



Arkansas Diamond

SPRING 2010

Note From President

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Welcome

Greetings! The past four years have been wonderful, gratifying and now with emotion I write my last message as president. Some of us started out together in 2006. We have accomplished a lot but not enough. I say not enough meaning some of the goals we had have not been accomplished but many have. On those not done, we will just keep trying. For instance new branches rejuvenate branches; along with that we have received two Public Policy grants, had our National President Ruth Sweetser present when we took office. We created a web site which connected with National.

In **November, 2006**, Senator Irma Hunter Brown presented us with a state proclamation signed by Governor Mike Huckabee for our AAUW 125th Anniversary. Many of the branches, celebrated with birthday parties and special events. The state applied for the 21st Century Recognition Program and received Platinum for 2006.

In **2007**, our State Convention was held in Little Rock. Little Rock Nine 50th Anniversary was part of the program. Elaine Hughes presented "Change Workshops"; this was followed by a Public Policy Panel Discussion. Sharon Phelps became our new State Secretary. Due to the 2006-2007 Public Policy Grant being turned over to Little Rock, they held a Health Forum at their Partner School Carver. Later, in July, Sue O'Neal, Kathryn Buriel and I attended the National Convention in Phoenix, AZ. There were a number of sweeping changes, including "One Member, One Vote." During the State Board Meeting in August, 2007, we set goals for the State Board and Branches.

In **2008**, our State Convention was held in Bentonville/Bella Vista. One of Goals in 2007 was to complete the Mary Burton Community Services Named Grant. We did accomplish this in time for the 2008 Convention and so honored her with a Certificate presented by Carol Rogud from Educational Foundation National Office and a cake of Congratulations. As our keynote speaker, M P spoke on "Recruiting and Retaining Membership".



Barbara Yarnell
AAUW
Arkansas President

Election was held with Barbara Yarnell, President; Deborly Wade, Program Vice President and Joan Hoover, as Treasurer. In

June, we traveled to Overland Park, KS for the Southwest Regional Meeting. The State, LAF and EF were recognized by National as being in the top ten of overall donations to National in their respective categories.

In **2009**, our State Convention was held in Conway, our speaker was Faye Dykstra, National Board member from Kentucky. Ms. Dykstra spoke on the many sweeping changes to take place during the National Convention in St. Louis, June 2009. The State Convention voted to "vote NO on changes to membership, no regional directors and to changes of how the dues will be paid in the future". In February, 2009, the State was invited to apply for a Public Policy Grant from National; the President announced that we had sent in a "proposal to reestablish the Women's Commission on the Status of Women in Arkansas". During February, 2009, we held our bi-annual Lobby Day at the State Capitol. Inviting members of all our Branches to come and visit with their Legislatures. During this session, AAUW members found out that "Insurance Companies were not recognizing Domestic Violence" and there was a bill to correct this before our House and Senate; by emailing and calling, AAUW members helped in getting this bill passed into law.

The National Convention was held in St. Louis and thirteen (13) members traveled to St. Louis. Overwhelming, the convention membership voted "**not to have open membership**". During the last session of the business meeting, the Public Policy Field Director, SETH CHASE, announced the eight (8) states that received the 2009-2010 Grant. The first announced was **ARKANSAS!**

President's message continued....

Each member of the State Board received complete copy of the Grant during the August Board meeting. The President, called for a meeting in October, 2009 to start planning on how to implement plans to present a bill to our legislature in 2011. We started out with 10, including non-AAUW members. We then invited friends and other members of organizations to join us in this feat. In early December, 2009, we had 23 to attend and currently-January 2010-we have 37 who have joined us, from 20 different organizations.

During August, 2009, I received from Dorothy Truex, a small file box containing lots of information on AAUW. Including, A Volume IV on the History of Arkansas-AAUW. After much research, it was noted that a neither Volume V nor VI had been composed, currently that is being accomplished and should be ready for our convention in April.

In October, I applied for a position on the College/University Committee Board. Being one of five, I was very thrilled and honored to have been appointed to this committee. My goal is to contact the many colleges/universities that do not partner with AAUW to do so. Then see about E-Affiliate branches on campus.

In **2010**, our state convention will be held in Fayetteville. Our speakers will include Letha Granberry, National Girl Collaborative Project; Gail Nordmoe, Vice President of the AAUW National Board of Directors. (Registration and Program is in this Newsletter).

In 2008, I had given Shirley Breeze a proposal to have the SW Regional Conference in Little Rock. However, the SW Regions were disposed of and the Leadership Corp was created. There was great interest in having a conference, so it is called FIVE STATES CONFERENCE, June 11-12. The registration and Eleanor Roosevelt Run forms, including programs are in this newsletter.

In conclusion, the following is what I stated in my first message

"Make Arkansas the Shining Star of AAUW!"

Barbara



Shirley Breeze

AAUW Leadership Corps

The Leadership Corps has been created to support AAUW's grassroots. It provides a corps of trained member leaders, serving as grassroots liaisons to help identify and address current needs, encourage branch leadership development, support branch and state officers, foster multi-level communication, increase sharing of resources and strategies, assist membership growth, and provide assistance for members with AAUW's programs and policies.

Leadership Corps grassroots liaisons have the opportunity to learn more about local needs, issues, resources, etc. This can enhance the LC's ability to have greater insight into branch, state, and member interests and priorities and help them provide guidance in local planning and implementation of AAUW's mission-based programming and membership development. It will also help to convey specific interest areas, concerns, and/or geographic needs to national leadership and staff, facilitating quicker, clearer, and more effective responses.

As a member of the Leadership Corp, I am available to branches and states in much the same way I have been as RD. Feel free to invite me to your activities or e-mail me with your issues. In addition, I will have access to experts on organizational issues from other members of the LC and the AAUW staff. Call on me for assistance. To better facilitate my knowledge of your branches and members, please add my name and e-mail to your newsletter distribution list.

The fundamental goal of LC is to further the mission of AAUW and its efforts to promote equity for women and girls.

Shirley Breeze sbreeze@mindspring.com



75th Annual Arkansas AAUW State Convention
April 16-17, 2010
Homewood Suites by Hilton, Fayetteville, AR
“Breaking Through Barriers”
Convention Agenda

Friday, April 16, 2010

3:00 pm to 5:45 pm	Registration at Walker Community Room, Fayetteville Public Library
4:30 pm to 5:45 pm	Tour of nationally recognized Fayetteville Public Library with Executive Director, Shawna Thorup
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Welcome and Dinner in Walker Community Room
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Entertainment – “Three Rules of Life” by Lea Ann Van Winkle-Gisler

Saturday, April 17, 2010

7:30 am to 8:15 am	Continental Breakfast and Registration
8:30 am to 9:15 am	Opening Ceremonies including Call to Order – President Barbara Yarnell Presentation of Flags and Pledge – University of Arkansas ROTC Introduction of Guests – Fayetteville President Robin Coggins Welcome and Proclamation by Fayetteville Mayor Lioneld Jordan
9:15 am to 10:00 am	Introduction by Program Vice President Deb Wade Keynote Address: Letha Granberry, National Girl Collaborative Project
10:00 am to 10:15 am	Break
10:15 am to 11:40 am	Keynote Address: Gail Nordmoe, Vice President of AAUW Board of Directors “Helping to Chart Our Future”
11:40 am to 12:00 pm	President Barbara Yarnell – State of AAUW Arkansas
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm	Lunch (Optional Video from 12:30 – 1:00 in meeting room)
1:00 pm to 1:10 pm	Kae Chatman – Update on Commission to Reestablish a Commission on the Status of Women
1:10 pm to 2:30 pm	Business Meeting
2:30 pm	Closing Ceremonies



ARKANSAS STATE CONVENTION

April 16-17, 2010

Homewood Suites by Hilton

1305 N. Palak Drive

Fayetteville, AR 72704

479-442-3000

Registration Form

NAME: _____

Name to be used on Name Tag: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

BRANCH: _____

- Branch President
- Branch Member
- State Officer
- Branch Officer
- Student Affiliate
- Member at Large
- Past State President

- Convention Registration ** \$40
- Friday Night Dinner & Entertainment (optional) \$20

Total _____

(**This includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday, all materials and other miscellaneous conference expenses.)

Please pay online at our convention website <http://experiencefayetteville.com/aauw>

Or mail form and check made payable to: AAUW

Deadline: April 10, 2010

Mail to: Shawna Thorup
2314 Thistle Drive
Fayetteville, AR 72704

Information: Email robin.coggins@lpl.com

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the hotel at 479-442-3000 by March 30th.

Dear AAUW members,

On behalf of the AAUW Board of Directors, I extend our best wishes for an outstanding 2010 state convention. This has been an exciting year for all of us in AAUW, as we have combined the three former entities—the Association, the Educational Foundation, and the Leadership and Training Institute—into one organization.

We have much to be proud of in the amazing way leaders and members have worked together to make our restructure successful. We are excited because it provides us such a wonderful platform for garnering both new members and attention from the media, policy makers, and the public for our work to break through barriers for women and girls.

All of us have worked hard to make this national transition, and it is up to us now to fulfill the mission of our organization through advocacy, education, research, and the ever-necessary philanthropy. Our state conventions are always where our vision takes shape, where we take stock of our accomplishments, share our successes, identify challenges, and examine new opportunities—and where branches begin to prepare for the coming year.

I am pleased to say that this year national leaders and staff will participate at all state conventions in our continuing commitment to collaborate even more closely as a nationwide community. We are all very much looking forward to learning about your interests, priorities, challenges, and triumphs and to sharing some of the portfolio of programs and activities AAUW is providing to help you as you design your local mission-based programming.

I see the coming years as an exciting era for AAUW, and it really all begins right now at our state conventions.

I hope you have a wonderful meeting.

Warm regards,

Carolyn Garfein
AAUW National President

GAIL NORDMOE, Ed. D

Assistant Professor for Department of Education
Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT

Dr. Gail Nordmoe is a native of Chicago, Illinois. She received her B.A. in Sociology in 1963 from the University of Illinois, and her M.Ed. in Mathematics Education in 1970, and her Ed.D in 1986 in Curriculum Development from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

Currently, Dr. Nordmoe is an Assistant Professor in the College of Education and Health Professions at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. She teaches graduate students who are working on their Master of Arts in Teaching Degrees. She also advises undergraduate and graduate students to explore courses in new and emerging technology as well as in educational leadership.

Dr. Nordmoe has held a wide range of positions in education specifically at the district, and school level. As an Assistant Superintendent in three different public school districts, Dr. Nordmoe has led efforts to increase the participation of schools in using Data Driven Decision Making and School Improvement to raise student achievement. She has conducted numerous workshops at the national, state and local level.

She has also served as a reviewer of The Gates Millennium Scholarships and for proposals for the National Science Foundation and NASA. For over three decades, Dr. Nordmoe has been instrumental in designing programs that encourage the participation of women and girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Programs.

Dr. Nordmoe is committed to working with children of different racial and ethnic backgrounds. Currently she is engaged in writing materials to support the development of pre-service and in-service teachers in mathematics and multicultural education. Dr. Nordmoe believes that through cross-cultural understanding we will be able to produce a generation of well educated and informed citizens. The success of our country is dependent on how well educated all of our children are.

Currently, Dr. Nordmoe is the Vice President of American Association of University Women a national organization with 100,000 members. In this role she continues to encourage women and girls to reach their potential.

Arkansas AAUW Treasurer's Report

ARKANSAS AAUW TREASURER'S REPORT

07/01/09 to 01/25/10

OPENING BALANCE		\$ 2,738.80
INCOME		
Dues	2,080.00	
Impact Grant 2009-2010	900.00	
Interest Income from CD	21.01	
TOTAL INCOME		3,001.01
+ Carry over		\$ 5,739.81
EXPENSES		
Administrative Expense (Check printing)	27.75	
Domain Renewal (thru 02/17/2012)	54.00	
Impact Grant 2009-2010 Expenses	203.96	
President's Expense	144.59	
Public Policy Grant 09-10 Expense	285.46	
Travel, Board	242.40	
Web Hosting Expense	100.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(1,058.16)
ENDING BALANCE		\$ 4,681.65

\$2,000 reinvested for 6 months at APY 1.60% - matures 03/18/10 at HS Bank & Trust
 2nd CD at HS Bank & Trust \$1,000 plus APY 2.08% on maturity date of 05/18/10

TOTAL ASSETS: \$7,681.65

	<u>MOB Renew-</u>					
	<u>als</u>	<u>MBL</u>	<u>MBHL</u>	<u>MAL</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bella Vista	21	1			4	26
Conway	11	2				13
Fayetteville	53	1	1		3	58
Hot Springs	93	5	4		13	115
Jonesboro	21		1		4	26
Little Rock	35	5			12	52
	234	14	6	0	36	<u>290</u>

Total Membership for Arkansas AAUW: **290**

Submitted by Joan Schoonever, Treasurer

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Arkansas State Convention Minutes Central Baptist College, Conway, Arkansas April 18, 2009

Barbara Yarnell, President welcomed us to convention and extended a special welcome to Faye Dykstra and the Girl Scout Troop from Conway that presented our colors. Barbara again emphasized the theme that Change Is Coming!

Joan Hoover, Treasurer read a letter from Velma Coolidge asking us to vote for Carolyn Garfein for national president of AAUW.

Deb Wade, Program Vice President introduced Representative Linda Tyler who welcomed us to Conway.

Barbara Yarnell then introduced Faye Dykstra, who spoke on the many proposed changes to the bylaws and the rationale for making these changes. Forty-six dollars of our next year's dues will be tax deductible.

A panel discussion on Pay Equity, moderated by Diana Glaze and consisting of Sue O'Neal, Lula Brooks, Carol Langston, and Michael Blanchett, took place.

Barbara Yarnell called the meeting to order at 12:27 p.m.

Deb Wade asked us to donate money to be divided equally to two women to travel to NCCWSL. Berta Seitz moved that we donate to the state treasury and asked Joan Hoover to write the checks. The motion passed.

Cheryl Wilson stated that our credentials were in order. The agenda was approved.

Sharon Phelps, Secretary distributed the minutes for April 19, 2008, which were accepted as corrected.

Joan Hoover, Treasurer moved that the proposed budget for 2009-2010 be accepted. The motion passed.

Barbara Yarnell stated that Arkansas would have 17 proxy votes at convention and polled us on our wishes. We voted "No" on the change in membership, regional directors, and national dues. As approved by the State Board, our proposed project will be to reestablish the Women's Commission on the Status of Women in Arkansas.

Diana Glaze, Parliamentarian reported that several new changes in parliamentary procedure have occurred.

Berta Seitz announced several new ways that women can become members.

Kathryn Buriel, LAF emphasized that care should be taken to use the correct codes on the contribution forms since EF and LAF have different codes. A copy of the completed forms, not the original forms, should be sent to her. She will mail forms to LAF chairs if they need them.

Sue O'Neal, Public Policy stated that Lobby Day was successful and that we were joined by several other groups.

Diana Hoke should be notified if anything new has taken place in the branches since the Arkansas Diamond was published.

Berta Seitz, Nominating stated that Sharon Phelps, Secretary, and Susan Roehrig-Quick, Membership Vice President, have been nominated to serve for two-year terms. Joan moved that these be accepted, and the motion passed unanimously.

Brenda Heringer installed the two new officers.

Susan Roehrig-Quick announced that DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH awards went to the following branches: seven to Fayetteville, six to Hot Springs Village, and five to Jonesboro.

Unfinished Business: The discussion on the current 2007-2008 grant was tabled until August 2009.

New Business: Meg Koziar moved the president appoint a committee in August to study the structure of the state AAUW if the proposed national bylaws are approved and whether or not Arkansas should join another state. The motion passed.

Joan Hoover announced that we collected \$1095 for the two women to attend the conference.

Berta Seitz stressed that we must continue to work for the ratification of ERA.

Deb Wade gave a token of our appreciation to Faye Dykstra for attending our convention. Faye urged us to continue working for pay equity and STEW.

Barbara Yarnell adjourned the convention at 2:07 p.m. We will reconvene in Fayetteville in 2010.

Sharon Phelps, Secretary

2010 AAUW Five-State Conference June 11-12, 2010 Crown Plaza, 201 S. Shackleford, Little Rock, AR

Program

Carolyn Garfein, National President, will be the keynote speaker for the event on Saturday morning. The 10 breakout sessions will include the following: Reviewing the by-law changes voted upon in St. Louis; sex discrimination; a STEM project review; ERA; challenges to our democratic government; an open AAUW Forum; a panel of women elected officials; and several other current topic.

Other special program features include an LAF presentation, fundraisers for AAUW funds, opportunities for sightseeing adventures, and an evening reception. Additional exciting activities are in the planning stages. Program updates will be available on a regular basis.

CAROLYN GARFEIN, AAUW National President - BIO

Carolyn Garfein is the national President of AAUW. She was previously a Director of the AAUW Educational Foundation, Association Program Vice-President, Association Membership Vice-President and served on the Executive Committee and the Public Policy Committee. She was the California Program Vice President and Budget Director, and the Georgia Leadership Development Chair and LAF Chair. As a Leader-on-Loan, she has visited more than 30 state and regional conferences.

In her professional life, Carolyn has assumed increasingly responsible positions in marketing and marketing research, managing staffs of up to 100 people and multi-million dollar budgets. She was manager of program research at NBC, manager of research and promotions at Knott's Berry Farm, vice-president at Yankelovich, Skelly & White, and vice-president and regional manager at Maritz Marketing Research. Currently, she is "semi-retired" from her position as Senior Vice-President of The Marketing Workshop, Inc., a marketing research and consulting firm.

Carolyn holds a BA in Social Psychology from Cornell University and an MBA in Marketing and Management from California State University, Long Beach. She and her husband have been married for almost 40 years, and have two adult children and two granddaughters. Carolyn has been living in the Atlanta area since 1995.

Legal Advocacy Fund by Kathryn M. Buril

Arkansas contributed \$1365.00 to the Legal Advocacy Fund for 2009.

5 Branches made contributions:

Bentonville/Bella Vista	\$325—Increased its contributions 10 times over 2008
Fayetteville	\$ 25
Hot Springs/Hot Springs Village	\$265
Jonesboro	\$370—Increased their contribution by \$370 over 2008
Little Rock	\$380—More than doubled its contribution over 2008

Arkansas contributed \$1211 less in 2009 than in 2008.

SUGGESTIONS FOR INCREASING CONTRIBUTIONS to LAF:

1. Encourage every member to give a contribution.
2. Set a goal amount that at least equals \$10 per person.
3. Encourage those who give to contribute \$25 or more.
4. Hold a fundraising activity just for LAF.

LAF Update

AAUW's new initiative—*Know the Score*-- is designed to make us Title IX activist. This new AAUW project, Title IX Compliance: Know the Score, tells AAUW members how to find out if their local high schools are short changing female athletes and not treating them equitably. If it looks like the schools do not, members can take steps to pressure schools into compliance without a costly lawsuit. The Know the Score Program in a Box can be downloaded from the AAUW website. Program collaborators were The Legal Aid Society—Employment Law Center and the Women's Sports Foundation and lawyers and judges who are AAUW members.

The LAF Committee is asking members to recommend cases that center on a workplace or higher education sexual discrimination. They are seeking cases that have potential significance with respect to future cases and the likelihood to set or reinforce precedent that will discourage gender discrimination and benefit women. After receiving a case recommendation form, the committee will decide whether to provide organizational and/or monetary support to the case to help ensure that all women have a fair chance.

Membership News by Susan Roehrig

As of March 7, membership in AR-AAUW is down 5% compared to February 1, 2009. I know we are all working to bring our membership up so that we can sustain this vital organization. The membership information sent out to branch membership chairs provides strategies to use to attract new members and retain existing members that I hope are helpful to branches in their membership endeavors. If I can provide you additional information, please contact me at susanptx@yahoo.com or 870-219-8503. In addition, Berta and I will both be working on contacting interested individuals in sites for new branches. If you would like to assist in that endeavor, feel free to contact me.

Southwest Regional Conference Silent Auction

Susan Roehrig is in charge of the silent auction at the Five State Conference in June in Little Rock. We need as many items as we can to make it a success and raise money for branches. Proceeds will go to the AAUW Fund of the branch's choice and the fund will be noted on the bid sheet for each item.

Suggested items include gift certificates to national chain stores, gift baskets, creative items (needlework, artwork) or anything else you think attendees would want to purchase. Susan will have donation forms at the state meeting in April and will also be e-mailing a copy of the form to each branch president. She will need the following information about each item:

1. Name of the branch and, if applicable, member donating the item;
2. Description of the item;
3. Value or approximate value of the item;
4. Fund to which the branch wants the money donated;
5. Contact information for the person(s) bringing the items to the conference, preferably cell number.

Susan will also need the contact information for the person picking up the money due each branch following the conference. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Susan at susanptx@yahoo.com or 870-219-8503.

Public Policy By Sue O'Neal

There are so many issues that AAUW is involved with that are making headlines these days. We all need to be aware of these and make our voices heard in AR and in DC--"the squeaky wheels get the grease" and we can't let down our pressure now. Your phone calls and emails to our representatives are tallied and often positive support for a piece of legislation is less likely to be registered than is opposition to it. AAUW's "Take Action" notices make the connection to our Senators and Congressmen very easy to access. I urge you to sign up for this through AAUW.org. **Paycheck Fairness Act** is expected to come up for a Senate vote soon and neither AR senator is co-sponsoring this legislation--they need to be contacted and encouraged to vote "yes".

Funds from the Public Policy Impact Grant from 2007 were used in February to help defray expenses for a 2-day workshop sponsored by the non-profit group OASIS which aspires to house women who have successfully completed drug and/or alcohol rehab in NWA to transition back into the community. Representatives from Magdalene, Inc. from Nashville, TN told the participants who represented local women's organizations and interested citizens how they took women from the streets and jails and housed them as well as establishing a business, Thistle Farms, to help the women learn while they earned to positively remake their lives. It is felt that this model has great potential for success in AR. State President, Barbara Yarnell and VP Deb Wade attended the workshop as well as several AAUW members.

The Coalition to Re-establish the AR Commission on the Status of Women has been meeting regularly in Little Rock. This effort is being funded by a 2009 AAUW Public Policy Impact Grant. On March 6th I was able to attend the meeting and saw the enthusiasm of the representatives who make up the coalition including NOW, BPW, AEA, several Dem. Women's groups, and women political candidates and business women. They are reaching out to include others in the eastern and southern parts of AR.

We were visited by Seth Chase, of AAUW's DC staff, who plans and manages grassroots advocacy, voter mobilization, and leadership development. He encouraged our efforts and gave helpful advice to the group.

Focus of the Coalition will be in 6 areas:

- Education
- Fighting Domestic Violence
- Incarcerated Women
- Pay Equity
- Recognition for achievement
- Women's Health

The next meeting of the coalition is being scheduled to follow the AAUW State Convention in Fayetteville on April 17th. A new AAUW PP Impact Grant to help with Voter Education and Get-Out-the Vote activities will be sought this year. It is important to the process of re-establishing the Commission to have the population and legislators elected who recognize the benefits improving the status of women will bring to our state.

I am completing 4 years as your Public Policy Chair and I have enjoyed the experience and hope to continue working with the Coalition as it progresses. Hope to see you in Fayetteville.

Special Announcement

Janine Parry, PhD, from the Department of Political Science—University of Arkansas will be our keynote speaker on April 17, 2010. Dr. Parry will speak about her studies on Women's Commissions in the State of Arkansas as well as other states. In 2000 Dr. Parry headed the study *The Status of Women in Arkansas* for the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

We invite all AAUW and Coalition Members to this very important meeting on the 17th of April.

Barbara Yarnell—Chair
Kae Chatman – Co-Chairman



Bentonville/Bella Vista Branch

Submitted by Cathy Luck

The Bentonville-Bella Vista Chapter is having a great year, including the addition of six new members!

September's meeting was a membership brunch at Legacy Village clubhouse. In October, we celebrated Eleanor Roosevelt's birthday with a speaker from the University of Arkansas' chapter of the Roosevelt Institute.

A creative alternative education program located in Rogers was the subject of November's meeting.

Dr. Becky Paneitz, President of Northwest Arkansas Community College, spoke on women in higher education administration at our December EF luncheon. Program VP and new member Laura Livingston taught us about WOMENOMICS and the new social media of twitter, linked in and facebook in January.

Our annual style show and chocolate auction, featuring fashions from the resale store Helping Hands, netted \$1500 for local scholarships in February.

An AAUW state grant helped us to partner in a capacity building event with OASIS of NWArkansas to bring speakers from Magdalene, Inc and Thistle Farms (women's enterprise) in Nashville, TN.

We look forward to helping Sue O'Neal, state public policy chair, with efforts in NW Arkansas to bring back the state's Commission on the Status of Women.

Conway Branch

Submitted by Annette Greeland

As Conway Branch works on streamlining its structure and activities in keeping with the 2009 revised national AAUW bylaws, it has lifted the administration of its scholarship program to highest priority in terms of time and energy invested. Two meetings have been held during the current academic year for the purpose of evaluating applications to the Mavis Standefer Scholarship Fund (endowed by the late Ruth Byrn Dotson). An October 10 meeting and a February 6 meeting were scheduled just a few days after the application deadlines for the fall and spring semesters, respectively.

All branch members (currently 13) are invited to such meetings; traditionally, the number attending, however small, constitutes the decision-making body. Eligibility guidelines adopted by the branch nearly a decade ago indicate preferences for awarding scholarships to older-than-traditional-age students who are single with dependent children. Applicants must be enrolled for 12 or more hours in one of Conway's three colleges; preference is given to upper-class persons and graduate students. Grade point averages and other factors are also considered.

Two \$1,000 scholarships were awarded for the fall 2009 semester. Both recipients are women, one a communications major and the other an environmental science major. Two additional applicants were turned down because of low grades.

Spring 2010 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 were awarded to four of five applicants, all women. One of the four was also a fall recipient. Two of the other awardees are environmental science majors and the third is majoring in business administration. A fifth applicant was turned down for not meeting eligibility preferences.

All the applicants for the current academic year are/were students at the University of Central Arkansas. The scholarship recipients will be invited to the branch's traditional brunch on Saturday, March 20. Dr. Ann Poindexter will host the meeting and prepare the food. Dorothy Duvall is the branch's scholarship chair.

Fayetteville Branch

In January, we learned about the fundamentals of "green" construction and energy conservation from Sam Palmer, Facilities & Sustainability Director of the Fayetteville Public Library.

In February, Arkansas First Lady Ginger Beebe was to speak to us about the Women's Foundation of Arkansas' Girls of Promise Program. Inclement weather in both Fayetteville and Little Rock necessitated cancellation of the meeting which will be rescheduled in late spring or summer. The Girls of Promise encourages 8th grade girls to enter the fields of math, science, and technology.

Our Candidates Forum was the topic for our March meeting. We heard from local candidates running for judge and state representative. Also in March, we joined other women's groups in hosting the Women in History banquet that honored local women making a difference in our community.

We have had a fun year with our groups---Book Club, Marathon Bridge, Issues and Perspectives, and Dine Around. We are in the process of selecting scholarship recipients with funds from our major fundraiser, The Gridiron. We look forward to volunteering on May 1 at the Girls of Promise Conference at the Northwest Arkansas Community College.

Congratulations are in order to our branch treasurer, Diana Gonzales Worthen! The Springdale Board of Education recently honored Diana for her work with the Toyota Literacy Program. For more details, check out this link: http://newswire.uark.edu/article.aspx?awesm=fbshare.me_AloAc&id=13532

Our branch is very excited and honored to host the AAUW State Convention on April 16 and 17th. Here are the details for your convenience. We'll see you at the State Convention and don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

Hot Springs/Hot Springs Village *Submitted by Chris Cash*

The HS/HSV Branch was honored by National Park Community College (NPCC) in late 2009. The Frederick M. Dierks Center for Nursing and Health Science Building, a state of the art facility for nursing and other health related sciences, was dedicated in September. A plaque was placed outside a second floor classroom in honor of our branch and the many scholarships we have awarded to NPCC students. There is also a Watermann Room on the first floor in honor of member Mary Watermann and her late husband Gene.

The HS/HSV Branch held its annual Book Sale on October 9 and 10, 2009. The Book Sale just keeps getting better and better, and 2009 was no exception. It was a great success with approximately \$19,000 being raised. Suzy Upton and Barb Mulley were two of the driving forces, but many members of the branch (and their husbands!) were involved in the multiple phases of the Book Sale: collecting; sorting; setup; sales; takedown; and, of course, buying. The majority of the proceeds from the Book Sale went toward funding ten scholarships to needy and deserving women in our community.

Our scholarship luncheon was held in December. Many of the winners of the scholarships funded by the Book Sale were at the luncheon, and listening to their stories was very heartwarming and rewarding. Additionally, four people were named Educational Foundation honorees at the luncheon. Sue Barber, Suzy Upton, Jim Gifford, and Earl Mulley were honored for their service and dedication to the Book Sale and our organization.

Branch member Dr. Erma Glasco-Davis was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame in the fall. We are so fortunate to have Dr Glasco-Davis in our branch. She and Dr. Sammie Tyree-Cox are co-chairs of our Diversity Committee. Dr. Glasco-Davis gave a fascinating talk on historic Dunbar High School in Little Rock for our February meeting. She attended Dunbar HS and co-authored a book on the history of the school.

Career Days for the area high schools is our current focus. Fountain Lake HS had its Career Day on March 4. Sophomores heard presentations from five different speakers, including new branch member Suzanne Hartnett, an environmental engineer. Career Days at Jessierville and Mountain High Schools are upcoming.

Our nominating committee will be presenting a slate of officers at our next meeting on March 20th. And lastly, dates for the 2010 Book Sale are October 8 and 9. All are welcome.

Jonesboro Branch

Jonesboro AAUW continues to sponsor a family with 2 little girls. The group has been working with this family for over five years. The decision was made to have continuous contact with one family with girls over an extended period of time in order to have a more concentrated and long term affect for the girls. The results continue to encourage us. The youngest girl is now in pre-school. The eight year old is in the Suzuki program and a proficient map reader. The girls have been provided enrichment activities including trips to the zoo, stage plays, and movies and specialized tutoring. During the Christmas Holidays, the girls were taken to see "The Nutcracker" on stage and the group provided generous gift cards to the family. A surprise reward of this endeavor is the mother preparing to enter the early childhood program at ASU so that she can "play forward" the benefits her family has received.

This fall Jonesboro AAUW participated in a United Way Reading Program that enables children to receive a book each month for one year. The girls of our adopted family will each receive a book through the program.

Members of the Jonesboro Branch read each month to groups at Head start. This is a long standing tradition with Jonesboro and the members go all out to present a memorable experience for the children. Some go in costumes; others take bake goods or books. It surely leaves good memories of reading for the kids.

The Women's Foundation of Arkansas recognized Jonesboro AAUW for its efforts with Girls of Promise in February. Through our efforts the attendance was increased over last year and schools participated that had never before done so. Eight members participated in the planning the conference or in volunteering on the day of the conference.

Jonesboro Branch of AAUW has become revitalized in the past few years and is continuing to grow and to have a positive impact on the community and the lives of young women in Jonesboro.

Little Rock Branch

The Little Rock Branch is growing! We now have 56 members! Member-get-a-member is our most successful recruiting effort. We also appreciate State Membership Susan Roehrig's work contacting Members at Large. Do you have a friend who lives in Central Arkansas that might be interested in joining the LR Branch? We would love to hear about them and give them a call.

In Little Rock Branch meetings so far this year we have:

- better prepared members as advocates through a public policy program arranged by Mary Robertson and presented by Tish Talbot. The program demystified the Arkansas State legislative process so we are ready for the 2011 Legislative Session. (ERA! ERA! ERA!)
- become more informed about AAUW national, regional, state and local history through presentations by Dr. Diana Glaze.
- increased our understanding of women's roles in India, Indonesia and Kenya through a panel discussion of women from these countries who are students in Central Arkansas. The panel was moderated by Raye Montague and this International Program was conceived and arranged by Kathryn Buri.
- gained insights about each other and increased our cultural awareness through a Diversity exercise facilitated by Chris Patterson, Director of the Office of Minority Health at the Arkansas Department of Health and a member of the Little Rock Branch.

The Little Rock Branch Book Club continues to be active and provide stimulating discussions for many AAUW Little Rock Branch members. In November, many members read books to elementary students for the Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) Reading Day. Branch members have also been staffing the Coalition to Re-establish the Commission on the Status of Women, President Barbara Yarnell's history book project, and preparations for the upcoming five-state meeting in June.

Please visit our website to see our latest Newsletter and join our facebook page. Address information is below:

website: www.aauw-ar.org/LittleRock/

facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=138227225168&ref=ts>

We are looking forward to the State Convention in April! See you there.

Little Rock Branch AAUW International Program

On February 13, 2010, The Little Rock AAUW held its annual International Program which started with a little Valentines love, some Mardi Gras spirit thrown in, ending with more appreciation of International Women, and a jump start to March Women's Month.

Little Rock Branch AAUW was pleased to have as our guest: Ratnasari Dewi from Indonesia enrolled at the Clinton School of Public Service, Rhinah Ordeso from Kenya enrolled at Arkansas Baptist College majoring in Accounting Administration, and Surya Kilaparty from India enrolled at University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

AAUW member, Raye Montegut moderated a panel discussion with these three lively International Women as they discussed the attitudes, customs, and political conditions in their respective countries. Our international guests kept the LR Branch members thoroughly engaged in their conversation as they compared and contrasted their traditions with those in the United States. The panel ended with a question and answer session.

Kathryn M. Buriel
International Program Chairperson

OASIS of Northwest Arkansas

Thanks to the members of AAUW, a grateful group of young women who are recovering from substance abuse gathered on Tuesday evening March 2 in a "Women's Work Circle" to continue healing and discussing the next steps toward opening a "women's enterprise" in Northwest Arkansas.

A \$300 gift from our Arkansas grant for women's health was an important springboard leading to this gathering. Bentonville-Bella Vista Branch president, Cathy Luck, requested the grant as seed money toward holding an event in February 2010 which hosted the director and a graduate of *Magdalene*, Inc in Nashville Tennessee. In the last 10 years, *Magdalene* has opened 8 well-furnished two year transitional homes to former "women of the streets" to allow them time and resources for recovery, healing, and a new start in life. In concert with their recovery journey, women at *Magdalene* are now given the opportunity to create bath and beauty products for sale under the label Thistle Farms.

OASIS of Northwest Arkansas, a transitional housing project envisioned by Cathy Luck, is working with recovering women toward a similar end in the Bentonville-Bella Vista area. "Thank you AAUW for your generous support of this dream. As the dream becomes reality, women are already experiencing healing because you cared enough to help us learn from these tremendous resources, Becca and Gwen.

We hope to bring you even more good news soon about taking the next steps to open our women's enterprise and housing program.

Again, thanks!"

Cathy Luck,
Chairwoman, Board of Directors,
Oasis of Northwest Arkansas, Inc.

Officer Nomination Committee Report by Berta Seitz

Slate of future officer nominations

President Dr Deb Wade

Finance Maria Jones

Program TBA/nominations from the floor

Celebrate National Women's History Month

March is National Women's History Month, and AAUW has strong ties to this annual celebration of women history makers. AAUW is an established historic organization that has helped - and continues to help - women make history.

With that in mind, AAUW is excited to partner with the [National Women's History Project](#) in its 30th anniversary year, which has the theme "Writing Women Back into History."

There will be many ways for AAUW members and supporters to get involved this year, and AAUW's Women's History Month celebrations will include the following:

A [Flicker stream](#) of photos

If you have photos of a Women's History Month event to share, please upload them to AAUW's Flicker stream by e-mailing the photos to mess90zap@photos.flickr.com. Please be sure to include a short caption for each photo in the subject line or in the text of your e-mail message and indicate that the photos are for National Women's History Month. Women's History Month-related photos will be available for viewing directly on the [Flicker account](#).

A [YouTube video](#) campaign

AAUW staff members will be filming short videos about women they are honoring during Women's History Month that will be uploaded to [AAUW's YouTube channel](#). If you would like to share a Women's History Month-related video that you've made, just upload it to your own account and [send in the link](#) via e-mail. We will collect videos from AAUW branches and members and online supporters and share them through the blog and/or [Facebook](#).

A [discussion thread](#) on Facebook

In addition to regular postings of videos, blog entries, and articles on [AAUW's Facebook fan page](#) wall, there will be a discussion thread available on Facebook for members and online supporters to use to share Women's History Month information, including, but not limited to

- Event information
 - Women's history facts
 - Inspirational quotes by/about women
 - Individual stories people would like to share
- Websites and/or online articles about women's history

[Tweeting](#) about women's history

AAUW will use the #wmnhist (Women's History) tag every day in March instead of just on Wednesdays. And [@AAUW](#), as well as our followers and online supporters, will be tweeting women's history facts, quotes, links to Women's History Month-related videos, articles about women's history, relevant blog posts, and so on. To follow the women's history conversation on Twitter, [log in to Twitter](#) and then search for the #wmnhist tag.

Blogging

AAUW's fantastic blog team will be highlighting various women throughout the month of March. In addition, there may be some guest bloggers, including the filmmaker behind the documentary *Seneca Falls*. You can [order the video](#) for screening parties.

On March 4 AAUW will blog about [Half the Sky Live](#), the CARE event that is related to Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's book, [Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide](#).

AAUW will be [blogging for International Women's Day](#) on March 8 and will be participating in the National Engineers Week Foundation's [2010 Global Marathon: For, by and about Women in Engineering and Technology](#). The marathon will take place March 10-11.

As part of the part of the [Red Pump Project](#), AAUW will blog for National Women and Girls HIV/Aids Awareness Day on March 10.

Finally, AAUW also has pledged to blog on March 24, which is [Ada Lovelace Day](#), to celebrate women in technology and science.

Other ways you can get involved:

Host a screening party

A number of movies are great for celebrating or recognizing Women's History Month, including [Seneca Falls](#) and [Iron Jawed Angels](#).

Commenting

Another way to help celebrate National Women's History Month and add your perspective to the conversation is by having your say in the "comments" section of the AAUW blog. Please [comment on the blog](#) to share more information about the women and topics that will be written about during this month. How else will you be celebrating National Women's History Month? AAUW would love to hear your ideas and looks forward to your participation in our Women's History Month activities.

The grassroots liaisons in AAUW's Leadership Corps program will be reaching out to AAUW branch leaders to provide mentoring and assistance. Whether you are a member of an AAUW branch (an officer or not) or a member-at-large interested in becoming involved with other AAUW members, please fill out the [online form here](#) to indicate areas of branch programming or administration for which you would like assistance.

[Washington Update](#) is AAUW's free, members-only weekly e-bulletin offering an insider's view on the legislative process, the latest policy news, resources for advocates, programming ideas, and updates from the Public Policy and Government Relations Department. [Subscribe today!](#)

Read the 2009-2011 [AAUW Public Policy Program](#).

Become part of the AAUW national community and break through barriers for women and girls. [Join now](#).

Strengthen AAUW's voice with policy-makers! [Donate now](#).

Connect with AAUW online via our [website](#) and [blog](#), and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Coalition to Re-establish the Arkansas Commission on the Status of Women

FACT SHEET

JUN 2009: AAUW (American Association of University Women) received a \$900 Impact Grant (Public Policy) to begin the process of reestablishing the Arkansas Commission on the Status of Women

OCT 2009: AAUW in collaboration with NOW and WAND formed an ad hoc committee (the Coalition

♀ Benchmarked vs. other states and selected MS and NH as models

♀ Agreed on 6 focus areas

- ◆ Education
- ◆ Fight Domestic Violence
- ◆ Incarcerated Women
- ◆ Pay Equity
- ◆ Recognition
- ◆ Women's Health

♀ Reviewed original enabling legislation

♀ Agreed to host a reception for Governor and Legislature to pitch the Commission and to solicit their support/sponsorship

DEC 2009: Increased membership to 23

♀ New partners include Arkansas Women's Health Workgroup, Democratic Party of Arkansas, AEA, Greater Little Rock Federation of Women's Clubs, Cleburne County Democratic Women, Arkansas BPW, Democratic Women's Club, Garland County Democratic Women, Arkansas Association of Women Lawyers, an Arkansas State Representative, a candidate for Secretary of State and local entrepreneurs

♀ Formed three workgroups: Policy, Recognition/Research & Reception Planning

♀ Recommended Daisy Bates & Hattie Caraway for recognition

JAN 2010: Increased membership to 36

♀ Agreed to move the reception to Nov 2010 or Jan-Feb 2011 to target newly elected officials

♀ Developed a mission statement:

To identify, research, educate and advocate policy and legislation for the improvement and advancement of women in Arkansas

♀ Added 7 workgroups/committees: Legislation, Marketing/Messaging, one for each of the other 5 focus areas (Recognition had been formed in December)

♀ Recommended--

- ◆ ***9 Commissioners nominated from a slate submitted by this Coalition headed by AAUW--3 by the Governor, 3 by the Senate President pro tem and 3 by Speaker of the house***
- ◆ ***Qualifications and other requirements: Able to work without pay from the Commission; experts in the 6 focus areas; professionals (lawyer, accountant, etc.); diverse (race/ethnicity, geography, etc.); record of commitment to the advancement of women***
- ◆ ***Staggered terms (so the whole Commission does not turn over at once)***

Coalition to Re-establish the Arkansas Commission on the Status of Women

FACTS ABOUT THE COALITION

- WHAT?** AAUW (American Association of University Women) in Arkansas applied for and received a modest IMPACT GRANT from the national organization to reestablish the Arkansas Commission on the Status of Women that was abolished by legislative action in 1999.
- WHY?** ***To identify, research, educate and advocate policy and legislation for the improvement and advancement of women in Arkansas***
(Mission statement)
- WHO?** The Coalition includes members of AAUW, NOW, WAND, Arkansas Women's Health Workgroup, Democratic Party of Arkansas, AEA, Greater Little Rock Federation of Women's Clubs, Cleburne County Democratic Women, Washington County Democratic Women, Pulaski County Democratic Women, Arkansas BPW, Democratic Women's Club, Garland County Democratic Women, Arkansas Association of Women Lawyers along with an Arkansas State Representative, candidates for Secretary of State and State Senate and business women/entrepreneurs.
- WHEN?** Introduce legislation in 2011 session
- HOW?**
- ♀ Partner with the ~75 women's organizations in Arkansas
 - ♀ Focus on 6 areas:
 - ◆ Education
 - ◆ Fight Domestic Violence
 - ◆ Incarcerated Women
 - ◆ Pay Equity
 - ◆ Recognition
 - ◆ Women's Health
 - ♀ Benchmark vs. MS and NH
 - ♀ Plan a reception to introduce elected officials to the Coalition and to solicit their support and sponsorship
 - ♀ Empanel workgroups to address Legislation, Marketing/Messaging, Policy Development, Reception Planning and the 6 focus areas

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STATEMENTS OF MISSION AND VISION

MISSION STATEMENT: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

VISION STATEMENT: AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

EDUCATION FOUNDATION: In principal and practice, the AAUW Educational Foundation values and seeks diversity. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, disability or class.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND: In principals and practice, the AAUW Legal Advocacy fund values and seeks diversity. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age and sexual orientation, disability or class.

Diana Hoke
Arkansas Diamond Editor

1200 Countrywood Circle
Rogers, AR 72756



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

***** Mark your calendar *****

April 17-18, 2010

Arkansas State Convention, Fayetteville

June 11-13, 2010

Five State Regional Conference