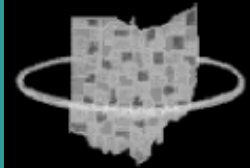




OHIO Orbit

Newsletter of AAUW/Ohio, Inc....Encircling Our 50 Branches



State Convention News

Diane Regan is AAUW/Ohio's President-Elect

Diane Regan, President of the Bowling Green Branch, was unanimously elected at the 83rd Annual Meeting and Convention held April 21, 2007 in Tiffin. Regan, is a resident of Bowling Green and a long-time member of that branch. For readers who may have missed it, an article profiling Regan's extensive experience and remarkable background may be found in the Convention Supplement insert in the Spring 2007 *Ohio Orbit*, now available online on AAUW/Ohio's website. Here, for those of you who could not attend the convention - or would just like to enjoy it again - is Regan's speech, reprinted in it's entirety.



AAUW/Ohio President-Elect, Diane Regan, addresses the Convention

"I'm here before you today because I got the dreaded call in November: not the one from your attorney or your financial advisor; not the one from your gynecologist or the police; no, I got the call from the nominating committee asking me if I would consider running for president-elect of AAUW Ohio. That in my view is the dreaded call: the one that keeps you awake at night for weeks until you decide what you're going to do; the call that forces you to think about moving out of your comfort zone to a higher level; the one that makes you size up where you are and where you want to be in a few years; it's the call that makes you wonder if you're going to prove that the Peter Principle is more than myth; that you're going to prove that humans move up until they reach their level of incompetence; more importantly, it's the call that makes you prioritize your goals and redefine your values. It's the call that makes you, however reluctantly, say "yes" to a call to leadership because you have to.

As I thought about AAUW and what I wanted to say to you today, I concluded I had to make myself available to lead at the State level because we can't let this organization die. I believe that AAUW is not for us who come together as university women to stand shoulder to shoulder on issues so

(Continued on page 4)

All Roads Lead to Zanesville!

By Jody Weyand, Local Coordinator

The 2008 Equity Day Conference and 84th Annual Meeting and Convention of AAUW/Ohio will be held in Zanesville at the Ramada Inn on April 18th and 19th respectively. Directions to Zanesville, easily accessible by most major highways, will be provided in the Winter issue of *Ohio Orbit*.

When registrants park their cars at the hotel, it will not be necessary to travel any farther until all activities end on Saturday afternoon. All meetings will be held in the hotel.

Friday's Equity Day's theme will be "*Healthcare as a Woman's Issue.*" The day will begin with registration and a buffet luncheon at noon. Keynote speakers and small group sessions will follow. The AAUW/Ohio board of directors will meet for dinner and a meeting; other



2008 Conference site: he beautiful Ramada Inn hotel and meeting facility

IN THIS ISSUE

Marge's Message.....Page 2
83rd Annual Meeting and Convention.....Page 3
AAUW/OH Board Supports Education Project.....Page 5
'Marion Talbot' Speaks at Convention.....Page 6
Ohio Women Sponored at National Conference.....Page 7
Web and Media Relations.....Page 9
Mason Lebanon Area Finds New Branch.....Page 9
Help Wanted: AAUW/OH Administrative Coordinator.....Page 12

attendees are "on their own" for the evening meal. The Buckeye Grill is located in the hotel; the Zanesville branch will provide all attendees a list of restaurants in Zanesville and directions to the locations.

Friday evening after the small group discussions are ended, the hostess district invites all participants to join them in a "Social by Southeast." This will be a time to relax and get acquainted with other

(Continued on page 10)

2006-2008 AAUW/OHIO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Please contact board members for assistance

President

Marge Lee, 5241 Pine Grove Ct.,
Toledo, OH 43615; 419-537-8984
margelee@buckeye-express.com

President-Elect

Diane Regan, 419-372-8480
dregan@bgsu.edu

Co-Program Vice Presidents

Ginny Palmer, 513-424-6263
palmerve@cinci.rr.com and
Deb Henry, 419-529-3016
dekerh@aol.com

Co-Membership Vice Presidents

Cindy Grau, 513-705 6614
cindy@equivoice.com and
Pat Millhoff, 330-706-9936
millhof@uakron.edu

Ed.Foundation Vice President

Mary Lee Powell, 6 West Hills Dr.
Athens, OH 45701, 740-592-2227
mpowell7@columbus.rr.com

Recording Secretary

Diane Ahlers, 440-899-0547
dandg@clevelandnet.net

Finance Officer

Nancy Stellhorn, 1259 Croyden Rd.,
Lyndhurst, OH 44124, 440-461-3403
nstell@adelphia.net

Public Policy Co-Chairs

Dr. Ruth McGaha, 614-759-9731
mcgahajeagle@aol.com and
Jackie Evangelista, 440-352-8378
jevangelista@adelphia.net

Diversity Chair

Sally Dye, 419-864-8522
sally.dye@cardingtonschools.org

Communications Chair/Website

Paula Maggio, 330-922-43529
akronpm@sbcglobal.net

Legal Advocacy Fund Chair

Sue Leidke, 740-369-5898
leidtke.sue1@verizon.net.

Parliamentarian

Joan Smith, 614-847-5679
birdhouse@columbus.rr.com

Regional Director

Ruth Brown, 45 Apple Run Lane, Hillsdale, MI
49242; travelgirl2@sbcglobal.net

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...

It's been an exciting, successful year!

By Marge Lee, AAUW/Ohio President

After an unexpected summer hiatus due in part to serious computer technology problems, we're back on track with the *Ohio Orbit!* It's been an exciting and productive year for AAUW/Ohio. We have much to catch-up on with our readers but we'll get it all covered in this and the next, Winter *Orbit*.

First, sincere Congratulations to the Tiffin Branch, under the direction of **Mathilda Navias** (and many other members) for a job well-done. The program committee under the direction of **Ginny Palmer** is also to be commended. Ginny and Mathilda worked together along with many others to bring us a well organized and enjoyable experience. The 12th Annual Equity Day and 83rd Annual Convention 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.

One of the highlights of the Equity Day Conference theme "Financially Fit for Life," were financial planning presentations sponsored by The Prudential Insurance Company. This programming was very well received and was the first of four or five financial presentations to be held around the country in conjunction with AAUW events. We were thrilled and very proud to be the first to showcase for Ohio members the result of the partnership with AAUW and Prudential. Feedback has been enthusiastic; and sincere thanks go to the presenters – **Dena M. Bragg, Jo Casady, J. Chris Cogswell, Katie Harper, Anne M. Lange, Fran Rothstein, and Robert L. Wilson** – for their efforts in first providing this program to the 2007 Ohio AAUW State Conference and Convention!

Outgoing Great Lakes Regional Director, **Pam Thiel's** convention message "Honor the Past, Embrace the Future" focused on the changes that will shape the future of AAUW. According to Pam, changing demographics, declining membership and revenues and changing trends in philanthropy are some of the challenges that AAUW must face. These issues were among the top issues addressed at the National Convention in Phoenix June 29-July 2. She suggested a number of ways branches facilitate change:

- Initiate and support positive branch discussions regarding change
- Utilize technology to attract younger members
- Collaborate with campus based groups
- Mentor new and current members
- Become mission driven and programming will follow

Branch Presidents and their boards can develop a strategic plan and work one step at a time toward your goals. You don't have to do everything at once. For those branches that were unable to attend the State Convention, handouts have been posted online at www.aauwoh.org:

The August AAUW/OH Leadership Conference under Carol Leupp's guidance was also very well planned and attended. Attendees participated in several workshops and left armed with many handouts newly created just for the Conference. They, too, are posted online and we hope you are finding them helpful as you work to grow your branches!

The AAUW Association has cancelled the regional convention for 2008 as they seek to re-vamp and improve their programming. I hear rumors that Association is planning a number of interactive video conferences around the country. These will be planned by a yet to be appointed task force. Stay tuned for further developments, we are monitoring the details and will keep you informed of what promises to be an exciting, new AAUW venture.

Meanwhile, plans are underway for the Ohio's 13th Annual Equity Day and 84th Annual Meeting and Convention to be held in Zanesville. Preliminary details are in this issue and will be expanded upon in our communications in the coming months. AAUW must reclaim its legacy as a relevant and vital

organization...

BECAUSE EQUITY IS STILL AN ISSUE

Ohio women gathered for state AAUW Equity Day Conference and 83rd Annual Convention

Free program on women's financial health opened to public

By Paula Maggio, AAUW/Ohio Communications Chair

Over 100 women from all over Ohio gathered in Tiffin for the annual state conference and convention of the American Association of University Women, which included a free program on women's financial health.

Michele Wetherald, the national organization's executive director who oversees activities of the 100,000-member organization, kicked off the conference at an 11:30 a.m. luncheon on Friday, April 20, at the Camden Falls and Hampton Inn complex in Tiffin, the site of all conference events.

Next on the agenda was a program focusing on women's financial health. The Tiffin branch of AAUW will hosted the session, called "Financially Fit for Life," from 1-5 p.m. This session was free and open to the public.

"We want to help women find the tools they need to manage their money," said Mathilda Navias, local coordinator for the event. "And the first step is to get women thinking and talking about how they use their money."

From 1-3 p.m., a panel of professionals addressed a variety of financial topics. They included women's attitudes toward money, savings, insurance, changes in marital status, retirement, estate planning and options for



Maggio



developing an investment portfolio that is tied to women's needs.

Panelists included Jo Casady, manager of Prudential Financial's Texas region, Dena Bragg from the Merrill Lynch office in Sandusky, Katie Harper from the Ohio Treasurer of State's office, and Tiffin lawyer Anne M. Lange.

Participants can then choose from small group sessions on the topics of investing, financial planning, and the "all-convention read" book discussion of *Money, a Memoir: Women, Emotions and Cash* by Liz Perle, led by Tiffin Branch Member and public library director, Pat Hillmer.

The convention's overall focus, according to keynote speaker Pam Thiel, Great Lakes regional director, was change within the organization. "Organizations, to stay vital and functional, must adapt to changing environments by re-inventing themselves. We are at one of those pivotal points," she said.

The convention also included a gala luncheon to celebrate AAUW's 125th anniversary. Carol Leupp, AAUW Ohio's Leadership Development Chair, brought **Marion Talbot, AAUW's founder**, to life in a short one-woman skit which gave participants an insight into Talbot's original vision and need for an organization composed of college educated women.

Facts and Figures:

On the 83rd Annual Meeting and Convention

In a report to the AAUW/Ohio Board of Directors, **Mathilda Navias**, Tiffin Branch Member and Local Coordinator for the 12th Annual Equity Day and 83rd Annual Meeting and Convention, cited the following participant statistics relative to the two-day event.

- There were a total of 59 people who participated in Equity Day, and 96 who participated in the convention, not counting presenters. These included four cancellations and five walk-ins for a total of 102 different people.
- Of the AAUW/Ohio people there, there were 30 different branches represented, 28 state board members, 69 voting delegates and 9 past presidents.
- 82% had e-mail accounts.
- Participants earned degrees from at least 62 different colleges and universities.
- One college student attended.
- Participants included the Great Lakes Regional Director, Pam Thiel, and AAUW's national Executive Director, Michele Wetherald, who is originally from Cleveland, Ohio.
- Presenters and guests came from Texas, Kentucky, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Washington, D.C. and Ohio.



Tiffin bakers showcased their talented culinary skills by recreating AAUW's 125th Anniversary logo for the gala luncheon dessert.

President-Elect Regan prepares to take the helm

(Continued from first page)

critical for women's lives; AAUW is mostly for those women who "don't get it;" It's for us to champion for AAUW because of its commitment to better lives for women and girls. Young women today typically think there are no battles to fight anymore, that equity is no longer an issue. And because we know better, I believe it becomes our responsibility to continue to teach them that life still full of gender inequity and unfair educational and employment practices; it's about achieving equal pay for comparative work; it's about achieving fair leave policies for mothers; it's about achieving consensus that decisions about family matters are private and should be left to those involved; It's our job to make sure that AAUW members continue to believe in this organization and that we survive to



Michele Wetherald, AAUW Executive Director, congratulates Diane Regan on her election

model, exhibit and exhort those who follow to fight for public policy that is fair to women for as long as it takes.

The world today to me is a troubling place for women: our rights are being challenged each day both domestically and internationally. The Taliban in Afghanistan are back and girls are once again being deprived of their right to an education; women teachers are being murdered; in Sudan, women and girls are being systematically raped on a daily basis; in other parts of Africa AIDS is a terrible scourge with a particularly devastating affect on women and children; in Thailand and other parts of Asia, little girls are being trafficked as sex slaves; Even in a democracy like Israel, those who

practice Ultraconservative Orthodoxy are discriminating against their own women; they are passing laws that women must not be educated beyond high school and should ride in the back of buses. These women their wives, sisters, daughters, must work because the Ultra conservative orthodox Jewish male does not work; he only studies the Talmud. By forbidding women an education and relegating them to second-class citizenship, she and her children are guaranteed a life of poverty.

The older I get, the less I'm personally affected by public policy regarding choice—whether it's reproductive choice, employment choice or educational choice. And while I should take some comfort in the fact that I can't get pregnant, for example and shouldn't care about the erosion of a woman's control of her own life, I'm not comforted. Sure, it would have been easier to tell the nominating committee "no" but every time someone says "no" to an invitation to serve to better AAUW, the organization fails to thrive a little bit more.

I understand that sometimes, you just have to say "yes." And having said yes to presenting myself as a candidate for president-elect, I understand that I have said I am willing to accept a huge responsibility—to learn, to educate, to advocate, to share ideas, to set an example, to travel, to work with you to improve the quality of your branch experience, to try to find ways to breathe life into some branches; to

find ways to bring those young women who don't think equity is an issue any longer into our embrace as AAUW members.

I'm sure the next few years for me won't be about a nice comfortable seat on my couch; they are going to be



"It's for us to champion for AAUW because of its commitment to better lives for women and girls."
~Diane Regan~

about finding ways to support each of you as AAUW members, to bring the message of equity to our neighborhoods first and then the world; and while the next few years are likely to see big changes in the organizational structure of AAUW, our primary mission remains the same—to effect positive change for women and girls. In a few years, whether we look at AAUW at the state or Association level, it probably won't be our mother's Oldsmobile; but then, that's probably good.

I think I'm ready if you are!



Over one hundred attendees at the 83rd Annual meeting and Convention listen intently to Regan's speech

The page header quotes in this issue focus on leadership. Many of the quotes are written either about or by great women leaders, some with AAUW ties! We encourage you to read more about these fascinating historical figures

AAUW/OH Board supports N.E. Ohio branch education project for statewide use

Congratulations are in order for the Heights-Hillcrest-Lyndhurst Branch for the successful completion of their project, *The New Little Book – OGT Social Studies!* Ohio students must pass the Ohio Graduation Test – which includes a social studies component - to graduate. The book has been printed and is already in use in the Cleveland public high schools where teachers will now use *The New Little Book – OGT Social Studies* to introduce or to review a new lesson or unit. Students need a teacher's guidance to help students make connections between events or ideas in order to succeed on the test. Thus, the school district price of the book is kept low, enabling schools to treat the book as a consumable or workbook.

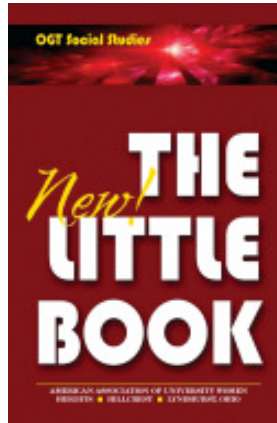
At their October board meeting, the AAUW/Ohio Board of Directors voted to support this mission-based project, and HHL will help branches across the state take action. AAUW/Ohio encourages each branch to help raise scores on the Social Studies Ohio Graduation Test by helping to put the book into the classrooms in their local school districts. In the near future, each AAUW/Ohio branch president will receive a copy of *The New Little Book – OGT Social Studies*, a brochure indicating how the schools in your area can purchase copies, and stories of how HHL approached school administration. Branches can use this project as a tool to increase AAUW visibility, support public education, and raise the level of education in the state.

Branches should be assured that *The New Little Book – OGT Social Studies* is professional work that covers all of Ohio's content standards and indicators for the 9th and 10th grades. HHL hired highly qualified and experienced teachers to edit, fact-check, write, and advise on the project. Students must pass the OGT to graduate. Students need a teacher's guidance to learn this way and succeed on the test, so the school district price of the book is kept low, enabling schools to treat the book as a consumable or workbook.

For more information, please contact the HHL Branch representative Nancy Stellhorn @ Phone: 440-461-3403; or by e-mail at: newlittlebook@roadrunner.com. The publication also has its own website: www.newlittlebook.org.

Additionally, look for another article in the Winter 2008 edition of the Ohio Orbit to learn more about the project and how your branch can

help make a difference for Ohio's schoolchildren. With AAUW/Ohio's adoption of the project and Ohio branches working together, we have an opportunity to really make an enormous positive impact to help Ohio high school students and their teachers!



After three years of work, *The New Little Book – OGT Social Studies* has been printed and is being used in the Cleveland public schools.



Most project communications were by e-mail, but here task force members met with editors to finalize the editing process.

Left to right front row: Jan Bowden; Linda Wilson, glossary editor; Mary K Evans, Clara McCann. Back row: Nancy Stellhorn, coordinator; Allan Keller, lead editor, Kathe Mayer

Membership Campaign is "Key to the Future"

By Marge Lee, President, AAUW/Ohio

Vital to AAUW's long-term success in implementing the national strategic plan is our ability to increase branch membership. Thus, the Every-Member-Get-a-Member campaign will be continued into 2008. There are two phases, Phase One from July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 and Phase Two January 1, 2008 to June 15, 2008. Complete details of the *Keys to the Future* campaign can be seen on the AAUW website at www.aauw.org. How do we find new members? Identify target groups; consider how to reach them and what AAUW has to offer them.

Possible target groups include:

- Newcomers who want to make friends and get involved
- Newly retired individuals who suddenly have free time
- Students and faculty interested in equity on campus
- Members-at-large and lapsed members

Throughout the pages of this issue you will find great community outreach ideas for promoting AAUW and ultimately to interest new members to join our mission. If your branch has promoted a successful program or project to create awareness about AAUW in your community, please let us know and we'll share it in a future issue of the *Orbit*.

Behind the Pay Gap

AAUW's latest research report gives you the inside scoop on wage disparities between women and men. Download the report at www.aauw.org/research/behindPayGap.cfm



'Marion Talbot' Speaks at Gala Luncheon

Marion Talbot, AAUW's founding mother, was brought to life in a unique and entertaining portrayal by **Carol Leupp**, AAUW's Leadership Development Chair, at the Ohio Convention on Saturday April 21.

"Marion" (Leupp) was introduced by former AAUW/Ohio President Gail Conrad, who also wrote the script for the presentation.



Leupp as Marion Talbot

In her presentation, Marion provided many interesting details about her life and activities that led her to founding the organization that preceded the AAUW in its current form.

She reflected that she attended Boston University at a time when women students were referred to as "trespassers," "freaks" and "outcasts." She graduated in four years but found little encouragement for work, which became the impetus in 1881 for founding with sixteen other female friends the Association of Collegiate Alumnae. They envisioned an organization in which women college graduates could band together to open doors of higher education to other women and to find wider opportunities to use degrees.

The group met at Marion's mother's home, which was not surprising considering her mother founded the Mass. Society for Educating Women. Mrs. Talbot also encouraged Marion to accept in 1892 a position as head of a new Department of Household Administration at the University of Chicago

After doing graduate work at MIT, she became Dean of Women in

1895. While there, Marion put a focus on the changing world. She wrote a textbook entitled *The Modern Household*. She believed in equal opportunity - so her classes were open to men.

She lived to see her organization grow and become AAUW when it merged with Southern Association of College Women.

Not all Marion's decisions were popular. She discouraged young women from joining sororities because she felt they put the focus on popularity and looks instead of substance.

One of the more amusing facts Marion revealed to the 2007 Convention was that she did not like use of the drum, which she felt encouraged that which was base and immoral. Like Jane Adams, she believed women should be municipal and national housekeepers.

She never married and stayed for 33 years at the University of Chicago under three administrations, whose leadership she regularly reminded about the need for equality for women. Talbot died in 1948 at the age of 90, having lived to see - and through her activities helped foster - tremendous strides for women's social and economic equity.



Marion Talbot in 1881

Daffodil Diversity Award Recipients Announced

By Sally Dye
 AAUW/Ohio Diversity Chair

Three branches met the criteria and earned the 2007 Daffodil Diversity Award for being inclusive in their membership outreach and community involvement. Elyria, Medina County, and Toledo Branches



Daffodil Diversity award winning branches were represented by Jill Heck and Pat Chaloupek, Medina County; Shelley Kotz, Toledo;

were recognized with a certificate and a silk daffodil at the Annual Meeting held in Tiffin.

Letters of congratulations were sent to each branch. These branches were recognized with a certificate and a silk daffodil at the Annual Meeting. A display at the Annual Meeting featured the awardees and materials from their projects and programs.

Each branch was awarded 100 Appalachian Daffodils from Will Dewees of Appalachian Flowers.

Remember to include diversity in your projects and programming this upcoming 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.



Leadership Conference

AAUW....for ALL GENERATIONS *Because...Equity is still an issue!*

AAUW/Ohio Board invited all branch leaders to a Leadership Conference on Saturday, August 11 at Ohio Wesleyan University's Hamilton-Williams Center in Delaware, Ohio. The conference began with a continental breakfast at 9:30 a.m. and ended at 3:00 p.m.

Attendees reported coming away from the leadership conference feeling inspired, energized and equipped with many valuable ideas and tools to use in branch activities. Many of the handouts were created especially for this conference by AAUW Ohio board members and the *Orbit* editor. They may be found on the AAUW website at www.aauwoh.org.

We were fortunate this year to have an Association leader with us for the conference, **Lisa Maatz**, AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations and Interim Director of the Legal Advocacy Fund. Lisa, a younger member and Ohio native, was convention keynoter at the 2006 Ohio convention in Wooster. She brought her enthusiasm for AAUW to Ohio once again for the leadership conference!

State board members addressed topics members have indicated they wanted help with:

—using technology in promoting our branches and developing web sites; ideas for converting at-large members to branch members; topics and new ideas for meetings, how to recruit younger members; and attracting members to leadership roles.

Branches were updated on the STARZ program for branches, "Behind the Pay Gap," (latest Educational Foundation research report), and Woman to Woman Voter Turnout Campaign (for 2008),

The conference explored the AAUW theme, "Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security," how it's designed to appeal to difference age groups and how AAUW programming advances our mission of equity for women and girls through **ADVOCACY, EDUCATION and RESEARCH.**

AAUW Ohio sponsors Ohio Womens' attendance at national conference

By Carol Leupp, Leadership Development AAUW/Ohio

Two Ohio women students attended the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in Washington DC, June 7-9 at American University.

AAUW/OH sponsored Michelle Adams, graduate student from University of Toledo and Amanda Monyak, undergraduate student at Bowling Green State University. Michelle's undergraduate major was English and Graduate major was Higher Education. Amanda is a Women's Studies and Psychology major.

For more than 20 years, NCCWSL has offered women students access to the information and resources necessary to lead change on campus and take on various leadership roles in their communities. At the conference,

students honed leadership skills during a fast-paced, two day conference. Among the activities and leadership experiences Adams and Monyak participated in were:

- Meeting inspiring Women of Distinction Award recipients
- Participate in workshops in areas of advocacy, leadership, health and wellness, and the real world
- Enjoy endless opportunities to NETWORK
- Contribute to a community service project to support homeless women in the Washington, D.C. area

Michelle has a passion for empowering women and would like to attain a career in the field of women's advocacy. She will be residing in Athens, Ohio and hopes to be addressing college students on the issues of education and prevention of sexual assault as well as teaching/inspiring women to be empowered. Michelle will be sharing information with AAUW members and creating a packet of main ideas learned at the conference along with ways of putting them into practice.

Amanda hopes to gain insight into what women can do to help alleviate problems in the world with further education. She plans to apply and share the information learned at NCCWSL with students at BGSU. She will present information learned at a meeting of Organization for Women's Issues, a feminist group on campus, in addition to sharing with AAUW branches in Ohio.

Thank-you Letter and Report to AAUW/Ohio

*By Amanda M. Monyak, Senior
Women's Studies, Bowling Green State University*

First of all, I want to thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to attend AAUW's College Women Student Leaders conference in Washington D.C. from June 7-9th, "Leadership for Today and Tomorrow". Without the help of everyone here, I would not have had the chance to be inspired by all of the wonderful women I met at the conference that weekend.

For me, inspiration was among one of the most important components of the leadership conference. **Zainab Salbi**, one of the keynote speakers at the event, is the founder and CEO of Women for Women International, an organization which helps female survivors of war begin to re-establish their lives. **Courtney Lynch**, the second keynote speaker, was the Co-Founder of Lead Star, an organization which aims to help women identify how they can become outstanding leaders. Both Salbi and Lynch have used their education to the fullest, by establishing these organizations, publishing books about their experiences, and encouraging young women to do the same.



Amanda Monyak

(Continued on page 10)

Include public policy initiatives in your program schedule

By Ruth McGaha and Jackie Evangelista, C0-Public Policy Co-Chairs

At this writing, branches have just begun to execute their programming for the coming year. But it's never too soon to think about programs for 2008, especially in the context of branch visibility. Of course, your Ohio co-public policy chairs always hope that you will include public policy initiatives in your branch program schedules. There are many, many issues which affect women that would make terrific program topics with potential for drawing the general public to learn more about a particular issue. (For ideas, one needs look no further than the state and national websites public policy pages!) Programming like this could not only help you reach out into the community and bring in some younger members but also help educate the community that there are issues of significance to women which, ultimately, affect the entire community.



Jackie Evangelista

We especially encourage you to act on our request that you begin planning to stage a community action forum to encourage women to vote in the 2008 election. A handout describing the idea was distributed at the convention, was e-mailed to branch public policy chairs and their stand-ins, and is posted in the Issue Advocacy section of the AAUW/Ohio website at aauwohio.org.

And what is a stand-in, you might ask? These are members (often presidents) who have listed their e-mail address in the Ohio Yearbook and to whom we send our public policy e-mailings because the branch has not appointed a public policy chair. It would be wonderful if more branches would appoint public policy chairs so we could eliminate our stand-in listserv. If you are a public policy chair and are not receiving e-mails from us periodically, please let us know.

Another area we encourage you to begin studying is that of equal pay. The latest Supreme Court decision requiring that women file pay discrimination lawsuits within 180 days has in reality made it nearly impossible for women to file. Most employees are not anxious to make waves within 180 days of being hired, and information about the pay of co-workers often takes years to surface. It is hoped that Congress will pass a law clarifying the pay discrimination section of Title VII and that the President will not veto it. The AAUW website at aauw.org offers a wealth of information on pay equity in its Issue Advocacy section. We encourage you to explore it for program ideas.

Finally, consider starting a Public Policy Interest Group if you have a number of members who are very interested in studying and lobbying about one or more of AAUW's public policy initiatives. An information sheet about this idea is posted in the Issue Advocacy section of the AAUW/Ohio website.

Communicate with your community/legislators about vital AAUW public policy issues!

By Ruth McGaha, AAUW/Ohio Co-Public Policy Chair

Public Policy is your most vital AAUW contact with your community. First, there are your branch activities, such your projects and programs which involve the many sections of your community: your community action forums and candidate nights, your mentoring and tutoring projects in the local schools, your work with your local colleges and most of all your dissemination of information in the community through your program meetings.

Second, there is your response to the Association up-dates on federal legislation. Specifically the renewal of Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act, and now the Supreme Court decision which limits the time suit can be brought in cases of discrimination (Fair Pay Restoration Act).

The third vital and sometimes most urgent (and most satisfying) is your advocacy on Ohio state issues. Unlike the national laws, we can have visible impact on state legislation. Our few voices are not so likely to be lost in the multitude of opinions.

Writing or calling your local representative with your opinion can be most effective. She/he works for you, they know your community and just like you, they see the impact of that legislation locally. Get to know them.

The Prevention First Act was introduced on May 30 by Senator **Sue Moreno** and Representatives **Tyrone Yates** and **Jon Peterson** as House Bill 251 and Senate Bill 179. This is primarily an education issue. This bill is intended to prevent unintended pregnancy by comprehensive, honest sex education, access to family planning services, and emergency contraception services. This is a health as well social issue best handled by comprehensive education measures. The best action we can take on this bill at present is to contact our legislators and ask them to sign on. Additionally, signing the petition and mailing it to FOCO is an easy and uniting activity you can do at a branch meeting.

Governor Strickland has signed the Adoption Tax Credit Increase. Thank him for doing that. It is a huge step toward supporting women and families in Ohio.

Finally, A new bill, HB 81 has been submitted that will require all girls entering sixth grade to be vaccinated for HPV (Human Papillomavirus). This vaccination prevents cervical cancer for a lifetime. More than 7000 women women die of the disease each year, but we could take this small step to ultimately eliminate the disease for Ohio women. This is an important women's health issue we can influence by writing our Ohio state legislators. To identify your state senator or representative and obtain his/her address, go to <http://www.legislature.state.oh.us> where you will enter your zip code.



Ruth McGaha

Mason-Lebanon area members found new branch

By Janet L. Bohren, co-chair Mason-Lebanon Branch.

Ginny Stiver had a dream - a dream to find an AAUW branch in the Mason-Lebanon area. She worked hard to find other like-minded women and eventually was able to form a satellite group with the Cincinnati AAUW.

This satellite group met a number of times in Mason in the 2005/2006 year and organized and put on a wonderful science day for girls in Mason in March 2006. The group grew and began to meet also in Lebanon.

As the group began to make plans for becoming their own branch, they organized and worked with a 4H group from Lebanon to put on a second successful science day for girls in March 2007. By April 2007 Ginny had gathered together 16 names of women interested in joining the branch in the Mason-Lebanon area.

At their March 2007 meeting the women elected officers willing to serve until the group was formally up and on its own. The State approved their branch in April 2007. Based on the experiences of Janet Bohren (co-president) at the State AAUW meeting, the group decided that their focus theme for the 2007/2008 year would be financial literacy for girls and women. They also decided to name themselves the Mason-Lebanon Branch. Ginny worked hard to get all the paperwork filled out and sent in to the national office and we were officially approved as a branch beginning July 1, 2007. We are excited to be moving forward with our plans.

We wish to express our thanks to Cindy Grau, State Membership Chairperson and member of the Middletown AAUW branch.

To contact the branch please email Janet Bohren at janet.bohren@earthlink.net. We invite any interested women who live in Mason, Lebanon, Maineville, Springboro and other near-by areas to join us. Please share the information about our branch with those you think might like to join us in our first year as a branch. We are excited about developing a program around financial literacy for women and girls and would love to have some more people on board.

Web and media relations are hot topics for branch communicators

By Paula Maggio,, AAUW/Ohio Communications Chair

Web sites and media relations were the two hot topics at the communications breakout session at the spring convention. And branches from Circleville to Medina to Sandusky had a lot to say about both topics.

More than a dozen members attended the session, which Donna McNamee and I facilitated. And they were vocal about their needs and desires. They said they want to develop quality Web sites for their branches. They also want to conduct effective media relations to promote branch programs.

The problem, members said, is that they don't have the technical expertise or practical experience to do either. But they suggested some ways Ohio AAUW could help.

Here are some of the suggestions made by members who attended the communications breakout session:

- Provide a FAQ on Web site development.
- Provide Web design templates that feature a standard format for content.
- Provide tips on conducting an effective public relations program.
- Develop talking points and sound bites for AAUW messages.
- Post "Best Practices" for membership recruitment, programs, etc. on www.aauwoh.org.

We have taken your suggestions to heart. As requested, materials on website development and newsletter resources and writing as well as tips on

(Continued on page 10)

Musings from Millhoff

By Pat Millhoff, Co-Membership Vice President

I just wanted to share some of my experiences over the past year as Membership co-chair. Like Cindy, I tried to contact many branches by e-mail and telephone. Almost all branches report struggles and we just tried to be supportive.

I personally attended three chapters, Cleveland, New Philadelphia and Marietta. New Philadelphia continues to look for ways to keep their chapter vibrant. Maybe joining with Canton will be helpful to both. They may already be discussing that possibility.

Cleveland is a chapter that seems to be on the move. Their president reports several large meetings throughout the year as they moved from location to location. This is a tactic other chapters may want to try. Public libraries, church basements, community centers are all good locations to make the meetings more welcoming. Marietta, of course, has the good fortune to be in a college town and seems to be thriving.

We discussed issues that may attract students into the chapter like sending students to the Washington, D.C. spring leadership conference. All chapters are encouraged to read the wonderful materials on the membership AAUW website.

Shape the Future continues to be a good membership carrot. Come to a program related to one of our program initiatives and join for half price. After the first of the year, join for 25%. Such a deal! Personally, I continue to feel that our programs are our best membership recruitment. People need to see what they can gain from their association with an AAUW membership branch. How about taking of from Equity Day's Financial Literacy and teaming up with a local financial planner - especially one with a social conscience. How about teaming up with Get out the Vote or The League of Women Voters for

(Continued on page 10)

Student Thank you and Report to AAUW/Ohio

(Continued from page 7)

AAUW also invited five more women to give speeches conference, all of whom achieved ambitious goals. The "Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony," which was held the first night of the conference, honored all of them. Each woman came from various fields, including education, communications, mental health, and business. **Deborah Bial**, one of the recipients of the award, founded the Posse Foundation which helps youth gain access to higher education. **Asra Q. Nomani** was also among the five women, her work focusing on improving rights for women in the Muslim community. These are just two of the women who were featured at the presentation, which illustrated how there is a great range in how we can apply our knowledge to create positive change.

Not only did the conference provide excellent examples of successful women, but it also gave me tools to explore my own interests. I attended three workshop sessions, all of which were very informative. I learned about the field of public policy—what it means to be a "policy maker" and how policies are actually implemented into our government. Another session helped me recognize how values can often tailor ones career path, and how those values can develop and change after time. Lastly, I learned about the role of confidence in career and leadership positions, something I truly think is vital for women to attain.

I also had the privilege of meeting so many women my age who are wholly committed to improving our world. This sense of togetherness and collective thinking is something so many people seek to find, and I was lucky enough to experience it with women who come from such diverse backgrounds.

I learned from this conference how to become a better leader and how to keep focus when looking for a career. It also reassured me that I can do anything—I suppose I have a big task ahead of me though, which is figuring out what that is. Thank you again for giving me such a fantastic opportunity. I hope that someday I can do the same for another young woman who is yearning to find out exactly how she can help make the world a more peaceful and empowering place—for all of us.

Web and Media Relations

(Continued from page 9)

how to write a press release were unveiled at the August Leadership Conference and have since been posted on our website.. The web development tip sheet includes specifics about web resources already available from the association. Visit AAUW online to find out more on your own. Just go to: http://www.aauw.org/member_center/websites/index.cfm. You'll find Web site design details and more.

Meanwhile, I'd be happy to hear any other suggestions you have. I'm also here to assist you with your branch communications needs. Just send me an e-mail at: akronpm@sbcglobal.net.

Musings from Millhoff

(Continued from page 9)

election education.

Finally, quality public school education can never receive too much emphasis. That is why the AAUW/Ohio board voted to support the work of the Heights-Hillcrest-Lyndhurst Branch on the "Little Book" now in use in Cleveland high schools to aid 10th, 11th and 12th grade students in passing the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT). An introductory article appears in this issue and more information will be forthcoming in the Winter *Orbit* as we believe this mission-based project is one that can and should be replicated by our branches statewide.

I am happy to come to your chapter meetings and while Cindy and I have no "magic bullet" answers, sometimes just brainstorming is a good idea or helps us reach one! Such brainstorming has produced the questions, 'How about an online meeting?' (The state board meets online each January.) Or, 'How about a facebook page?'

Think outside the box. And good luck with all of your activities!

All Roads Lead to Zanesville

(Continued from first page)

attendees from branches across the state.

On Saturday, registration and a continental breakfast begins at 7:30 a. m. The Convention programs will begin at 9:00 a.m. with speakers, small groups, and a business meeting. A buffet luncheon will provide an opportunity to socialize before the afternoon activities. The LAF and EF auctions with donated items from branches will culminate the afternoon's events.

According to **Mary Lee Powell**, AAUW/Ohio's Education Foundation Vice President, "It's not too early to begin making plans for your Branch's silent auction submission(s). The Silent Action is a much anticipated part of the Ohio Convention and the items are truly a remarkable showcase for the branches. I urge every Branch to bring a Basket of Goodies or other wonderful items. Last year's Auction raised nearly \$1000 for EF!"

Each branch is challenged to bring a table centerpiece, which they have designed from any material. The arrangement will automatically be entered into competition. Each floral arrangement should reflect the theme "Southeastern Ohio Springtime." The luncheon tables are five feet across so centerpieces should not interrupt the flow of conversation. A panel of judges will select one winner. Get your thinking caps on now!

As plans develop, details will be shared in both the *Ohio Orbit* and posted on the AAUW/Ohio website, www.aauwoh.org. Be sure to watch for complete program, hotel reservation and registration information in the Winter 2008, issue of the *Ohio Orbit*. We look forward to seeing you in Zanesville!

EF/LAF DEADLINE is Fast Approaching!

Branch EF (and LAF) contributions for 2007 must be postmarked by December 31, 2007. Thank you to all Branch EF Chairs and Finance Officers who have already sent their contributions to the Foundation and have sent a copy of the Contribution Report Form (CRF) to **Mary Lee Powell** at: Mary Lee Powell, 6 West Hills Dr. Athens, OH 45701, 740/592-2227 or via e-mail at: mpowell7@columbus.rr.com

STARZ Award Honors Branches

Achieving AAUW Goals

By JoAnn Benseler, STARZ Award Coordinator

At this year's Annual Meeting and Convention the first STARZ awards were presented. This award is meant to honor and celebrate those branches who work toward and accomplish many goals of AAUW Ohio. For the first year 23 branches were eligible for this award. These eight branches received the Teal STARZ award which meant they did the five required things and accumulated 8-12 Glitter points: Akron, Bowling Green, Cleveland, Mansfield, Medina, Middletown, Worthington and Zanesville. These branches received the Honors STARZ award which meant they did the five required items and accumulated 4-7 Glitter points.

The five required items were: 1.) Have a member at last year's annual meeting, 2.) Have a member attend the Leadership Conference in August, 3.) Get their officer reports in by June 15, 4.) Collect dues and get them in by October, 5.) Have 5 branch meetings during the year and turn in their application form by March 10, 2007.

We are now working on the STARZ award for 2008. Right now 29 branches are eligible to be considered because a branch member attended the Annual meeting in April, 2007. I hope next year we will award the STARZ Award to at least 20 branches!

Branch Newsletters earn top honors at 2007 convention

Bowling Green's *AAUW focus* was named the top newsletter in Ohio by this year's outside judge **Laura Freeman**, editor of the *Lake County Business Journal*. The newsletter also won first place in the large branch category. Second Place went to Columbus; and third place was awarded to Wooster.

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*.



Newsletter Award Winners (1 to r)—First Place, Small Branch Category: Heights, Hillcrest, Lyndhurst, accepted by **Nancy Stelhorn**; First Place, Large Branch Category and Top Award: Bowling Green, accepted by **Diane Regan**, Bowling Green; First Place, Medium Branch Category: Findlay, accepted by **Jane Snyder**. Presenting the awards was **Donna McNamee**, Editor, *Ohio Orbit*



STARZ AWARDS (1 to r)—*Seated*: Worthington, **Jana Patchen**; Medina County, **Jill Heck**; Middletown, **Cindy Grau**; Bowling Green, **Jennifer Sader**; *Standing*: Zanesville, **Jody Weyand**; Wooster, **Cathryn Stone**; Mansfield, **JoAnn Baker**; Findlay, **Susan Williams**; Columbus, **Mary Lou Wright**; Cleveland, **Diane Ahlers**; Circleville, **Carol Bowling**; Akron, **Roberta Mohr**.

Branch representatives receive Education Foundation awards for total and per capita giving



EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION TOTAL (1 to r)—*Seated*: Marietta, **Irene Jones**, second; Cleveland, **Diane Ahlers**, first; Bowling Green, **Mary Lou Baty**, third. *Standing*: Columbus, **Mary Lou Wright**; Mentor-Madison, **Sally Malone**; Middletown, **Cindy Grau**; Logan County, **Pat Rinehart-Irwin**; Akron, **Rhonda Davis**; Mansfield, **Rilda Carolyn Weeks**.



EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION PER CAPITA (1 to r)—*Seated*: Marietta, **Irene Jones**; Cleveland, **Diane Ahlers**, Bowling Green, **Beth Hofer**; *Standing*: Akron, **Marna Becker**; Mentor-Madison, **Sally Malone**; Logan County, **Pat Rinehart-Irwin**; Mansfield, **Rilda Carolyn Weeks**; Delaware, **Roberta Clark**. Athens not pictured.

Help Wanted: AAUW/Ohio Administrative Coordinator

By *Gail Conrad, AAUW/Ohio Nominations Chair*

Our wonderful State Office Administrative Coordinator, **Caryn Tilly**, will be resigning her position of 4-1/2 years this coming June 30, 2008.

The AAUW/Ohio Administrative Coordinator is employed annually by the Board of Directors who also determines her annual stipend. Her expenses to attend AAUW/Ohio board meetings, conventions, and conferences are paid, as well.

The Administrative Coordinator's duties include coordinating state board meetings, credentialing at state conventions, sending branch mailings, maintaining the state phone and p.o. box, answering branch inquiries, compiling the state yearbook, and assisting the president, as needed. Computer expertise and strong knowledge of AAUW are musts for the job.

Anyone interested in the position should send a resume to President **Marge Lee**, 5241 Pine Grove Ct., Toledo, OH 43615, by **Feb. 1, 2008**.

The individual selected should be available to apprentice Caryn at the 2008 AAUW/OH Convention in Zanesville, April 18 & 19, 2008. Questions? Phone Caryn Tilly at 1-800-910-7075 or e-mail her at

coordinator@aauwoh.org

because
equity
is
still
an **issue**

2007 Be WISE Camp Hosts 107 Girls

By *JoAnn Benseler, Be WISE Camp Director*

The 18th Be WISE Math/Science Camp was held at Denison University in Granville, OH, from June 17-22. 107 campers successfully completed the week long program. Be WISE is a mathematics, science and technology camp designed to develop interest, excitement, and self confidence in young women who are entering grade 7 and 8 in the fall of each academic year. Seventh graders had classes in Math, Physics, Stream, and Ecology. Eighth graders had classes in Math, Pond, Astronomy, and Chemistry. All classes featured hands-on activities and problem solving opportunities.

On Wednesday, **Laurie Heikkila**, recruited from the Painesville area (Mentor-Madison Branch) presented a program on Robotics to the whole camp. As part of her program, the campers were divided into groups of 3 or 4 and were given the task of designing a robotic arm in a 30 minute time period. Each group was given the following materials to complete their prototype: paper, rubber bands, stapler, stickers, and straws. At the end of the 30 minute period, each family group designated the "arm" from their group as their best "result". Then the eight top robotic arms were shown to all of the camp and an explanation was made describing how each was put together and how it "operated".

The dates for next summer's camp will be June 15-20, 2008 at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. Materials should arrive at 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. The website is www.bewisecamp.org.

AAUW/Ohio Bulletin
P.O. Box 13021
Toledo, OH 43613-0021

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bellefontaine, OH
Permit No. 415

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

Marilyn Kornowski, 330/963-7776

Southeast District Coordinator

Karen Rieder, 740/775-3404

karenrieder@horizonview.net

Northwest District Coordinator

Ruth Alteneder, 419/874-8242

realteneder@bex.net

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