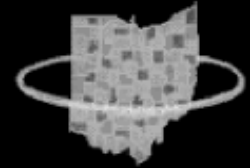




OHIO Orbit Online

Newsletter of the American Association of University Women/Ohio



Ohio women gather for state AAUW Equity Day Conference and 84th Annual Convention

Julie Graber delivers the keynote address

By Jackie Evangelista, Public Policy Co-chair

Conference Keynoter Julie Graber brought welcome news—she is responsible for starting a new research center at the Ohio State University established to track the status of women and girls in the state. AAUW members who mourned the closing of the Women’s Policy and Research Center in 2001 can celebrate the new OSU Institute on Women, Gender and Public Policy.

To address the conference theme, “Health Care as a Women’s Issue,” Graber enumerated three ways the health care field doesn’t play fair with women.

First, she cited the issue of how women’s health has been narrowly defined as related to reproductive health nothing that medical researchers have simply regarded women as “small men” despite the fact that women respond to drugs differently and suffer from different diseases. That began to change as more women were elected to public office resulting in the passage in the early Nineties of the Women’s Health Equity Act and the creation of the National Institutes of Health Women’s Health Initiative study.

Second, Graber outlined the ways that the health insurance industry discriminates against women. Until women entered the workforce in large

(Continued on page 4)



Ginny Palmer welcomes Equity Day keynote speaker, Julie Graber

Having Trouble Finding Leaders for your Branch? You DON’T Want to Miss this!

By Diane Regan, President-elect

Most AAUW members agree that branch leadership is key to a healthy and successful branch. Yet we are all asking how in this age of multi-tasking and days already too full does one manage to lend a hand to the branch or find others that will?!? Since this question plagues most of the branches in Ohio, the AAUW Ohio board invites all branch leaders and potential leaders to register to attend the 3rd Annual Leadership Conference slated for Saturday, August 16 at Ohio Wesleyan University’s Hamilton-Williams Center in Delaware, Ohio.

This year’s workshop will be different than the two previously held with a new program

AAUW.....for ALL GENERATIONS...

because equity is still an issue

developed under the guidance of AAUW’s national leadership. It will be interesting, informative, and interactive! While many think that leaders are only “born,” the fact is that leadership skills can be developed. And leadership skills learned at this year’s workshop will be applicable not only to your branch but also transferrable to your personal and professional life so plan to come and spread the word to other professionals you know.

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Our Mission: 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.

Educational Foundation: Provides Funds to advance Education, research and self-development for women, and to foster equity and positive societal change.

Legal Advocacy Fund: Provides Funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

Diversity Statement: In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

To Join AAUW: Membership is open to all graduates who hold associate's or equivalent, baccalaureate or higher degrees from a regionally accredited college or University.

To join, contact the AAUW/Ohio office at: 800.910-7075.



MARGE'S MESSAGE...

Equity Day and Convention a Resounding Success!

By Marge Lee, AAUW/Ohio President

If you were not in Zanesville for the 13th Annual Equity Day and 84th Annual Convention, you really missed a great opportunity to network with fellow AAUW members and learn from some thought provoking breakouts. Congratulations to the Zanesville Branch, under the direction of **Jody Weyand** for a job well-done. Local arrangement chair, Jody Weyand, and Co-Program Vice President, **Virginia Palmer**, are to be commended for a well organized convention. I applaud all the Southeast Branches because I know it was a joint effort. Ginny and Jody worked tirelessly together along with many others to bring us an enjoyable experience. The breakouts were extremely well planned, well attended and full of enthusiasm. It takes a lot of dedicated people to stage such an event and it was very successful. Thank you to all who worked and attended.

Among the highlights of the Equity Day Conference theme "Health Care as a Women's Issue," were women's health presentations led by **Julie Graber**, Senior Associate for Strategic Planning, Colleges of Arts and Sciences, The Ohio State University, who was our keynoter this year. This programming was very well received and her talk was the first of eight for the day as six more women's health related sessions were held during the break-outs and followed up by **Marti Sladek's** presentation on "Hidden Women's Health Issues in the 21st Century." Feedback has been enthusiastic; and sincere thanks go to the presenters – **Julie Graber, Sharon Parker, Georgene Timko Johnson, Jackie Evangelista, Karen Newlon, Karen Rainey, and Marti Sladek** – for their efforts in presenting these workshops to the 2008 Ohio Equity Day Conference attendees!

The Conference and Annual Meeting on Saturday was equally well-done. **Ginny Palmer**, AAUW/Ohio Co-Program Vice-President began the day's activities by introducing **Hollie R. Hinton**, Director of Governor Ted Strickland's Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach, who delivered the opening remarks. Our keynote speakers were board members **Paula Maggio**, AAUW/Ohio Ohio Communications Chair and Akron Branch Co-President/Program, whose topic was, "Introducing Behind the Pay Gap" and **Nancy Stellhorn**, AAUW/Ohio Finance Officer and Ohio's Making History project coordinator, who introduced the track on "Ohio's Making History." **Diane Regan**, my successor as AAUW/Ohio's 2008-2010 President, kicked off the third track on Branch Development & Leadership. Each of the presenters did a wonderful job in their topic areas and everyone benefited from a lot of thought provoking workshops as a result. On behalf of AAUW/Ohio, thank you for your efforts in making the 2008 Conference a great success!

As I come to the end of my term as your state president, I certainly have mixed emotions. It has been an awesome experience which I will always remember. Over the course of the last two years, I have met so many dedicated AAUW members and enjoyed so many wonderful experiences as the President of AAUW/Ohio.. Your dedication inspires your branch members and challenges your state leaders. We love and need your input. AAUW must reclaim its legacy as a relevant and vital organization, because despite the enormous advances on behalf of women and girls in education, the workplace, and in how our nation addresses public policy issues impacting women, **Equity is still an issue!**

I thank you for the opportunity to be your leader and urge you to keep up your great work on behalf of AAUW!

A message for our members ~

Dear AAUW/Ohio Members,

It was a pleasure for me to participate in your 13th Equity Issue Day and 84th Annual Meeting and State Convention in Zanesville, Ohio April 18-19, 2008. I arrived early in time to have dinner on Thursday night with State President Marge Lee, President-Elect Diane Regan, and Administrative Coordinator Mary Lou Baty.

I was most impressed at Equity Issue Day with the quality of the speakers. They were all excellent. The breakouts I attended were: "Issue Advocacy for Health Care Concerns" and "Balancing Life Stress."

Friday evening I enjoyed attending the Past State President's Dinner, where all the Past State President's in attendance were recognized and honored. Being a Past State President of Michigan (2004-2006), this group of women holds a special place in my heart because they are truly the backbone of the organization. Women who were State Presidents back in the 70's, and other years long ago, and are still attending and supporting the group with their money and time, show a commitment and love for AAUW that leaves a lasting impression, especially at a time when so many members are dropping out of AAUW.

Saturday at State Convention it was my privilege to honor outgoing officers and install new ones. Your outgoing President Marge Lee and her board have done a great job in continuing AAUW's mission in Ohio. I was pleased to learn that Marge and her husband were planning to take a long cruise with many days at sea shortly after convention. A well-deserved time with family for rest and relaxation to be sure. New incoming President Diane Regan is ready to take over at an interesting time in her life when she faces retirement. She is most interested in public policy and you will be hearing a lot about those issues over the next 2 years.

I urge you to participate in AAUW/Ohio's Equity Issue Day and Annual Meeting and State Convention May 2-3, 2009 at the Holiday Inn, Dayton-Fairborn. These dates fall on a Saturday and Sunday to accommodate working women. Unfortunately for me, I have learned that Wisconsin's State Convention is the same weekend so I will have to do some creative travel planning to be able to attend both.

If you have questions or need assistance at any time, please contact me. I am your liaison with Association. Thank you for all you do for AAUW in Ohio; you are making a difference.

At Your Service,

*Ruth Brown
Great Lakes Regional Director*

Zanesville Conference/Convention activities enjoyed and well-attended

By Jody Weyand, Local Arrangements Coordinator

Attendance figures for the 2008 Equity Day and State Convention indicate that over 100 members from 32 branches, about the same number as last year, were able to find their way from metropolitan areas to Zanesville in a rural part of the state.

Those of us who call southeastern Ohio home were very happy to welcome



Ginny Palmer, Co-Program Vice President, and Jody Weyand, share a brief moment at the Convention in celebration of the event's success

women from all five areas of the state for two days of excellent speakers, timely information and the opportunity to visit friends we don't get to see very often.

The lack of hot water for showers didn't dampen the enthusiasm of attendees to a great degree. Climbing the stairs for meals gave us the exercise we needed to make up for the inactivity that came with meetings and sessions. We went home with a lot less money as we supported LAF and EF as well as the branches that displayed items for sale. The youngest attendee (although not a member yet!) was Riley Ross who accompanied her mother, Jamie, and the oldest was... (this writer's lips are sealed!). The sessions and their content received high ratings from the members who returned evaluations. We look forward to seeing everyone in Dayton next year!



Riley Ross and her mom, Jamie, attended the AAUW/Ohio Convention together. Jamie is the youngest branch (Logan County) President in the state; and daughter Riley was the youngest attendee!

Plan a program that sheds light on the gender pay gap

By Paula Maggio, AAUW/Ohio Communications Chair

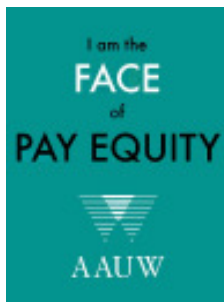
One year after college graduation, women graduates make 80 percent of what their male colleagues earn. Ten years later, they make just 69 percent of what men are making. And this is true, even though they are working in the same field and at the same level.

AAUW calls this the gender pay gap, and Association issued an extensive report detailing the problem. "Behind the Pay Gap" debuted last April and has

received extensive media coverage since then.

This gender pay gap was one focus of this spring's AAUW/Ohio convention in Zanesville. But if you missed that discussion or the convention itself, you can still learn more about the pay gap and help others do the same by visiting www.aauw.oh.org.

On our AAUW/Ohio Web site, you will find a variety of resources to help you educate women in your community and at your local college or university about the gender pay gap — and what they can do to change it.



Paula Maggio, Communications Chair, and co-keynote speaker at the Convention opening session in Zanesville, led the "Behind the Paygap" track, one of the Convention's most popular workshops.

Just visit www.aauw.oh.org and scroll down to the "Behind the Pay Gap" information. Click on the link and you will be taken to a page with additional links to a PowerPoint presentation, handouts, the full research report from AAUW, NBC news video coverage and more. If you have additional questions about the pay gap, contact me at maggiop@uakron.edu or at 330-922-4352. I'd be happy to help you.

Equity Day Keynote Address

(Continued from first page)

numbers, they were dependent on their husband's employers for health coverage. Now that they are employed, they often don't qualify for insurance because they work part-time or are employed in low-wage, low-benefit jobs. While only 14 percent of Ohio women are uninsured, many are underinsured because Ohio doesn't require coverage of certain things such as contraceptives and doesn't require large employers with self-insurance plans to follow state rules. Graber noted approvingly that Ohio does require coverage of a mammogram every two years, a PAP test annually, and mental illness the same as physical illness.

"Now that women are employed, they often don't qualify for insurance because they work part-time or are employed in low-wage, low-benefit jobs."

~Julie Graber~

Third, women are treated differently by the medical establishment. While one in four women die of heart disease (one in three in Ohio) versus one in 30 of breast cancer, physicians often are not aware that women having heart attacks present with different symptoms. Women are less likely to be taken seriously. A study showed that women with cancer received only half the pain medicine as men with cancer and half were told they were exaggerating their pain. Fewer women are prescribed preventive medicine and fewer receive cardiac catheterization.

Graber concluded by noting that women also don't play fair with themselves. As primary caregivers, they often put off their own needs—29 percent don't exercise regularly, 25 percent are obese, 26 percent have high blood pressure, 25 percent don't have mammograms, and 50 percent don't get colorectal exams. She urged AAUW branches to play a role in correcting that problem.

Leadership Conference

(Continued from first page)

Sessions will be facilitated by Association Development Board member, **Linda Silakoski**, of Ohio. Linda, an attorney and AAUW member, is a terrific presenter. **Ruth Brown**, Great Lakes Regional Director, will also be in attendance.

The conference begins with a continental breakfast at 9:30 a.m. and runs until 3:00 p.m. Your cost to attend will be minimal - intended just to cover the cost of meals. The State Board will underwrite all additional costs so that more members (and non-members) will be able to attend.

Be sure to look for a flyer in the mail in July to include a registration form. We look forward to seeing you there!

AAUW/Ohio is “Making History” with *The New Little Book*

By Nancy Stellhorn, Project Coordinator, Heights-Hillcrest-Lyndhurst Branch

Ohio’s “Making History” breakout sessions enabled branches to be part of the action to raise graduation test scores in Ohio. Focusing on statewide branch action, each session presenter encouraged audience involvement. **Allan Keller**, presenter for “In the Classroom,” **Ruth Nau**, presenter of “In the Community,” and a panel of five for “In the Branch” left attendees with a good understanding of Ohio’s testing process, role of *The New Little Book* in teaching history, and how to become involved at the community and branch levels.

Allan Keller, Lead Editor of *The New Little Book* and Teaching American History Coordinator for Cleveland schools began by saying that *The New Little Book* was written because students and teachers needed a resource that was aligned to Ohio’s standards and benchmarks of the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) to help raise scores. The result is a review book covering every indicator, not a textbook, but rather a series of narratives with an expanded glossary.

The test asks students to think differently. Keller used a short warm up to help workshop attendees understand “thinking differently.” Beginning with simple riddles—“How far can a dog run into the woods?”—they learned about careful reading. Progressing to how point of view biases historical accounts, he led them to understand that students must evaluate their sources and ultimately look for connections between events.



Allan Keller, the New Little Book’s Lead Editor explained that the New Little Book was written because students and teachers needed a resource that was aligned to Ohio’s Graduation Test

Throughout the school year, teachers use similar techniques and then move along to model how to analyze historical events. Using these activities helps teachers prepare their students to think like the test questions—to think of history in terms of what we think really happened, and how events are connected. Teachers can use TNLB throughout the year to introduce or review material. Before the test, they can use it to teach material not covered during the year, such as recent history topics or economics. Keller concluded by summarizing the book’s organization (see page iv) and how it should be used (page 3). Mr. Keller is available for teacher professional development workshops by contacting newlittlebook@roadrunner.com

“Making History in the Community” led by Ruth Nau, RN, a member of the Noble Local School District School Board. Ms. Nau talked about how being on the school board can make a difference in the local community. She explained how one becomes a member of a school board and a bit about what a school board member does and doesn’t do. She stressed that in her case, at least, the public’s involvement in decisions made by the school board is essential. She feels that there should be a partnership between the school board, the schools, and the parents.

The last session, “Making History in the Branch,” emphasized the branch’s strategic planning process in finding the project, grant writing, and book production. A panel of four Heights-Hillcrest-Lyndhurst Branch members and Lead Editor Allan Keller noted that the core task force of just 7 members, from a 34 member branch, recruited many community partners to help. These volunteers supplemented the contracted staff of two editors and two teachers for fact checking. The branch encouraged other Ohio branches to launch similar projects with confidence that they could both muster community support and that they would be favorably received. AAUW is known as an organization that is committed to supporting public education. Ohio’s Making History Project sessions were well attended. Copies of each presentation as well as the complete packet of Ohio’s Making History materials will be available for download from www.aauwoh.org



Nancy Stellhorn spoke with pride about the New Little Book project

AAUW/Ohio Board Elected for 2008-2010

By Donna P. McNamee, Editor, Ohio Orbit

During the morning business meeting, AAUW/Ohio members elected the organization’s officers for 2008-2010. Later, during the Convention’s luncheon, Great Lakes Regional Director, **Ruth Brown**, joined AAUW/Ohio members in welcoming the newly elected officers. During the Officer Installation ceremony, Brown involved first the newly elected board, then past presidents and finally members by inviting them to form a “leadership chain.” Brown’s unique and inspirational script is reprinted below. More information about the new officers can be found in the Winter issue of the Ohio Orbit, posted online at www.aauwoh.org.



Ruth Brown, Great Lakes Regional Director, presents the gavel to Diane Regan.

Would the newly installed officers link arms to represent our leadership chain?

To Diane:

See that you do not dangle alone. You are linked not only to these officers with whom you will serve, but also to all the presidents who have served before you. They are links in your connection to the strong chain which is Ohio AAUW.

To the membership:

Please stand and link arms: As each of these officers has accepted her role as a link in the leadership chain of Ohio AAUW and committed herself to service, so too must we as members accept our roles as links in the AAUW chain in Ohio and support the efforts of our leaders.

The chain is only as strong as its weakest link. What kind of link will you be? If you pledge to support these officers, please say “I will.”

*In 1836 **Angela Grimke** stated “I am not afraid to trust my sisters — not I.” We too place our trust in you. In closing, I would like to read a poem by **Natasha Josefowitz** which talks about connections and how we are all linked together.*

To all members:

*Please hold hands with the person next to you:
My right hand is being held by someone who knows more than I
And I am learning.
My left hand is being held by someone who knows less than I
And I am teaching.
Both my hands need thus to be held
For me to be.*



Assisted by Secretary Mary Ellen Pratt, outgoing president, Marge Lee, presides during the 84th Annual Meeting election.



Incoming president, Diane Regan links arms with outgoing president, Marge Lee.



▲ Nancy Stellhorn, front, and other newly elected officers are installed by Regional Director.



▲ Woman-to-woman: linking arms in solidarity following the installation of new officers.

Branch Leadership and Development

Breakout sessions help branches focus on development efforts

By Donna P. McNamee, Editor, Ohio Orbit

One of the most heavily attended tracks at Convention was devoted to Branch Development and Leadership. Three separate sessions, led by **Diane Regan, Pat Millhoff and Mary Lou Baty**, focused on helping branches not only develop and nurture future leaders but also provided ideas and guidance for growing their member base.

In the first breakout, "Leadership Lessons," President-elect, Diane Regan, spoke to a standing room only crowd about the importance of leadership skills in our daily lives as well as in advancing the goals and mission of AAUW. Her love for teaching and storytelling was apparent as she began the session by relating her experience in March in Vienna, Austria where over breakfast one morning she unexpectedly met a young

African woman, **Tirhas Habtu**, who was studying for a Master's degree in Advanced International Studies at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna. Much to her surprise, Regan quickly discovered that Habtu was an AAUW Educational Foundation Fellow! "Without AAUW's EF grant, she would not have been able to complete this degree program! She's committed to returning to Eritrea to aid in advancing education for other women and girls," stated Regan.



Regan's photo of Tirhas Habtu, taken outside the Diplomatic Adademy in Vienna, Austria



Regan tells the story of meeting Tirhas Habtu, an EF Fellow in Vienna. Here she displays a photo of Habtu

Now, having graduated in June, Habtu is committed to helping the 7,000 people of her village, especially the women, to succeed. According to Regan, both women were amazed by this accidental meeting, yet in each other they "saw the face of AAUW." For Regan, this meeting was clear evidence of the importance of AAUW's mission and

leadership in helping women from around the world to prosper. For Habtu, Regan commented, "She will work for women of her country. Now that she's met AAUW, she feels the connection and is motivated to carry out the mission of AAUW for the women of her country."



Pat Millhoff

Reflecting on her meeting with Habtu, Regan challenged branch members to "find something in your community to that is a barrier to equity for women and girls." She concluded, "start locally and find a way to make a difference in your own community."

In the second session, "Membership Matters," Pat Millhoff led an interactive session in which she asked attendees to gather in small work groups and then through a series of activities, respond to a series of three questions, asked one at a time, designed to get members thinking about their branch demographics, programs and presence in their communities as well as what it takes to attract new members to their branches. The questions about "the ideal

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AAUW Ohio Sponsors Student at DC Conference



At the state convention, **Adriene Knight** spoke to members to express her thanks and appreciation for their support. She received a scholarship from AAUW/Ohio to attend The Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Washington, DC in June. AAUW brought more than 500 students together in Washington, D.C. for a two-and-a-half day conference to help students hone leadership skills for their work on campus and in their communities.

Two Public Policy Breakouts Highlighted Women's Health Care Issues "Issue Advocacy for Health Care Concerns"

AAUW/Ohio Public Policy Co-Chair **Jackie Evangelista** outlined two bills that relate both to women's health and the AAUW Legislative Agenda for the 110th Congress as well as several other bills in the federal and state docket that concern women's health but are not necessarily AAUW priorities. She suggested that a number of the bills or their topics might make excellent branch programs.

Our legislative agenda includes three main goals: 1. Expanding educational opportunities for women and girls, 2. Promoting women's economic security, and 3. Promoting and defending civil rights. Each has several sub-goals, listed at: www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/; click on Legislative Agenda on the left.

The Healthy Families Act (HR1542/S910) addresses our second goal and requires employers with 15 or more employees to provide workers with seven paid sick days to care for their own or a family member's medical needs. (Please note that there was a typo in the House bill number in the convention handout.) At least 145 countries worldwide provide paid sick days with 127 providing a week or more annually. A state equivalent has been proposed but not yet introduced.

For more information on the Act, read a Fact Sheet published by the Institute for Women's Policy Research at www.iwpr.org/pdf/B254_paid sick days FS.pdf or go to the AAUW website, insert the Act's name in the search box, and call up our five-page briefing prepared for the Lobby Corps before members visited senators. To support the federal Act, go to: www.nationalpartnership.org. To support the state equivalent, go to: www.progressohio.org.

Our second goal also calls on us to protect the Family and Medical Leave Act, which the Department of Labor is currently trying to weaken. It provides up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for specific medical purposes. E-mails detailing opposition to change may be sent through NOW at: www.capwiz.com/now/issues/alert/?alertid=11236206.

The Prevention First Act (HR819/S21; Ohio HB251/SB179) addresses our third goal. It includes a variety of provisions that would have the net effect of reducing abortions such as increasing access to family planning services through Title X for women in poverty, requiring private health plans to offer the same level of coverage for contraception as they do for other prescription drugs, improving awareness of emergency contraception and providing it to victims of sexual assault, supporting comprehensive sexuality education that is medically accurate and covers abstinence as well as contraception and health and providing grants to create new teen pregnancy prevention programs.

Only about 40% (in Ohio 30%) of the poor are receiving the family planning services they need. Many hospital emergency rooms refuse to provide rape victims with EC. One in four teen girls has an STD while teen pregnancy is on the rise for the first time since the early Nineties. Surveys show that the public strongly supports the Act's goals by margins of 81 percent and up. Despite public support, Evangelista noted that the reality is that until we have a supportive executive and veto proof majorities in Congress, the Act will not be passed—a fact which should encourage AAUW members to work for elected officials this fall who are committed to our legislative agenda.

Another approach to preserving reproductive freedom is embodied in the



Jackie Evangelista

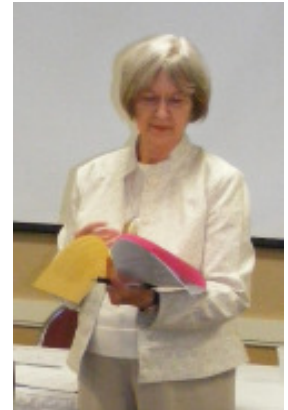
"Influencing Public Policy—Advocacy Made Easy"

Karen Rainey, Delaware Branch public policy chair and active member of the Ohio League of Women Voters, began her breakout with the oft-heard maxim, "Democracy is not a spectator sport."

Focusing primarily on the state level, she pointed out that since the passage of term limits, there isn't much institutional memory in the legislature and it takes quite a while for new legislators to settle into their jobs so they need to hear from us.

Summarizing the legislative process, she explained that the sponsor is a bill's chief advocate. He/she secures co-sponsors and shepherds the bill. For a bill to have a realistic chance of passing, it needs a sponsor from the majority party. The text of bills is posted online, but she recommended relying on the accompanying analysis, which is easier to comprehend. Once introduced, a bill carries throughout the two year legislative cycle and must be re-introduced again if not passed. More than 1,000 bills are proposed in a session with only 10-15 percent being passed.

The Reference Committee assigns bills to the appropriate standing committee. This year every bill has received at least a courtesy first reading. When testifying before these committees on a bill, AAUW members should take 30 copies of their testimony for committee members and the press. If voted out of the committee, the bill then goes to the Rules Committee. Then a vote is



Karen Rainey

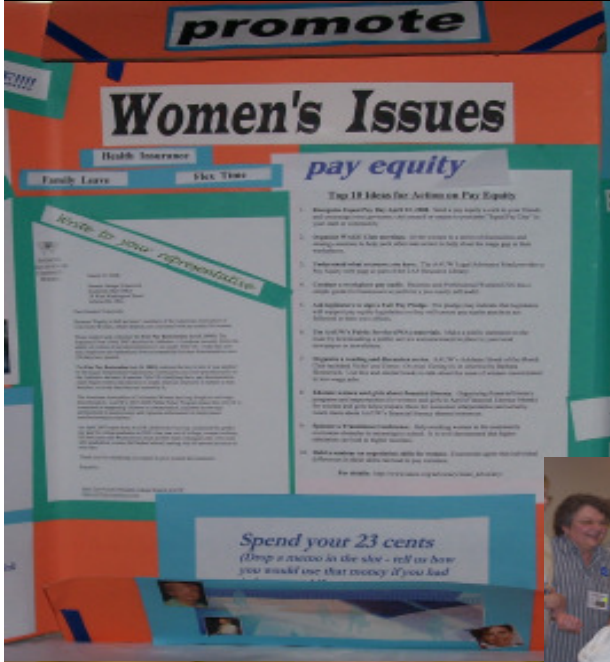
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AAUW/Ohio: 13th Annual Equity Day and 83rd Annual Meeting and Convention



Zanesville, April 18-19, 2008 ~ A Look Back in Pictures!



Mistakes Women Make in the Workplace

By Jackie Evangelista, Public Policy Co-chair

An address given by **Marti Sladek**, Illinois employment law attorney and owner of “Speaking of Work,” at the 2006 regional convention in Lisle, IL, gave AAUW/Ohio Program Vice President **Ginny Palmer** the idea to develop an AAUW/Ohio Conference on the topic of women’s health. After the idea became a reality, she invited Marti to give an endnote at our conference as well as a breakout at the convention.

Speaking on “The Hidden Women’s Health Issues in the 21st Century,” Sladek, who is also a life member of the Downers Grove, IL, AAUW branch, outlined a laundry list of ways women receive “disparate treatment” based on sex:



- Employers are permitted to treat pregnancy different from other conditions and often offer insurance coverage that does not include fertility treatment or hormone replacement therapy. She advised women, when purchasing an insurance policy or considering a new employer, to look at the exclusions as these show where the disparate treatment exists.
- The Family and Medical Leave Act impacts women more heavily.
- When women lose their job and their insurance, they are often offered COBRA. But because women are unemployed longer than men, who are usually back to work in four to six months, they often run out of benefits and have to seek private expensive coverage.
- Because social service workers such as teachers, nurses and social workers are generally women, epidemics have a disproportionate impact on the female sex.
- A woman with the same mental health symptoms as a man is twice as likely to be referred to a psychiatrist while men get diagnostic tests.

Discussing what needs to be done to correct health coverage issues, Sladek, noted that there isn’t a lot of difference between health care plans and that none address the issue of pre-existing health conditions or companies that self-insure (and therefore can design plans that discriminate against women). Labeling the kind of reform health care companies want as “de-form,” Sladek noted that in states that have passed tort reform, premiums, judgments and health care costs have not gone down. “It’s a red herring that lawyers are causing medical costs to go up,” Sladek concluded.

She cited a number of progressive advances the state of Illinois has enacted including universal coverage for children, unpaid time off for teacher conferences, counseling, court appearances and domestic violence issues. The Nursing Mothers in the Workplace Act requires employers to set aside a decent place for women to express breast milk. Another act allows an employee to take up to three days off when a spouse is deployed to a war zone. “We need to fix the Bermuda Triangle,” Sladek said referring to Worker’s Compensation, the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Workers with Disabilities Act because disabilities are defined differently in each of these. The greatest need, she said, is to pass an Equal Rights Amendment at the federal level. “As long as there is no ERA,” she said, “courts can view gender discrimination as less important.” Illinois has had an ERA since 1970, she said, encouraging all Ohio AAUW members to work at both the federal and state level for passage of an ERA.

Leadership Breakout Sessions

(Continued from page 7)

member” included: “What qualities would you like to see in your members?” (Members responses from each table were written on clear goggles then shared with the group.) “If they came, what would they see?” and, “what do you do in your branch to attract this kind of person?” With each question, quite a brainstorming session followed and many enthusiastic ideas flowed from the women in attendance. As a byproduct of this session, there was significant conversation and laughter as members began to “see” themselves and their branches — as well as what they could become — in a whole new light!



Alyssa Thomas, Ruth Alteneider, and Linda Hamilton

Finally, Mary Lou Baty, AAUW/Ohio’s College and University Relations Chair, introduced panel members **Alyssa Thomas, Ruth Alteneider, and Linda Hamilton**, for the day’s final session, “Campus Connections.” Thomas, spoke about her experiences at the The Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Washington, DC in June 2007. Thomas encouraged AAUW/Ohio to continue to send young women students to the annual conference and praised the experience for the leadership skills and other successful young women in attendance with whom she had the opportunity to interact. Both Alteneider and Hamilton spoke about their experiences — at once successful and challenging — as local college and university liaisons within their branches.

STARZ Award Honors Branches Achieving AAUW Goals

By JoAnn Bensler, STARZ Program Coordinator

At this year's Convention the second annual STARZ awards were presented. This award is meant to honor and celebrate those branches who work toward and accomplish the many goals of AAUW/Ohio. This year 20 branches were eligible, which means they accomplished the four required items and accumulated at least eight glitter points in order to receive the Teal Award. The STARZ Honors Award went to those branches which completed the four required items and accumulated 4-7 glitter points.

The four required items were:

- Had a branch representative at the April 2007 State Convention,
- Had a member attend the August 2007 Leadership Conference,
- Submit their officer reports by June 15,
- Submit Branch dues to the State Finance Officer by October 1, 2007.

Branches which received the **Starz Teal Award**: *Athens, Bowling Green, Champaign Cty., Circleville, Cleveland, Dayton, Elyria, Findlay, Heights-Hillcrest-Lyndhurst, Logan Cty., Mansfield, Medina, Mentor-Madison, Toledo, Wooster, Worthington and Zanesville.*

Branches that received the **Starz Honors Award** were: *Columbus, Ironton, Middletown.*



Members gathered during the awards program at the Annual Meeting luncheon to represent their respective branches who were recognized with the AAUW/Ohio's 2008 STARZ Award.



JoAnn Bensler, AAUW/Ohio's STARZ Award Coordinator, speaks to a packed Convention luncheon crowd just prior to presenting the 2008 awards.

- Branches which earned the **Teal Award for the second year** were: *Bowling Green, Cleveland, Mansfield, Medina, Worthington, and Zanesville.*
- Branches who earned the **Teal or Honors award for the second year** were: *Circleville, Columbus, Findlay, Middletown, and Wooster.*

We are now working on the STARZ award for 2009. There were 31 branches represented at Convention this year. That means they are eligible for the 2009 STARZ Award if they complete the rest of the obligations: Officer names and addresses turned in by June 1, branch dues turned in by September 1, 2008 and attendance at the Leadership Conference in August. (These are the four "must haves" to be considered for the STARZ award.) Whether the branch receives a Teal Award or Honors Award depends on how many glitter points they earn. The list of possible glitter points will be handed out at the 2008 Leadership Conference in August.

Photo Credits for this issue:

Pat Chaloupek, Jackie Evangelista, Donna McNamee, Cathy Stone, and Be Wise Camp

Issue Advocacy for Health Care

(Continued from page 8)

Freedom of Choice Act (HR1964/S1173), which would protect choice by law. Two other Acts aimed at restoring funds for international family planning withheld by the Bush Administration include: the United Nations Population Fund Women's Health and Dignity Act (HR2604) and the United Nations Population Fund Restoration Act of 2008 (S2682).

Evangelista also reported on the Society for Women's Health Research, which is dedicated to including women in scientific research studies and which is the primary supporter of the Women's Health Office Act of 2007 (HR1072/S612), which would require major government health departments to have a women's health office. To read more about the Act and to support it, go to: www.womenshealthresearch.org/site/PageServer?pagename=policy_main.

Attendees were also encouraged to participate in National Women's Health Week May 11-17, which will encourage positive health habits including getting regular checkups. For more information and to become a partner, go to: www.womenshealth.gov/whw/partner/ or call 1-800-994-9662.

The breakout concluded with a detailed Powerpoint slide show created by the Kaiser Family Foundation entitled "Women's Health Policy: Health Coverage and Access to Care." It can be viewed and downloaded for no charge at www.kaiseredu.org. Click on Women's Health. Kaiser also offers an excellent Powerpoint show entitled, "Reproductive Health Policy." Any branch that can get access to an LCD projector might want to consider showing either of these as part of a program next year.

Branch members wishing to do their own research on bills were advised to bookmark: thomas.loc.gov for federal bills and www.legislature.state.oh.us/ for state bills.

Influencing Public Policy

(Continued from page 8)

taken, and the bill is sent to the other branch. If passed by both branches, it goes to the governor who can sign it, allow it to become law without his signature, or veto it. A three-fifths majority is required to override a veto.

Once a bill is passed, supporters are advised to make sure that it is implemented the way they would like. The Rules Committee will sometimes make interpretations that do not seem appropriate.

Within AAUW, Rainey offered a potpourri of ideas that could be applied at both the state and branch level in support of our issues. She emphasized the importance of building support for legislative priorities through education, lobby days, speaker's bureaus and workshops and of neutralizing opposing arguments. She suggested using the media by holding press conferences, issuing news releases and writing letters to the editor. She noted that the AAUW website's Two-Minute Activist section has a helpful Media Guide that allows members to look up local newspapers, find the editor's e-mail address, compose and send a letter to the editor or op-ed pieces. She noted that some cities have talk radio shows that allow members of an organization to speak for an issue. She also suggested that we add people we want to influence to our newsletter list.

The best strategy for winning over legislators is the personal visit either in the legislator's home district or in

Columbus. Legislators are in their home offices on Monday and Friday and in Columbus Tuesday through Thursday. They are off from June until September, but certain committees meet in the summer. So we should track the progress of bills online so we can attend committee hearings. We can ask the committee chair to be on the list that will receive notification of when

hearings will be held. She advised watching lame duck sessions in particular when legislators often try to ram through objectionable bills quickly.

Rainey noted that legislators, because they are often new to the job, appreciate accurate information so we can play an educational role. She advised finding out ahead of time how our legislator stands on a bill and plan our remarks accordingly. We won't damage our position, she said, if we present our arguments rationally. She suggested that real life stories are most persuasive. Think about what objections our legislator might

have to our arguments and be prepared to respond.

Legislators count calls and e-mails when preparing to vote on a bill so take time to be heard and counted. Because of the anthrax scare, it is no longer feasible to use the U.S. mail to contact legislators. A FAX works best, but an e-mail is acceptable. She also advised that those who are shy about talking with legislators or their aides can call after hours and leave a message. If we know someone prominent in the community who might support our pet bill, ask him/her to contact the legislator.



Breakout attendees listen avidly to Rainey's ideas on legislative advocacy to advance public policy initiatives for women

Daffodil Diversity Award

By Sally Dye, AAUW/Ohio
Diversity Chair

During the awards ceremony at the State Convention luncheon held in Zanesville on April 19, 2008, seven branches that met the diversity criteria were recognized. Each earned the 2008 Daffodil Diversity Award for being inclusive in their membership outreach activities and community involvement. **Bowling Green, Delaware, Elyria, Medina County, Mentor-Madison, Sandusky, and Toledo**



Members of seven branches - Bowling Green, Delaware, Elyria, Medina County, Mentor-Madison, Sandusky and Toledo - came forward to be recognized with AAUW/Ohio's Daffodil Diversity Award at the 2008 State Convention Award Luncheon.

branches were recognized with a certificate and a silk daffodil. This was the seventh year AAUW/Ohio has given the Daffodil Diversity Award to branches.

Letters of congratulations were sent to each branch. A display at the Annual Meeting featured the awardees and materials from their projects/programs.

Remember to include diversity in your projects and programming this coming year.

In principal and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

AAUW branch newsletters earn top honors at 2008 State Convention

Medina County's branch Newsletter, was named the top newsletter in Ohio by this year's outside judge **Sandra Klepach**, education writer at the News Herald located in Lake County, Ohio. The newsletter also won first place in the large branch category. Second Place went to Columbus; and third place was awarded to Wooster.



Klepach

In the medium branch category first place went to the Findlay Branch Newsletter; second place was awarded to Marietta; and third place to Cincinnati.

In the small branch category, first place went to the Heights-Hillcrest-Lyndhurst publication; Second place was awarded to Dayton and third place was won by Mentor-Madison.

Additionally, six branch newsletters were recognized in the following categories: Bowling Green for *Best Communication of Association and State Priorities*; Heights Hillcrest for *Best Content*; Marietta for *Best Design*; Akron for *Best Improvement*; Findlay for, *Best Program/Project Coverage*; and Elyria for *Catchiest Title*.



Medina (first place) and Marietta (third place) branch representatives were on hand to accept awards on behalf of their medium size organizations



Ohio Orbit Editor, Donna McNamee, congratulates Pat Chaloupek, editor of the Medina County Branch newsletter, who won "Best in the State" for the branch's publication.



Representatives from Cleveland, Heights-Hillcrest, and Medina accept Recognition Awards on behalf of their branches



Branch representatives from Portsmouth (third place), Heights-Hillcrest (first place) and Sandusky (second place) accept awards for the Small Branch Category



Toledo (third place), Wooster (second place), and Bowling Green took home awards for their Large Branches

Educational Foundation Report

By *Mary Lee Powell*,
Education Foundation Vice President

It is my pleasure to report that 41 of Ohio's 49 Branches contributed \$31,429 to the AAUW Educational Foundation in 2007. This resulted in \$17.27 in per capita giving.

This figure was slightly (\$237) higher than 2006 with fewer members this year so I feel confident that Ohio's branch members remain committed to helping AAUW retain its position as one of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women.

We have made a good start for surpassing our 2007 giving by raising a total of \$1,316 at the EF Silent Auction at the AAUW/Ohio Convention in Zanesville. Also at the convention the 2007-08 AAUW/Ohio Board contributed \$400 in honor of outgoing President, Marge Lee, to the Ohio Century International Fund which is the Fund which Ohio is working to bring to \$125,000. Which is the amount needed to complete this stipend. The fund is now at \$46,000 so I am asking branches and members to target contributions to this Fund (#4178).

I am pleased welcome **Deborah Wooldrige** of the Bowling Green Branch as incoming Ohio EF VP and urge everyone to continue supporting the research and projects and scholars that the Educational Foundation funds.



Mary Lee Powell

AAUW/Ohio Earns Top Honors for Educational Foundation Giving

Barbara L. O'Connor, President of AAUW Educational Foundation and **Ruth Z. Sweetser**, President of AAUW, both based in Washington, DC, recently announced that AAUW/Ohio has achieved First Place in the Top Ten Fundraising award for total giving by state to AAUW's Educational Foundation. Additionally, the Cleveland Branch has achieved First Place in the Top Ten Fundraising award for Per Capita Giving by branch to AAUW! In a letter to AAUW/Ohio's President-Elect, Diane Regan, the women noted: "This is a wonderful achievement that clearly demonstrates the commitment of [Ohioans and specifically] the Cleveland Branch members to educational and social equity for women and girls..."

Regan stated, "This is amazing to me... special recognition [goes] to **Mary Lee Powell** who worked tirelessly for 4 years to promote EF in Ohio and similarly to **Diane Ahlers**, Cleveland Branch President, who has worked hard in the Cleveland Branch to raise money for EF."

A complete copy of AAUW/Ohio's Educational Foundation report may be found beginning on page 12. Regan will present certificates sent to her from the Association offices during her first board meeting July 26 in Columbus. Our sincere congratulations to both women as well as branch members who have donated their time, talents and money to raise funds for EF. Powell and Ahlers are to be commended for a "job well-done" and for their tireless efforts on behalf of women!

Mary Lee Powell displays the many items donated by Ohio branches for the 2008 silent auction to benefit AAUW's Educational Foundation.



Representatives of Ohio's AAUW branches pose for a photo op at the Convention luncheon where they were recognized among the Top Ten branches for fundraising for the AAUW's Educational Foundation.



Ohio AAUW branch members gather at the Convention to be recognized for per capita giving. The Top Ten branches are recognized annually.



AAUW/Ohio Educational Foundation 2007 Report

Ohio Total Giving = \$31,429.09

\$17.27 per capita

Top Ten Branches – Total Giving

1. Cleveland	\$ 3,316.00
2. Toledo	2,415.00
3. Middletown	2,000.00
4. Mansfield	1,500.00
5. Warren-Trumbull	1,200.00
6. Akron	1,170.00
7. Bowling Green	1,164.00
8. Logan County	1,163.89
9. Hghts-Hillcrest-Lyndhurst	1,162.36
10. Marietta	978.21

Top Ten Branches – Per Capita

1. Cleveland	\$ 132.64
2. Middletown	50.00
3. Logan County	43.11
4. Akron	37.74
5. Mansfield	35.71
6. Hghts-Hillcrest-Lynd.	34.19
7. Athens	33.24
8. Oberlin	28.93
9. Delaware	28.64
10. Marietta	27.95

Major Donors and Donor Club Members

Friends of the Foundation

\$1000 and more

Laura Smiley Miller (Cleveland)
Michelle W. Wetherald (Warren-Trumbull Co.)

Marian Talbot

\$500 - \$999

Kelvie C. Comer (Akron)
Nancy Hultz (Mansfield)
Anne Miller (Mansfield)
Linda Silakoski (Mentor-Madison)

Second Century Club

\$200 - \$499

Lois Whealey (Athens)
Katherine S. Lin (Dayton)
May C. Bana (Heights-Hillcrest-Lyndhurst)
Mary Ellen Pratt (Toledo)
Lynda Ream (Xenia)
Ruth Squires (Akron)

Century Club

\$200 - \$499

Mary Lee Powell (Athens)
Evelyn Bachman (Bowling Green)
Joan H. Gordon (Bowling Green)
Linda Hamilton (Bowling Green)
Mary Ellen Pratt (Bowling Green)
Diane Regan (Bowling Green)
Helene Weinberger (Bowling Green)
Deborah Wooldridge (Bowling Green)
Susan Williams (Findlay)
Marilyn Kornowski (Heights-Hillcrest-Lyndhurst)
Clara McCann (Heights-Hillcrest-Lyndhurst)
Georgene A. Timko-Johnson (Marietta)
Mary K. Miraldi (Oberlin)
Elizabeth Rumics (Oberlin)
Pauline Warch (Oberlin)
JoAnn L. Benseler (Worthington)
Jane E. Wilson (Worthington)

2007 Memorial Contributions
Honoring

Marion Simmons (Dayton)
Betty Snow (Dayton)

2007 Legacy Circle

***These individuals have included
the Educational Foundation in their
estate plans through their will,
trust, or other planned gift.***

Sarah Maaz
Carol and David Parker
Nancy Stellhorn
Lois Whealey

The New Rules about the 990 Tax Form — for Branch Finance Officers

By Nancy Stellhorn, Finance Officer, AAUW/Ohio

New this year! All non-profit (income tax exempt) organizations will file a return called Form 990. The name of the form is “Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax.” It is a disclosure form. You should not pay anything.



Stellhorn

This form is due after the close of your fiscal (tax) year, which is June 30. Most likely, you will file a very short version of this form, called an “e-Postcard” (also called “Form 990-N.”) You cannot download this form from the IRS website for forms and publications. You must fill it out on the Internet.

AAUW branches with gross receipts of less than \$25,000 must fill out the e-Postcard on the Internet anytime between July 1 and November 15.

This filing is simple, but someone from your branch must do it. The finance officer is the most logical choice because you have the information you will need for the form.

What do you need to know?

1. Gross receipts What are your gross receipts? Count every penny your branch receives during the year from July 1 to June 30.
 - a. Do not include Association dues or Ohio dues that you collected and passed on to the parent organizations.
 - b. Also, do not include EF or LAF checks that you did not cash but forwarded to Association.

Now you know your branch’s gross receipts. Do not subtract expenses. If you think your gross receipts may have been more than \$25,000 during one of the last 3 years, calculate your average gross receipts over the last three years. If the number is less than \$25,000, you can file the short, electronic e-Postcard.

2. When? File your form any day between July 1 and November 15. If you try to file before June 30, your form will be rejected.
3. Federal ID Do you know your branch’s federal ID? It has 9 numbers and is usually written something like this: 33-1234567. It is called an EIN. The bank needed this EIN when you opened the branch bank account.
4. Non-profit registration Your branch must be registered with the IRS (with this EIN) as a non-profit organization. If you sent the form to the national Association to join their group tax exemption, then Association has sent your information to the IRS. Some branches have registered separately. If your EIN is not regis-

tered but you joined the group exemption, contact Association.

5. Where is the form on the Internet? The e-Postcard work was subcontracted to a private business called the “Urban Institute.” Go to the site at <http://epostcard.form990.org/> and begin the 3-step process.

There is a Quick Start Guide at

<http://epostcard.form990.org/fmTSFAQDisplay.asp?FAQID=162>

I have sent an email to finance officers who have given me email addresses and have mailed instructions to others.

This article is not meant to be tax advice. This information is from IRS, AAUW and the e-Postcard websites, publications, and emails.

AAUW/Ohio Welcomes New Administrative Coordinator

Marge Lee, President of AAUW/Ohio recently announced that Mary Lou Baty will serve as the organization’s new Administrative Coordinator. She replaces Caryn Tilly who resigned earlier this year having served in that position for more than four years. Baty, who most recently served the organization as its University and College Relations chair, will assume the post effective July 1, 2008.

“The position of Administrative Coordinator for AAUW Ohio has always been a position that I envied. However, the time has never been right for me to apply before now. I hope that I can do as great a job as Caryn Tilly has done for the last few years,” stated Baty.

A fourteen year member of the Bowling Green Branch, Mary Lou Baty brings an abundance of experience to her new job. On the local level, she has served as branch President, Vice-President of Programming, chair of the Bylaws, Social, and Nominating Committees and as a State Delegate, as well as Local Co-Chair for the State Convention. On the State Board, she has also served as Web Editor, and Program Vice President. As Program Vice President, Baty helped guide the local equity chair and convention chairs in their planning efforts as well as secured speakers for the state’s annual convention.

In 2005, Baty served on the Five State AAUW Great Lakes Regional Planning Board for the Great Lakes Regional Conference held in Naperville, IL.

A graduate of Bowling Green State University, Baty holds a degree in Education. Currently, she lives and works in Bowling Green where she a secretary for the Department of Public and Allied Health at Bowling Green State University. In her personal life, Baty is “mom” to two grown daughters and a son. In addition to taking on the position as AAUW Ohio’s Administrative Coordinator, the immediate future holds many exciting new avenues as this summer Baty will retire from her position at BGSU in September, will become a grandmother again for the seventh time, and will be married in August!

2008 Be WISE Camp Hosts 128 Girls

By JoAnn Benseler, Camp Director

The 19th Be WISE Math/Science Camp was held at Denison University in Granville, OH, from June 15-20. This year 128 campers from all over the state attended the weeklong program.

Be WISE is a mathematics, science and technology camp designed to develop interest, excitement, and self-confidence in young women who are entering 7th and 8th grades in the fall of each academic year. This year, 7th graders will attend classes in Ecology, Physics, Math, and Stream while 8th graders will attend classes in Astronomy, Chemistry, Math, and Pond. Once again Denison University has helped the camp by providing the



Be Wise Camp is a great place for girls to meet who have similar interests



Be Wise campers take a break from their studies to enjoy a swim

many classrooms we use throughout the week as their contribution to the camp's success. All classes featured hands-on activities and problem solving opportunities.

Next year we will celebrate the 20th year of camp and our 9th camper next year will be our 2,500th camper to complete the program. The staff is already brainstorming ideas to make this milestone a special



What "new" thing did the girls learn this week?

HOW TO CONTACT US

National Association Office:

202/785-7777 or on the web at: www.aauw.org.

Member Helpline: 800/326-2289 or helpline@aauw.org.

AAUW/Ohio: Caryn Tilly, Administrator
800/910-7075 or coordinator@aauwoh.org
or on the web at: www.aauwoh.org.

(Please note this is a NEW website address!)

Newsletter: Donna P. McNamee, Editor
5025 Willoughcroft Rd., Willoughby, OH 44094;
440/602-9485 or DPMWrite@aol.com

Additional Contacts:

Northeast District Coordinator
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Southeast District Coordinator
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Northwest District Coordinator
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Southwest District Coordinator
Doramae O'Kelley, 937/438-5944
dory@woh.rr.com

Central District Co-Coordinators
Sally Dye, 419/864-8522
sally.dye@cardingtonschools.org
Roberta Clark, 740/363-3965

one. All of us involved with camp would like to thank all the branches and the many members who recruited campers over the years and have helped us make this project a success. Without your help we would not be

celebrating this year and next; and most importantly, nearly 2500 girls would not have had the opportunity to attend the camp and have been exposed to the math and the sciences in such a unique, and enriching environment.

Information about the 2009 camp will be sent to all AAUW branches and will be posted on our website by the end of December. Branch presidents should be on the lookout for these materials so girls can participate from their area in Ohio. For more information, please log onto the program website at www.bewisecamp.org.

