

## **Ready to Run is Getting Ready to Go!**

**Ready to Run** is getting ready to go and you do not want to be left out! It is creating excitement around the state and the word is spreading to members and nonmembers alike. **Ready to Run** is preparing to do what no other organization or political group in Alabama is doing, providing training to encourage women to run for government leadership. As members, we understand the problems affecting the quality of life of Alabama's women and children can only be addressed by increasing the number of women leaders in government.

According to a 2000 study by the Institute for Women's Policy Research, women in Alabama lag behind in every index measured: political participation, employment and earnings, economic opportunity, reproductive rights, and health and well-being. This report assigns Alabama a grade of D- and of the 50 states, we rank at the bottom even in evaluating the status of women in their communities (The Status of Women in Leadership in Alabama, 2003).

But **Ready to Run** is prepared to provide non-partisan training that will position women leaders for the challenge of changing the quality-of-life standards for all Alabama citizens – men, women and children. This is truly a dynamic opportunity for AAUW of Alabama to increase the participation of women leaders in government in the 21st century and We Can Do It Together!

Now is the time to "talk too much!" Now is the time to "spend too much!" Now is the time to "be renewed" in our vision for Alabama! **Ready to Run** is ready to go because now is NOT the time to do "business as usual!" Are you ready? Are you excited about how you will be a part of making a difference? Are you ready for the future of AAUW and Alabama?

**Ready to Run** is at the starting line and we are ready to go! JOIN US and let's run together into Alabama's future!

## **Ready to Run: Training Alabama Women for Government Leadership**

The concept for **Ready to Run** is an outcome of AAUW of Alabama's Program Theme Team and Public Policy Committee. In the process of developing statewide programs to support the national theme, "Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security," discussions revolved around the problems in Alabama. After much research, it was determined the problems affecting Alabama women and their issues are centered on the fundamentally flawed Alabama Constitution and the insufficient number of women participating in governmental processes. Therefore, the Program Theme Team and Public Policy Committee concluded that the voice of women in Alabama had to be stronger.

Recruiting participants and/or becoming a **Ready to Run** participant is vital to Alabama's progress because we need more women serving in government leadership. Our goal is to train qualified Alabama women. Therefore, qualified women in AAUW and women in our communities cannot afford to miss this opportunity, because Alabama is paying a high price for the absence of women's voices in our state's leadership.

### **Don't Miss the Training:**

#### **Qualifying and Filing Appropriate Documents**

- Basic Alabama government
- Age, residency, and other requirements
- Local and state requirements
- Working with the party organizations
- Evaluating your strengths

#### **Developing a Campaign Team**

- Building blocks for planning a campaign
- Recruiting professionals and volunteers
- Managing your campaign team while letting them do their job

#### **Fundraising**

- How much money do you need and how to raise it?
- Establishing a campaign budget
- Challenges to raising funds for women candidates

#### **Preparing and Marketing a Campaign Message**

- Dealing with the media
- Establishing a platform
- Utilizing free advertising and media
- Public speaking

#### **Networking**

- Identifying personal, community, and professional contacts
- Building relationships
- Becoming visible in the community
- Preparing a grassroots campaign

### **Ready to Run co-directors:**

Mildred Lanier and  
Dr. Elizabeth Hendrix



Several members of the Ready to Run team. Back row, left to right: Elizabeth Hendrix, Cindy Bell, Alison Stigers. Front row, left to right: Brendette Brown Green, Tiffany Todd, Mildred Lanier.

## President's Message

Wedding bells chimed this summer for AAUW of Alabama Communications Director Mrs. Candice Rigby Bressler. Congratulations to **Ready to Run** Co-Director Dr. Elizabeth Hendrix as she pursues her new career with Missouri Western College/University in St. Joseph, Missouri. AAUW of Alabama members keep Recording Secretary Barbara Knotts in their thoughts as she fights her battle with Multiple Sclerosis. A special thanks to Yvonne Brakefield, Program Vice President, for recording the minutes for the Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings this summer. Please welcome new appointments to the Board of Directors: Teresa A. Whiting, Educational Foundation Chair, and Tiffany Todd, LTI – Technology Literacy Chair. These “Fresh Faces of AAUW” reflect the new, young, diverse and professional leadership within AAUW of Alabama. AAUW leaders of the past raise the curtain for these “Fresh Faces” to take center stage. As Sherry Schiller, organizational guru, stated at the AAUW convention in Phoenix, AZ, “No more business as usual!” AAUW of Alabama accepts her challenge to “Create our own reality.”

As we create our own reality, we must answer the traditional questions of what, when, where, who, and how, but the true test will be our accountability of the measurable outcomes. Results focused on AAUW's mission are what count. At the August 2007 Leadership Conference, attendees expressed the need to strengthen the AAUW image and increase visibility in Alabama with branches uniting throughout the state in focused goals with one voice.

In addition to our main project, **Ready to Run**, AAUW of Alabama will focus on supporting Alabama Arise's legislative agenda, Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform drive for a constitutional convention and Alabama Children's Literacy Guild's efforts to eradicate childhood illiteracy. Through our Leadership and Training Institute Chairs, we will focus on Financial, Leadership and Technology Literacy.

The host convention and program committee are planning the AAUW of Alabama State Convention, “Focus, Unite, Succeed,” for April 2008. Start placing \$20 each month in a special savings account, or select your own secret space, towards the Convention Registration Fee and EF/LAF Banquet. Plan to attend the pre-convention workshops on the University of North Alabama campus. Review the Special Convention Page with highlights of activities and events at the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa, Florence, Alabama. We look forward to seeing you in 2008.

Audrey L. Salgado



## READY TO RUN Training Alabama Women for Government Leadership\*

This project was made possible in part by a grant from the AAUW Educational Foundation.

### REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name for nametag: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please place an X in the box for desired training location.

Birmingham Training Site ☐

Huntsville Training Site ☐

Auburn Training Site ☐

For details for a one day Pre-Convention Training, Florence, April 4, 2008, contact Cindy Bell, [cindy.bell@stvhs.com](mailto:cindy.bell@stvhs.com)

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever run for political office before? \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No

If so, what position did you run for and when: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Please place an X in the box to indicate education level.

High School Diploma ☐

Associates Degree ☐

Bachelors Degree ☐

Masters Degree ☐

Ph.D. or Higher ☐

#### Saturday Trainings: January – June, 2008

\$158 fee includes 5 all-day training sessions, electronic meetings, textbook, other materials and resources. Lunch on your own.

Please make your check or money order in the amount of \$158 payable to  
AAUW of Alabama – Ready to Run, P.O. Box 383053, Birmingham, Alabama 35238

\*Ready to Run does not guarantee that participants will be elected or appointed.

## Ready to Run Scholarships

The **Ready to Run** team is proud to be an agent for change by presenting training opportunities for women of Alabama to become a stronger catalyst for advancing equity for women and girls in their communities, state, and nation. Historically, men have been primary supporters of other men preparing to run for office. Jimmy Clark, former Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives, reveals, "Men are more inclined to support those things that they work in, and when you get to broad issues like health care and children's issues and those sort of things, women are more apt to dig in and stick with it longer" (*The Birmingham News*, May 23, 1994). And "dig in and stick with it" is the legacy of the women of AAUW of Alabama – past, present and future.

Because of the strong history of giving, the members of AAUW of Alabama have proven to be willing and committed to sharing their financial resources to bring about change in Alabama and the nation. At this critical time in our state and nation for the need for leadership, the **Ready to Run** team is asking for member support to sponsor 10 scholarships at \$158 to help promising women get the training needed to be competent to run for and serve in government leadership in Alabama.

To contribute or submit questions, please contact Mildred Lanier at [mlanier38@bellsouth.net](mailto:mlanier38@bellsouth.net) or 205.540.5216.

Return this portion with your contribution



### READY TO RUN SCHOLARSHIP - Training Alabama Women for Government Leadership

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Scholarships: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$158 = Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check or money orders payable to: AAUW of Alabama - **Ready to Run**, P.O. Box 383053, Birmingham, AL 35238

## Ready to Run

### Presentations at AAUW of Alabama Branch Meetings

Any AAUW of Alabama branch member or Alabama woman interested in training for a leadership role in government may attend any of the branch meetings. Contact Cindy Bell, [cindybell@stvh.com](mailto:cindybell@stvh.com), for potential meetings at Silver Lakes, Anniston/Gadsden; Cambrian Ridge, Greenville; and Highland Oaks, Dothan.

#### Tuesday, September 11

6:00 p.m., Marion Branch

Home of AAUW Branch Member

**R2R** Team Speaker: Audrey L. Salgado

#### Saturday, October 6

10:00 a.m. Registration, 10:30 a.m. Brunch, Huntsville Branch

Alabama A & M University, Ernest Knight Reception Center, 4900 Meridian St., Normal, AL 35810

Program: Student and Member Reports on AAUW Conventions/Conferences

**R2R** Team Speakers: Juliet Arrington, Tiffany N. Todd

#### Tuesday, October 9

10:30 a.m., Birmingham Branch Day Group. Independent Presbyterian Church, Room 305 – 07, 3100 Highland Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35205

Program: Empowering Women in Politics, Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Laura Hall

**R2R** Team Speakers: Alison Stigers, Tiffany N. Todd

#### Tuesday, October 16

12:00 noon, Mobile Branch  
Moorer Spring Hill Public Library,  
4 S. McGregor Avenue, Mobile, AL 36608

**R2R** Team Speakers: Mark Berte, Audrey L. Salgado

#### Tuesday, October 16

6:00 p.m., Birmingham Branch Night Group. Independent Presbyterian Church, Room 218, 3100 Highland Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35205

**R2R** Team Speakers: Mildred Lanier, Alison Stigers

#### Thursday, October 18

6:00 p.m., Decatur Branch  
Place: To Be Determined

**R2R** Team Speakers: Renea Gooch, Alison Stigers

#### Thursday, October 18

5:00 p.m., The Shoals Branch  
Florence Lauderdale Public Library,  
Colonnade, 350 Wood Avenue,  
Florence, AL 35630

**R2R** Team Speakers: Jean Gerber, Mildred Lanier

#### Tuesday, October 23

5:05 p.m., Auburn Branch  
Grand National, 3000 Robert Trent Jones Trail, Opelika, AL 36801

**R2R** Team Speaker: Audrey L. Salgado

#### Thursday, October 25

6:00 p.m., Montevallo Branch  
University of Montevallo, Hill House,  
College Drive and King-Harmon Streets,  
Montevallo, AL 35115

Program: Changing the Game Plan – Women in Public Policy, Presenter: Dr. Elaine Hughes, AAUW Public Policy Immediate Past Chair

**R2R** Team Speakers: Cindy Bell, Mildred Lanier

#### Saturday, November 3

10:00 a.m., Montgomery Branch  
Capitol Hill, 2600 Constitution Avenue,  
Prattville, AL 36066

**R2R** Team Speakers: Melinda "Mindy" J. Bicknell, Audrey L. Salgado



## Ready to Run Needs You!

The time is fast approaching for the branches of AAUW of Alabama to present **Ready to Run** to its members and women in the community, and We Need You! What do we need? We need all branch members to get excited about **Ready to Run** by attending and inviting women in the community to their branch programs, which will promote the training. What do we need? We need AAUW members to recruit Ready to Run participants and to consider becoming a **Ready to Run** participant.

Because member involvement is key, we are asking each branch for volunteers to ASSIST members of the **Ready to Run** team during training sessions. **Ready to Run** training is from January to June of 2008 in Auburn, Birmingham, and Huntsville with a special pre-convention session on April 4, 2008. Five volunteers are needed over the training period at each of the three training sites and the pre-convention session.

Volunteers are needed to:

- Help setup registration materials and equipment
- Help register participants
- Help distribute training materials
- Help take-down presentation materials and equipment
- Help distribute AAUW membership information



Being a volunteer is one way you can help equip qualified women to run for and serve in government leadership for a better Alabama, so become a volunteer and spread the word because we need you. Program Vice Presidents are asked to submit the names of volunteers to Cindy Bell at [cindy.bell@stvhs.com](mailto:cindy.bell@stvhs.com).

## ACCR Luncheon Commemorated Life of Bailey Thomson

A diverse crowd of 400 Alabamians gathered in Birmingham in August to take part in the first annual Bailey Thomson Awards Luncheon. This event commemorated the life of Bailey Thomson, founder of the Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform (ACCR) Foundation, and honored some of the people and institutions that have continued the effort to write a better Alabama Constitution.

Cynthia Tucker, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, provided an eloquent keynote address for the event saying it is imperative we “carry on this important work.” Ms. Tucker, who was born in Monroeville and graduated from Auburn University, is the Editorial Page Editor of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

The late Bailey Thomson established the ACCR Foundation in 2000 as part of a grassroots movement for civic renewal and constitutional revision. Among his many literary accomplishments, Thomson and two colleagues wrote an editorial series about Alabama’s fundamentally flawed constitution titled, “Sin of the Fathers.” The series was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in 1995.

Governor Albert Brewer, an ACCR Foundation Board Member, presented the Bailey Thomson Award to Dr. Thomas E. Corts for his early leadership and continued support of the ACCR Foundation. Sandra Behel presented the Constitutional Reform Citizen Educator of the Year Award to Lewis Lehe for his initiative in creating the *It’s a Thick Book* video. Ann Florie, 2005-2007 ACCR Foundation Board Vice-Chair, gave the Constitutional Reform Partner of the Year Award to Greater Birmingham Ministries for its education campaign involving people of faith and low-income communities on the issues of constitution reform.

Mark Berte, Grassroots Education Director for the ACCR Foundation and AAUW of Alabama ACCR Liaison, said “there is much to celebrate in the Constitution Reform Movement which is growing every year thanks to the solid foundation built by so many people like Bailey Thomson and Dr. Corts. The citizen convention legislation went further this year than it ever has before and *It’s a Thick Book*, our new innovative and engaging documentary, has been a tremendous success in bringing new people to the cause.”

Tax deductible donations in Bailey’s memory are accepted through the ACCR Foundation’s web site ([www.constitutionALreform.org](http://www.constitutionALreform.org)).

Mark Berte

## Submit Recommendations for 2008-2010 Elected Offices

The three elected officers on the Nominating Committee are Jean “Tish” Hall, Michal Robinson, and Dr. Julia “Judy” Rogers. On August 4, 2007, the AAUW of Alabama Board of Directors appointed Judith “Judy” Deegan and Jo Ann Cummings to the Nominating Committee with Jo Ann named Chair. Please send recommendations for nominations for 2008-2010 President, Program Vice-President, Educational Foundation Vice-President, and Communications Director to [joannc1972@charter.net](mailto:joannc1972@charter.net).

## You Can Make a Difference!

Critical issues—educational equity, retirement security, a fair and balanced judiciary, civil rights, workplace equity, reproductive rights, healthcare reform, and equal pay—are at stake each time Americans go to the ballot box.

AAUW’s Voter Education Campaign encourages women voters to get involved in the political process and shows the impact congressional action has on their lives and the lives of the people they love.

Go to [http://www.aauw.org/issue\\_advocacy/voter\\_ed/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/issue_advocacy/voter_ed/index.cfm) for more information. Vote on Tuesday, November 6, 2007.



## ¡Adelante! Book of the Month Club

2007-2008 ¡Adelante! Book Club selections encourage members and nonmembers to open a dialogue of women and diversity in their communities.

**October** (Disability Awareness Month), *Eye Contact* by Cammie McGovern

**November** (Native American Heritage Month), *Woman Who Watches Over the World: A Native Memoir* by Linda Hogan

**December** *Half of a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Buy your books from *Amazon.com* to support AAUW.

## Regional Director's Message

Congratulations to Alabama for presenting workshops on the Alabama Student Advisory Council and Student Affiliate Satellites at the AAUW National Convention! You are the most progressive state in the Southeast Central Region. I am constantly touting the SAC. Alabama members should be proud of their state's leaders, their diversity and their accomplishments. I am also pleased to see Alabama leaders participating in national committees and boards.

Thanks to all members who participated in the Strategic Planning. The response to the surveys was greater than expected. Your input was invaluable in the process toward the restructuring of AAUW at the national level. The end result was an unprecedented unanimous vote in Phoenix, in favor of uniting the Association and Educational Foundation. But what does this all really mean? For this next year these boards will operate as separate entities, and in the year 2008-9, the two boards will meet jointly to merge into one functioning board, which will be elected in 2009. The Association and Educational Foundation will combine many of their assets and activities to form a streamlined, mission-driven organization with a single set of elected officers. Most of your AAUW dues will then become part of the 501(c)3 non-taxable, charitable entity (now known as the AAUW Educational Foundation), but a portion of your dues will be directed to a 501(c)4 category designated for Public Policy initiatives such as Voter Education, lobbying efforts, etc. To ensure this transition occurs smoothly, the two current boards have created seven committees and/or task forces (details at [www.aauw.org/member\\_center/leader\\_corner/strategic\\_pp2006.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/leader_corner/strategic_pp2006.cfm)).

Another key change approved by the delegates provides for voting between con-

ventions by mail or electronic balloting. This "one member, one vote" amendment gives all members a voice in the organization's decisions and will make AAUW a more responsive and equitable organization. Delegates also adopted amendments setting maximum terms for elected officers, outlining procedures for filling vacancies that arise among regional directors and committee chairs, establishing an audit committee, and restructuring the nominating committee.

The Association board has eliminated the Conference of State Leaders in favor of nationwide leadership conferences for ALL leaders, potential leaders and members. This conference will be held on the same day in multiple locations across all of the states, Puerto Rico and Guam with locations to be determined.

I would like to stress the need for branches to support the Association's call for branches to utilize mission-based programming for their members. Theme teams have been set up in all states and act as liaisons for ideas (other ideas at [www.aauw.org/newvision/Mission-BasedProgramResources.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/newvision/Mission-BasedProgramResources.cfm)). These efforts answer the requests from the membership for a return to AAUW's Mission.

As a dues-driven organization, membership is vitally important. Take advantage of Shape The Future Membership discounts: new members recruited at meetings advertised as open to the public will pay ½ the national dues – a savings of \$23.50!

Members often ask: "What do I get for my dues money?" Is it AAUW's Outlook magazine? Is it Washington Update? Is it EdEqChange? Or is it behind the scenes? Check out the AAUW website for a wealth of information and resources. You will learn the return on dues is greater than the investment.

*Eileen D. Deharo, M.S.*

## Member-Get-A-Member Campaign

Membership is the cornerstone for continued growth for AAUW of Alabama and AAUW nationally. This is year two of the Keys to the Future, which is scheduled from June 16, 2007 thru June 15, 2008. As you know, Phase One began June 16, 2007 until December 31, 2007. During this phase, all members, branches and states are asked to recruit new paid members. This is a prime time to introduce and recruit your family, friends and other women to AAUW. Phase Two recruitment is from January 1, 2008 through June 15, 2008. I believe we can make successful recruitment happen in Alabama!

I would like to once again congratulate the Huntsville Branch for being nationally recognized for bringing in the highest number of new members in year one Phase Three of Keys to the Future for March 16, 2007 to June 15, 2007 with a total of 15 new members. Now that is awesome! The incentives given to recruit are great from gift certificates, special commemorative MGM Logo Lapel Pins, to cash prizes. But the greatest gift is the friendships that are formed. Neither gifts nor money can beat that!

Remember each one of us is the key to a better future for women and girls in Alabama and our nation. Let's do our part to make women aware of our wonderful organization and the friendship benefits that often last a lifetime.

Let's Recruit!

*Mildred Lanier,*  
State Membership Vice President

*Candice Rigsby Bressler with the Southeast Central banner. Nine of the ten AAUW of Alabama convention participants at the Southeast Regional meeting. Dr. Thomasyn Smith was elected AAUW Director at Large at the 2007 AAUW National Convention in Phoenix, AZ.*



## National Convention 2007

Watch for the new AAUW, AAUW of Alabama and Ready to Run websites to be unveiled soon.

Submit Daybreak articles to Alison Stigers, Editor, [astigers@vineyardbrands.com](mailto:astigers@vineyardbrands.com).



# FOCUS!! UNITE!! SUCCEED!!

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN OF ALABAMA STATE CONVENTION

April 4 – 6, 2008

### MARRIOTT SHOALS HOTEL & SPA

800 Cox Creek Parkway South, Florence, Alabama 35630

Phone: 256-246-3600 Fax: 256-246-3690

### GUEST SPEAKERS

Lilly M. Ledbetter, Plaintiff, Ledbetter v. Goodyear

(Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (HR 2831) passed July 31, 2007)

Mary Lou Melley, AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corp Chair

Connie Hildebrand, AAUW Public Policy Chair

Representative Tammy Irons, First District, Lauderdale, Alabama

### PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOPS, APRIL 4

*Ready to Run*

Technology Literacy

Rape Response & Risk Reduction Training

### CONVENTION WORKSHOPS, APRIL 5 - 6

Dare to Lead: Women-to-Women Dialogue

Alabama Perspectives on Women & Girls

Financial Literacy – Junior Achievement

Convention Registration Fee: \$70; Early Registration Fee, February 1, 2008: \$65

EF/LAF Banquet Fundraiser: \$45

Registration Form will be published in *Alabama Daybreak* Winter Issue

Hotel Reservations made directly with the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa

AAUW Convention Rate: \$99 per night plus tax

ASK FOR THE AAUW OF ALABAMA DISCOUNTED RATE

Hotel Reservations must be made by Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Contact the AAUW of Alabama Program Vice President for additional information:

Yvonne Brakefield

3451 Cliff Road South, Birmingham, Alabama 35205

205-516-8235 [ybrakefield@mindspring.com](mailto:ybrakefield@mindspring.com)



**REMINDER**  
**Renew Dues Today**  
**Effective July, 1, 2007**  
**dues are past due.**

## Will you be an Alabama Star?

Alabama Stars is the AAUW of Alabama Branch Recognition Program. Last year only four branches applied with Montevallo Branch awarded the Platinum Star; Birmingham, Gold Star; Decatur, Silver Star; and Huntsville an Honorable Mention.

This year we are looking for more Alabama Stars. Branch Presidents will be notified when a new application is posted on the AAUW of Alabama website. Revisions to the old application include adding categories for Mission Based Programming, Theme Teams, Branch Participation in *Ready to Run*, Lobby Day and Branch Officer Training Sessions.

Submission deadline is March 15, 2008. Submissions not received in a timely manner will be considered for Honorable Mention only. Alabama Stars will be recognized at the Annual State Convention in April, 2008. For more information, contact Dr. Thomasyn Hill Smith, Immediate Past President, Association Director at Large, [drtwaka@earthlink.net](mailto:drtwaka@earthlink.net).

AAUW of Alabama was one of only seven states to be the recipient of the Platinum 21<sup>st</sup> Century State Recognition Award presented at national convention.



2007 Leadership Conference attendees: Above: Teresa Whiting, Deidre Clark, Dr. Elizabeth Hendrix. Below: Patricia Mitchell, Megan Williams, Katie Smith



## EF/LAF Awards Received in Phoenix

- Educational Foundation Total Contributions  
# 1 Branch in the Nation – Huntsville, \$38,381
- Educational Foundation Per Capita Contributions  
# 3 Branch in the Nation – Auburn, \$694
- Educational Foundation Per Capita Contributions  
# 2 State in the Nation – AAUW of Alabama, \$87.54
- Legal Advocacy Fund Per Capita Contributions  
# 8 State in the Nation – AAUW of Alabama, \$9.78

**Member**  
**Advantages**  
**Link**  
**on AAUW**  
**Home Page**

## Legislature in Action

One warm weekday morning in May, my friend Carrie and I drove to Montgomery to observe the Alabama State Legislature in action. We were guests of Representative Laura Hall (D-Huntsville). I had met Representative Hall twice previously, one of those occasions being the 2007 AAUW of Alabama State Convention.

Our day started off watching Representative Hall's aide rushing around, gathering papers for a morning meeting. Following the meeting, we were offered breakfast before the House of Representatives convened.

Shortly, a series of tones sounded, summoning the Representatives to the day's session. Carrie and I were amazed by the bustling activity of the House. Professionally dressed men and women milled about and greeted one another; others read the newspaper or perused the day's agenda. Carrie and I were not the only guests; several middle-school aged children acted as pages, running errands for the representatives.

Representative Hall introduced us to several of her colleagues, all of whom were delighted to have us observing the inner-workings of the State government. We met Representative Patricia Todd (D-Birmingham), who spoke passionately about one of the bills presented later in the day. She supported House Bill 247 being debated, which would have added sexual orientation to Alabama's hate crime laws. Unfortunately, the majority of the House members did not vote in favor for a debate. During the lunch break, we were able to meet members of the Black Caucus, a board on which Representative Hall acts as chairwoman.

By the end of the afternoon, Carrie and I had witnessed the reality of how the legislative process works, learning far more than the theory taught in school. I encourage everyone to contact their representative and schedule a visit to Montgomery while the House is in session.

*Elizabeth Gilbert*, President of Auburn Branch  
and AAUW of Alabama Student Advisory Council Development Team member  
*Carrie Reif*, Auburn Branch Vice-President.  
*They reactivated the Auburn Branch in May, 2007.*

## 2007 Leadership Conference

The 2007 AAUW of Alabama Leadership Conference at the Hoover Public Library was the site for leaders from around the state to convene and work on expanding our circles and closing the gaps towards equity and education for women and girls. Dr. Elizabeth Hendrix spoke to the group about the new Community Action Grant, Ready to Run, which is designed to train Alabama women for government leadership. Following a group luncheon, conference participants listened to a student panel presentation by Katie D. Smith, Megan Williams, and Renea Gooch, three AAUW of Alabama Student Advisory Council members who attended the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders this summer. Afterwards, the 2007-2008 SAC recommendations were announced to the group. After the screening of "Fresh Faces of AAUW," an informative short film produced by AAUW of Michigan, there was a panel presentation about the 2007 AAUW National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, during which Audrey L. Salgado, Mindy J. Bicknell, Candice Rigsby Bressler, Paula Copeland and Katie D. Smith shared their experiences of the life-changing event. The Leadership Conference came to a close with work sessions on planning and developing ways to expand our circles and close the gaps in the state of Alabama for the advancement of women and girls.

*Candice Rigsby Bressler*, State Communications Director

## AAUW Calendar of Events

**September 22, 2007** – Ready to Run Team Meeting, Oxmoor Valley Golf Course, Birmingham

**October – November, 2007** – Ready to Run Training at Branch Meetings

**October 15, 2007** – Plaintiff Travel Grants Submissions Deadline

**October 20, 2007** – Ready to Run Team Meeting, Oxmoor Valley Golf Course, Birmingham

**November 6, 2007** – Election Day

**November 10, 2007** – Ready to Run Team Meeting, Oxmoor Valley Golf Course, Birmingham

**November 15, 2007** – American Fellowships Application Postmark Deadline

**December 1, 2007** – *Daybreak* Winter Issue (January/February/March) Deadline

**December 1, 2007** – International Fellowship Application Postmark Deadline

**December 15, 2007** – Career Development Grants Application Postmark Deadline

**December 15, 2007** – Engineering Dissertation Fellowship Application Postmark Deadline

**December 15, 2007** – *Daybreak* Winter Issue (January/February/March) Published

**December 31, 2007** – EF/LAF/LTI Contributions Deadline

## AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

**AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.**



Jeannine Spann  
President  
Birmingham Branch  
937 Essex Road  
Birmingham, AL 35222-4340  
Address Service Requested



**READY TO RUN**  
**SPECIAL EDITION**

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 2459  
Birmingham, Alabama

This **READY TO RUN** Special Edition of the *Alabama Daybreak* was made possible in full by a grant from the AAUW Educational Foundation.

