



AAUW/Ohio Orbit Newsletter
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Educational Foundation Update

The AAUW Educational Foundation is one of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women. It currently provides \$4.5 million for more than 250 fellowships, grants and special awards, thanks to the contributions of AAUW members like you. According to the 2008 Third Quarter Report, Ohio branches contributed \$20,300, with another \$2,904 for note cards. I will update you on the final contribution count for 2008. At our May AAUW/Ohio Convention, we will hold our silent auction to benefit the EF. Please plan to donate an item for auction and bid on others. Thank you all for all the hard work you have put in! If there is anything I can do to help, let me know, as I am always happy to lend a hand. Remember that through giving we continue to break through barriers!

Deborah Wooldridge, Ohio Educational Foundation Vice President
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Membership Update

Just a reminder that after the first of the year national dues are half off. And if a member joins during a Shape the Future event, dues are only 25 percent of the regular fee. This is an excellent opportunity to get new members to attend our meetings and join AAUW. For a small fee they can see what AAUW is about. Materials on Shape the Future activities are on the AAUW Web site. Also, remember that a first-year membership is free after college graduation. All you have to do is fill out the "Give a Grad a Gift" form. We have received several membership inquiries from our state Web site, so please have your branch information listed online. If you need help, just ask. We want to increase membership this year! Last year our state lost members, so this is very important.

Patricia Millhoff, Ohio Membership Co-Vice President
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Orbit & Web Update

Our AAUW/Ohio newsletter, the *Orbit*, has a new look that we hope you like. We will feature state and Association news in each issue, along with "Branch Best Practices" for membership recruitment, leadership development and fund raising. You will find more AAUW/Ohio news online at www.aauwoh.org. **Send your branch news and best practices for the next issue of *Orbit* to Paula Maggio, public information officer, at maggio@uakron.edu by March 1.**

Ohio convention to focus on new AAUW bylaws

Linda Silakoski is on tap to preside over the by-laws "town hall" style meeting on May 3 at our AAUW/Ohio convention. An immigration attorney in the Cleveland area, she has served on the Association's Foundation Board.

Save the date for Leadership Workshop '09

Reserve Aug. 15 for our AAUW/Ohio Leadership Workshop, which will be held at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware. Two tracks are planned to help move your branch to the next level of leader and branch development.

Help move AAUW into the 21st century

Visit www.aauwoh.org and let AAUW presidents tell you how to make a difference.

Review AAUW Bylaws online

AAUW invites you to review its proposed Bylaws on the AAUW Web site at www.aauwoh.org. Log in to the Member Center and click on "Charter and Bylaws" on the left side.



A member of Logan County branch attended last year's convention with her 5-month-old daughter.

AAUW/Ohio 85th Annual Convention and Equity Day

Equity in Action: Implementing Best Practices in Education and Employment

Saturday, May 2
Sunday, May 3
Holiday Inn Dayton

May convention will offer practical strategies for real workplace issues

By **Andrea Adams-Miller**

Vice President, Programs/Conference Chair

If you have never been to an AAUW/Ohio convention, this is the year to attend. This year's convention will offer practical solutions designed to address real world problems in both workplace and educational settings.

Dynamic speakers from a variety of backgrounds will lead uplifting motivational segments that will teach you how to:

- Utilize conferences to reach your full potential
- Run a meeting that meets the learning styles of your participants
- Stay up to date on public policy and get your views addressed
- Negotiate business deals
- Learn how to manage your money and educate youth about money issues
- Conduct business and educational seminars online
- Know what to expect as you age.

As a result of this high-powered program, there is something for everyone at this convention. The event will also include time for you to mingle with friends new and old.

If you have never been a part of a

professional conference that combines high quality information with the most fun you've ever had, join us on May 2 and 3 in Dayton.

Presenters will include:

- Dr. Karen Rafinski, president, Clark Community College
- Mary Ellen Benedict, professor of economics, Bowling Green State University
- Peg Gordon, whose training program on "Xtreme Aging" has been featured on *The Today Show*.
- and many more.

Convention updates will be posted on our Web site at www.aauwoh.org.

Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown supports Lilly Ledbetter Act

Kudos to Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown who cast his vote in favor of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act on Jan. 22. Sen. George Voinovich voted against it. AAUW was one of many organizations nationwide that worked hard to garner support for the measure. Ledbetter will speak at the Association convention in June.

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From the top

a message from Diane Regan
President, AAUW/Ohio

From where I sit as president of AAUW Ohio, I have the extraordinary opportunity to view our state membership from a broad perspective -- or from the top if you will!

I will share ideas and perspectives in this and future *Orbits* that are related to our important AAUW mission. It's part of what you can expect from your membership at the state level.

A friend of mine sent me the following: "Public Service Announcement: Due to the recent economic crisis, stock market crash, bank failures, budget cuts, rising unemployment, unstable world conditions, outsourcing of business to foreign lands, the hysterical cost of insurance, electricity, petroleum, housing, and taxes of all kinds, the Light at the End of the Tunnel has been turned off. We apologize for the inconvenience."

A little too close to reality to be funny? And what does this dark humor mean to us as AAUW members? From where I sit, it means that AAUW is more important than ever. As EDUCATED women, we know that any economic downturn generally

affects women disproportionately from lower wages to layoffs, to inadequate health care coverage for them and their children to increased domestic violence, to lower retirements. Pretty much the entire life spectrum.

As an AAUW member, each of us is committed to be informed and to advocate for issues that matter. That's why your organization advocated for the passage of the Fair Wage Act last spring to erase a Supreme Court interpretation that made it much more difficult for women to sue for being paid less than their male counterparts.

In these trying economic times, we can't allow women to earn less than men. Too many women are the breadwinners for their families; too many women are trying to educate themselves and raise children alone.

What happened to this critical legislation? While it passed the House, it was

tabled in the Senate, and one who allowed that to happen was our own Senator George Voinovich.

Can you educate yourself and your branch members about this issue and contact the senator? If he heard from the nearly 2,000 of us in Ohio, he might review his position.

And let's give the Association our thanks for standing so firmly against the privatization of Social Security, a social safety net critical to most women. Can you imagine having to live on a retirement portfolio of stocks while watching it lose 50 percent of its value in just weeks?

If ever women needed an organization like AAUW, it's now. Use these financial reasons to ramp up your involvement in your branch and in your community, recruit new members and get members to renew. The dues are a small investment in a major voice that promotes the welfare of women and girls in Washington and in Columbus.

**"If ever women
needed an
organization like
AAUW, it's now"**

**Shop online
at Barnes & Noble and support AAUW**
while getting a 5 percent discount every day
and bigger discounts on special occasions.

Visit our own AAUW bookstore at www.bn.com/aauw.com



2009 AAUW National Convention

Breaking through Barriers

June 26-28, 2009
St. Louis



Lilly Ledbetter will speak about "Breaking through Barriers" at 2009 AAUW Convention

Lilly Ledbetter, the face of pay equity, will speak at the 2009 AAUW National Convention at the Renaissance St. Louis Grand and Suites Hotel, June 26 to 28.

Early Bird registration is available through March 22.

At this historic convention whose theme is "Breaking Through Barriers," we will discuss and vote on issues related to membership requirements, dues payments, public policy issues and more. What we decide will have a momentous impact on who and what AAUW will be in the coming years.

Check out the AAUW Web site for full details on

the issues, the convention and things to do in St. Louis: www.aauw.org/convention.

We'll have welcoming activities on Thursday, stimulating workshops on Friday morning, First Timers' briefings, lively business sessions, dynamic keynote speakers, an exciting CEO Women Leaders luncheon, bylaws briefings, Meet the Candidates reception, elections, Taste of Success displays, the elegant banquet Saturday night and a final business session Sunday morning.

Plan now to send branch members and delegates to convention by budgeting for it, appointing delegates early

and discussing the issues and bylaws. Treat yourself to a mini-vacation at the historic Renaissance Grand Hotel where spa treatments, great restaurants and lots of extras await you.



Kathy Koenig spoke at the '08 state convention about the Girls in Science Program.

Best practices from around the state: Sandusky Branch

Jane A. Morner, president of Ohio's **Sandusky Branch**, shares the following best practices:

- We advertise meetings in the free "Community Column" of our local newspaper a few days before we meet each month to attract new members and guests.
- We encourage members to bring guests to each meeting.
- We rely on several fund raisers. One is a silent auction at Christmas time. Each member brings an item for bid. We also have a consignment store in

Sandusky where we can donate gently used items. We get half of the purchase price of every item sold.

- Our Elder-Beerman store has a "Care to Share" day twice a year. We sell \$5 tickets that give customers a \$10 coupon off anything in the store for that day. Our branch is allowed to keep the \$5, which we use to send girls to Be Wise Camp each June.

Send your best practices for the next issue of *Orbit* and for posting on our Web site to maggiop@uakron.edu.

BRANCH NEWS

Zanesville Branch teamed up with the local newspaper, the *Times Recorder*, to sponsor a candidates' forum before the November election. More than 200 people attended, and **Jody Weyand** served as timekeeper.

Xenia Branch celebrated its 60th anniversary in September. Highlights included a welcome from President **Carol J. Harner**, congratulations delivered by AAUW/Ohio President **Diane Regan**, a presentation of **Marion Talbot** by **Carol Leupp** and an address by **Dr. Karen E. Rafinski**, president of Clark State Community College.

Last year the branch awarded seven college scholarships to deserving young women.

Log on to www.aauwoh.org to:

- **Get Ohio convention updates**
- **Download the 09 Pay Equity Day kit for April 28**
- **Be a Two-Minute Activist**
- **Join AAUW**