

Sept/Oct
2009

President's Message

Every October, after the last bagful of Westerns is purchased at our Annual Book Sale and the remaining items are carted away, there are several moments of victory.

First, there's the sweet release the co-chairs feel, knowing that the sale is over for another year. If sales are good, there is excitement over the preliminary tally and then the final total. And if all goes well, when the bills all clear, there might be some joy knowing that costs were kept low this year.

But when summer arrives and we all disband until September, there are also some quieter moments of jubilation. Moments that are the direct result of our book sale.

Beginning in June, I received letter after letter of thanks from our scholarship recipients. This year, we were able to give **five** scholarships to non-traditional women students at UW-Eau Claire, and **one** inaugural scholarship to a student at Chippewa Valley Technical College (read all about them in this issue).

The letters were gracious. They spoke of their educational plans, their family and community commitments. I never had a shred of doubt that the candidates Kim Wellnitz and I had selected were deserving

of the scholarships, but the letters rekindled my conviction that supporting these scholarships is for me the most meaningful part of AAUW-Eau Claire.

Funds from the book sale do not exclusively support our scholarships, but the more we earn at the sale, the larger the scholarship allocation. Anything you are able to do, be it book sorting, working at the sale, donating books, or even word-of-mouth advertising to friends and co-workers, contributes to the success of this event.



A lot of changes happened last spring and over the summer on the national level at AAUW. We are now "just" our acronym AAUW

(details inside). The national organization has been streamlined. Donna Weidman and Lois Helland were able to attend National Convention in St. Louis, were bylaws accompanying these structural changes were approved. Hopefully these changes will help AAUW stay focused on its mission.

Welcome back to AAUW season! I look forward to seeing you at the **kickoff on Sept. 20th!**

Kate Hinnant (kate.hinnant@gmail.com)

Book Group:

Our first book of the year was *Ahab's Wife* by Sena Naslund. Thanks to Marge Quaid for hosting the group.

For October we have decided to do a reader's choice by Lorna Landvik as she will be one of the speakers at the Chippewa Valley Book Festival. That meeting will be Tuesday Oct. 6th at Chris Kondrasuk's 464 Summit Avenue.



Our November book will be *Devil in the White City* by Erik Larsen. I am hoping that we will share the responsibility of doing the research on authors and books. Please check your calendars and volunteer for a month.

If you plan to attend, please call or email the hostess so she has an idea for numbers for dessert and seating.

Chris Kondrasuk
835-1683, chris@chrisray.org



Consider Going Paperless

First it was the bank, now it's AAUW-Eau Claire. If you **prefer** to receive your newsletter online only and received a print copy of this newsletter, please contact Kate at kate.hinnant@gmail.com.

Reducing our paper copy distribution will help save postage and printing costs.

Those currently receiving print copies will continue to do so, unless I hear from you.

AAUW –

AN ACRONYM STANDS ALONE

The decision to stop using the full name “American Association of University Women” was years in the making, though it was a surprise to most of us. For a more complete explanation for the change, please see **AAUW Current Topics Briefing #2** (http://aauw.org/member_center/briefings/briefingLogoChange_052308.cfm). Here are some excerpted reasons from the document:

- ✓ **Representation:** “For many, the “American Association of University Women” is an organization for women who work in university settings – and ONLY for women members.”
- ✓ **Unification:** “In our efforts to create a unified organization, the acronym/logo provides a consistent, unified brand and helps eliminate functional “silos” for both staff and members.”
- ✓ **Recognition:** “There is considerable precedent for the successful use of acronyms as names... IBM, AT & T, and most effectively in the nonprofit world, the AARP, are examples.

As a result, bylaws, promotional materials, web pages, and graphics are being changed.

One way to identify what AAUW stands for, when asked, is to refer to our streamlined mission:

AAUW - Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and



Membership Kickoff!!

When: Sunday, Sept. 20 at 3pm

Where: Lois & Mark Helland's home

This is always an exciting time to see our AAUW friends, to get a preview of the programs for the 2009-2010 year, and to enjoy hors d'ouvres and beverages. Please feel free to bring interested guests and if, perhaps, they would need to be picked up, contact any AAUW member.

Directions to Lois' are included on page 6 under Book Sorting.



Please join us for a beautiful fall afternoon and welcome the beginning of another great year.

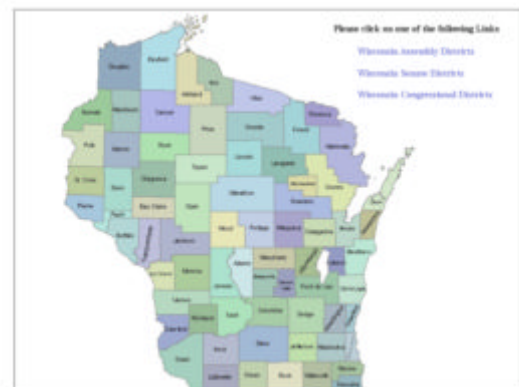
Madison, Here We Come!!!

AAUW-Wisconsin has a long tradition of sponsoring events labeled Legislative Day and Public Policy Day. These are held in Madison annually, and the goal is to help members understand the issues that affect women, and take action on an individual or branch basis. Excitement reigns in 2009! Back by popular demand is the day spent in Madison, first learning about the issues, and then **visiting our state Senators and Representatives to lobby for change.**

Of course, the people who represent us are at work at the Capitol during the week, so the event will be held on Wednesday, November 4. The lobbying topics are education, health care, and campaign finance reform. Our informational speakers will address these topics and give us a background on these important legislative issues.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you can attend. We would like to take at least one vehicle down the night before, as the event starts at 9 a.m. Check out the "Who are my Legislators" map at: <http://wims.legis.state.wi.us/> if you don't know who we will be lobbying.

Remember to consult www.aauw.org for up-to-the minute information on what's new on Capitol Hill. The media coverage is almost all about healthcare proposals, and, while healthcare issues have a large impact on women, other battles continue over Title IX issues, pay equity, education, and civil rights. Sign up on the webpage for AAUW's Washington Update and AAUW Action Alerts.



Mary Hayden
Public Policy Chair
haydenm@prodigy.net, 832-0445

2009 AAUW National Convention: Breaking through Barriers

by Donna M. Weidman

I had the privilege of attending the 2009 National Convention held in St. Louis, Missouri, at the Renaissance St. Louis Grand & Suites, previously known as the Hotel Statler and the setting for the historic convention of the National American Suffrage Association in March 1919. At that time, several states allowed women to vote only in presidential elections, while certain states did not allow women to vote at all. At this breakthrough convention, the League of Women Voters was created to secure the enfranchisement of women in all states.



Lilly Ledbetter, who gave the opening keynote address, was a very soft-spoken individual who expounded on her journey regarding the lack of pay equity rights. She was very upbeat even though she did not first succeed in receiving equal pay compensation. But she has lent her voice and passion to the advocacy of equal pay for women. Lilly has testified several times before Congress and spoke at the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver.

The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act became the first bill that President Obama signed into law, which restores the long-standing interpretation of civil rights laws and EEOC policies that allows employees to challenge any discriminatory paycheck they receive. Ledbetter said, "I recently spoke to 130 fourth graders. During my presentation, a little girl raised her hand and asked me 'How did you feel when you found out the men were paid more?' Now, if fourth graders get it, what is going on with the Senate?" Lilly is truly an inspiration to all who meet and work with her.

The session ended with a call to action from Lisa Maatz, who urged all members to engage in an act of "polite civil disobedience" and flood senators' email and voice mail until they sign on to this landmark bill. Senators, beware!

Our guest speaker/keynoter on Saturday was Representative Rosa DeLauro, (D-CT), who opened her address with the statement, "No one does it better than AAUW and Liza Maatz and her staff." "I am humbled to be here today," she said. "I'm a true believer in the work of



AAUW. You are the pioneers, and we (members of Congress) stand on your shoulders so that we do the right thing." She commended Lilly Ledbetter, who is the wind beneath our wings. DeLauro was elected assistant to the Democratic leader by her colleagues, making her the second highest-ranking Democratic woman in the House of Representatives. She is described as a "hero for working families" for her work on labor and health issues in Congress. A longtime friend and ally of AAUW, she has led the fight for affordable, high-quality health care and sponsored legislation that would close the wage gap between men and women and provide paid sick

leave to employees. You can listen to Rosa for hours as her enthusiasm and rhetoric inspired you as she reiterated she has the best career. She closed her speech with a quote from her

mother: "Come on girls; let's make ourselves heard!"

On Saturday afternoon the SHE-E-O Forum brought together speakers Erika Feinberg, CEO of ActiveForever, and Arlene Harris, chair of the board of GreatCall, provider of the Jitterbug phone and cellular service, to share their perspectives on the challenges women face while working in male-dominated industries. In 2009 women make up more than half the U.S. labor force, but there are only 13 women CEOs in Fortune 500 companies and in Fortune 1,000 companies, only 25 women hold that position.

Arlene Harris says her greatest challenge as a woman in the high tech industry is financing. An attitude she often faces is, "Who wants to finance a woman?"

Feinberg proclaimed how few women are in Internet merchandising despite our buying power, and spoke of the hurdles she has faced, especially in becoming a CEO at age 25 and learning to be successful in a male-dominated field.

Next was the business meeting on Saturday morning, which of major concern was the passage of new bylaws to reflect a primary corporation, housing the membership, most of the assets, and most of the programs. This primary corporation will combine and include the activities of the current Educational Foundation (including the Legal Advocacy Fund), the Leadership and Training Institute, and the current association. The Board of Directors of the AAUW Action Fund will be the AAUW Executive Committee, a small group to oversee the limited activities of the Action Fund.

With more than 973 attendees at the convention and with more than 1400 ballots cast in a multiple-card vote, the delegates voted down the open membership bylaw and voted to insert passages from the 2007 Association Bylaws that extend membership to individuals based on their educational degrees.

The delegates also passed the "one member, one vote" proposal, which provides every member the right and opportunity to have a personal voice in directing the future of AAUW and our important work to break through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.

The National Convention banquet, held Saturday night, brought members together to celebrate the generous support of the AAUW community and to be inspired by women making a difference in the lives of others. The states and branches that raised the most money for AAUW in 09 were listed by state. The Major Gifts Campaign has already raised more than \$450,000 and hopes to raise \$1 million by the end of 2010.



Wanda R Hardy, the recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award, has dedicated herself to making sure all people have the knowledge they need to make sound financial choices through her company Credit Worthy, Inc.

Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA) closed out the evening with a message of determination in the face of adversity. A long time advocate for women, Speier is known for her California legislation protecting the rights of consumers from credit companies. She gave a very inspiring address emphasizing the importance all of us have in obtaining and protecting the rights of women.

The Eau Claire Chapter of AAUW was represented at the convention in a slide show presentation showcasing our efforts with the Get-Out-the-vote campaign with Betsy Richmond and Mary Hayden at UW-EC. Mary and Betsy were informing and signing up students to vote in October 2008, and their picture is also included in the 2008 AAUW Annual Report – way to go Mary and Betsy.

Have a Blast Book Sorting!

Please join us for the **first book sorting session** on Wednesday September 9th in Lois and Mark Helland's garage anytime after 5:30PM.

Subsequent sessions will be held on Wednesdays, with additional times added the closer we get to the book sale (Oct 9-11). Updates will be sent by email.

Directions to Lois Helland's garage:

400 Foxmoor Lane
Golf Road to So. Lowes Creek Road
Right at Foxmoor Lane (if you go over I-94 you're too far)
Drive to the end of Foxmoor and look straight ahead for a sign that says "Lois' Lane"
Proceed all the way down the long driveway.

A BIG THANKS TO THE HELLAND FAMILY!

If you have been saving boxes or books, please drop them off in the left most garage sometime after September 5th or bring to the first sorting session on September 9th. **If you have access to copy paper boxes** with lids, please, please, please save them for us.



Announcing our scholarship recipients:

This year, we distributed six scholarships of \$550. Five went to UW-Eau Claire non-traditional students, and our first Chippewa Valley Technology College scholarship was also awarded.



Amber Boyce-Fisk

Amber is a senior in health care administration. This year, she is moving to Baldwin to embark on a one-year internship at American Heritage Nursing Home in Hammond, Wisconsin. She is excited, but also nervous, as it is her first time living outside of Eau Claire. She will follow the administrator and learn about running a long-term care facility. She plans on attending graduate school at University of Minnesota in order to obtain an advanced degree in health care administration or policy. She hopes to be part of changing health care to make it more accessible to families.

In addition to her busy school career, Amber is also the mother of three children: Hailey, who is nine, Drake, who is three, and Colton who is two.

(cont. next page)

Terri Ertz**(“Scholarship Recipients” cont.)**

Terri has been working hard for several years on her college degree. She says it has taken her nearly six years to become a junior, but she has never taken fewer than six credits a semester as she raises her family. She has five children ranging in age from eighteen to two.

Terri’s major is sociology, but she’s also working on topical minors in women’s studies and criminal justice. It is her goal to work for the state of Wisconsin in the area of women’s probation.

Kathleen Kaczmarowski

Kathleen is getting close to graduation: in May she will graduate with a Master’s degree in Family Health Nursing. One of her major career goals is to change public views about the roles of advanced practice nurses. She’d like to see the stature of the profession increase. She is also committed to using her nursing skills to assist with intake assessments and caring for children in her son’s birth land. He is nearly four and she lives with him and her “wonderful and supportive” husband.

Tracy Newville

Tracy leads a life filled with commitments to her husband and children, extended family, two part-time jobs, and still has found time to pursue a degree in Radiography at Chippewa Valley Technical College.

In addition to regular classes, she spent the summer attending Radiography Clinicals at a local hospital. She’s looking forward to spending time in MRI and Nuclear Medicine, so that she can start thinking about specialization.

Rebekah Streit

Rebekah is a name that should be familiar to all of us. She’s been earning this scholarship on a regular basis since 2007. Why does she keep rising to the top? Because she’s committed. And yet she still finds time occasionally to relax and watch the History channel with her two kids.

This fall, Rebekah begins her practicum experience at Wisconsin Health and Regional Vent Center in Chippewa Falls. She hopes to transform the book learning of the past four years into practical application as she learns how to manage health and aging services. She plans on graduating with a degree in Health Care Administration by August 2010.

Theresa Strong

Theresa is social work major with a strong commitment to the safety of children. She is the mother of a very active two-year old boy, and it is because of him that she is so passionate about child welfare. After graduation, she plans to work for either Child Protective Services or with policies related to child custody and abuse.

AAUW 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..*

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

FOLIAGE - Newsletter of AAUW - Eau Claire Branch

Send or call items of interest to Kate Hinnant, kate.hinnant@gmail.com, 831-0182, 220 Roosevelt Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701



Sept 20 – Fall Kickoff!
3-5 pm at Lois Helland’s

Oct 9 – 11 – Annual Book Sale
Eau Claire Expo Center
(see details on flyer)

220 Roosevelt Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54701