning session on the best way to move forward to recruit more colleges, more students, more new members and even **NEW** branches. If you want to be a part of the group to help revitalize our state organization and help it to grow, then you **NEED** to be at **THIS** meeting.

AUG 24 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The AAUW of Alabama Summer Board of Directors meeting will be held **Saturday, August 24th**, at the Hoover Public Library, 200 Municipal Dr. Hoover, AL 35216. It will be from **1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** in the Theatre Conference Room.

In addition to the Executive Committee and Board members, representatives from **EACH** branch are requested to attend to vote for issues on behalf of your branch, and College/University Partner representatives are encouraged to attend. A **KEY** part of this meeting is the strategic planning session on outreach to students and faculty at new and existing college partners.

Everyone’s participation at this meeting is essential to help develop a comprehensive and effective plan that will help our branches **GROW** and reenergize. **ALL** State AAUW members are encouraged to attend.

Email Jo Ann Cummings to confirm:
joannc1972@charter.net



HEALTH CARE REFORM in ALABAMA

One of the issues of AAUW's Public Policy Program is to advocate for "increased access to quality affordable health care." Health care security is intrinsically tied to economic security, and this relationship is especially true for women, who earn less than men on average and are therefore less able to afford health insurance or care. Because health care availability and costs impact AAUW of AL members and their families, we advocate for full implementation of health care reform in Alabama and we will try to keep members informed about the status of the program in our state. Even if you are not personally impacted because you are on Medicare, younger members of your family may be.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was passed and signed in March 2010, and already has had a positive impact on the health care costs for women. Young adults can now be included in their parent's health insurance below age 26. Women with private health insurance gained expanded preventative services with no costsharing in 2011 and 2012, including mammograms, cervical cancer screenings, prenatal care, flu and pneumonia shots, and regular well-baby and well-child visits. For new plans after August 1, 2012, other women's preventative services (well-health visits, contraception, and domestic violence screening and counseling) are now covered without cost sharing in most non-grandfathered health plans. In addition, for older women, there are new preventative services available free through Medicare.

On **January 1, 2014**, two major elements of ACA are scheduled to go into effect nationwide. These are **Medicaid Expansion** for those with income under 138% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and the **Health Insurance Marketplace Exchanges** for those who do not have "affordable" insurance, or who have no insurance at all. However, in Alabama, our leadership chose the available options to NOT participate in Medicaid Expansion and to NOT set up a state-operated insurance Marketplace.

The federal government WILL be setting up an insurance Marketplace so that those in Alabama who need to shop for a new lower cost health insurance policy will be able to view their options on-line. Starting **October 1, 2013**, the website www.healthcare.gov will allow Alabama citizens to

view available insurance policies and determine if they are eligible to receive a federal subsidy that makes their insurance affordable. Once you select the insurance provider and plan that you like, you will contact the insurance company and sign up for coverage that begins **January 1, 2014**. The open enrollment period for the Marketplace is **October 1, 2013 – March 30, 2014** during this initial kickoff season.

The government defines "affordable" insurance as an employee premium (after any employer contribution) no more than 9.5 percent of income. If you don't have insurance, can't get insurance or your premium for employer provided insurance exceeds 9.5 percent of your family income, then you may be able to buy insurance in the Marketplace. If your family income is between 100% (maybe) and 400% FPL, you also MAY be able to receive a federal subsidy that lowers your final insurance premium down much lower than 9.5% of income. We'll provide more info on federal subsidies in the next issue of *Daybreak*.

There is a gap between the income of lowest level of subsidized Marketplace insurance (100-133% FPL), and the income limitations for people in Alabama who are currently eligible for Medicaid assistance now. The people who have income that is too high for current Medicaid and too low to receive the subsidies fall into this gap, and cannot get insurance coverage under ACA. If Medicaid WERE expanded under ACA, it is estimated that 225,000 to 300,000 more people would get insurance under the expansion. A lot of women working at or close to minimum wage, especially single mothers, fall into this gap and will be left out.

In July, there was a meeting in Montgomery, sponsored by Alabama Arise, which brought together representatives from organizations of various types that have a stake in whether or not Medicaid is expanded. Among those attending were representatives from doctor and hospital groups, and non-profits (like AARP, American Cancer Society, etc.) who are concerned about the negative impact upon their constituencies if Medicaid is not expanded. AAUW was asked to participate, and Jo Ann Cummings attended as our representative.

The purpose of the meeting was to bring together stakeholders to develop a strategic plan on how to persuade the Governor to reverse his decision on Medicaid Expansion. Updates about progress regarding this issue will be made in future issues of *Daybreak* as this group develops and implements their plan.

AAUW Research releases new report on Women in Community Colleges

More than ever before, women are relying on community colleges for higher education and workforce preparation. This report recommends policies and practices to help women succeed in community colleges. In particular, we find that child care is a critical issue for student mothers. Women also need more support for pursuing opportunities in STEM and other male-dominated fields.



With increased attention and improved outreach to women students, the nation's community colleges can build on their legacy of providing educational opportunity to all. The issues this report addresses are of particular concern to women at community colleges, but improving outcomes for women will benefit everyone.

On this website, you can download a copy of this report, order a printed copy, or download a PowerPoint presentation on the report data for your meeting. <http://www.aauw.org/research/women-in-community-colleges/>



AAUW establishes Tech Savvy, Tech Trek

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.

Tech Savvy is a daylong STEM conference designed to attract girls in sixth through ninth grades, and to introduce the girls AND their families to STEM careers. Originally designed by AAUW groups in California, Tech Savvy is now being expanded in collaboration with ten AAUW state and local branches. The morning includes hands-on workshops in various math and science fields, and the afternoon introduces the girls to other "savvy" skills they can use, like critical thinking, public speaking or financial literacy. It also includes a parent's program about STEM education and careers. The day finishes with students and parents listening to an inspiring STEM keynote speaker. For more information on Tech Savvy, visit here:

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/stem-education/tech-savvy/>

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. This year, AAUW is expanding Tech Trek nationwide with the addition of four pilot sites (in Florida, Ohio, Oklahoma and Washington). For more information on Tech Trek,



visit here: <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/stem-education/tech-trek/>

BREAKING NEWS!

We've just found out that the Eleanor S. Lienau R&P Grant that was started as an AAUW Fund has been fully endowed and will be used to help fund grants in that area! Time to start working on our next one!

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:

August 1, 2013

Fellowships and Grants Applications accepted

August 13, 2013

Women's Summit, Jacksonville Hampton Inn

August 24, 2013

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

August 26, 2013

Women's Equality Day: 92nd anniversary
of the passage of the 19th amendment, giving
women the right to vote

September 12, 2013

Ready to Run™ training, Jacksonville Hampton Inn.

September 15, 2013

AAUW *Daybreak* Fall Newsletter Deadline

December 1, 2013

AAUW *Daybreak* Winter Newsletter Deadline

January 18 or 25, 2014

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

April 4-6, 2014

AAUW of AL 2014 State Convention, Huntsville

June 5-7, 2014

NCCWSL, University of Maryland, College Park