

## A Student's Impression – Notes from the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders

*The following article was submitted by Aerial Robinson as her impression of the 2008 National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCSWL). Aerial, a student at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, was one of two students that AAUW Louisiana and the AAUW Covington-Mandeville branch assisted with money to attend.*

“Being in a location considered the very image of America’s sense of justice, political freedom and equal rights, as well the people who spoke at the conference and the women who went to show their commitment to equity and a better future for women changed how I felt about being a woman and what rights and freedoms I thought I had. My feelings towards the issues that were discussed at this conference shifted from apathy to empathy, and AAUW became a group that I could recognize as something I should be proud to be a part of. As of

then, I have become concerned with the pay equity issue, which I told my friends about when I learned of it, only to hear that some didn’t know about it and found it outrageous. Whenever I speak of AAUW to potential members, I mention this issue and about the great efforts AAUW is making to change this. I’m also concerned with the issue of sexual assault and rape on campus, and how it is under-reported so that the college does not suffer a loss in incoming students, in turn giving students a false sense of security and presenting a potential chance of something happening to them. Had I not gone to this conference, I would have not become aware of these issues, nor would I have met women who had accomplished great things in life with astounding determination and the ability to set goals and therefore setting an example that young, like-minded women could learn from. And I wouldn’t have learned that I can have something to fight for. I would like to be paid as much

as my other co-workers, and I would like for my future generation to live in a society where both genders are equal and have respect for one another. Although I know that there will always be a few people that think this kind of mindset is wrong and that one gender has an advantage over another in some way, whether woman or man, I’d like to know that one day open-minded respect and empathy towards gender will not be just a dream of those who desire to be considered an equal.”

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**2009 AAUW STATE  
CONVENTION**  
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**March 27--28, 2009  
Baton Rouge, LA**

*More information on  
page 2 and page 6*

## 2009 AAUW STATE CONVENTION INFORMATION

### Baton Rouge, Louisiana March 27--28, 2009

Plans are underway to present a timely program for our members. We will open the convention at 8:30 AM on Saturday, March 28, 2009, on the LSU campus at the International Student Center which offers ground floor access with adequate parking for all. **The registration deadline will be March 14**, in order to confirm our meal number with our caterer, Chef Don Bergeron. The buffet luncheon will consist of Sensation Salad, Chicken Sauce Piquant, Rice, Oriental Vegetables and Strawberry Shortcake. We are developing a panel on current issues in the lives of Muslim women, chaired by Vivian Guillory of the Baton Rouge Branch. The keynote speaker will be EF President Barbara O'Connor from our National Association. The students are meeting the same day on the LSU Campus but we plan a brief report from them regarding their plans for the year. Come one, come all to Baton Rouge for program ideas, networking, and to see old friends. Hotel arrangements are shown to the right and a registration form is located on page 6.

REQUEST AAUW GROUP RATE AT THIS HOTEL TO RECEIVE SPECIAL RATE:

**Hampton Inn**  
(located by College Dr. exit)  
Address:  
4646 Constitution Ave. Baton Rouge,  
LA 70808  
Phone: (225) 926-9990  
Room Rate:  
\$99.00 per night

**Reserve by Friday,  
February 27, 2009**  
---MARY LINDA FRANCIS,  
AAUW STATE PROGRAM VP  
**EF PRESIDENT TO  
KEYNOTE ATHENA  
AWARD BANQUET**

We hope everyone can join us for the third annual *AAUW Athena Award Banquet*, to be held on Friday, March 27, 2009, at Four Seasons Catering, located inside the Remax Building at 4750 Sherwood Commons in Baton Rouge, LA. Activities will begin at 6:30 PM with a networking reception, followed by dinner at 7:00 PM. Our after dinner speakers will be Barbara

O'Connor, President of the AAUW Educational Foundation. (This will be different from the presentation she is doing at our convention the next day.) The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the third annual Athena Award to a member for exemplary service to AAUW and the community. The prestigious award is named for the Greek goddess of wisdom, integrity, justice, skill, arts, and victory. The first Athena Award recipient was Dr. Patsy Barber and the second Gloria Hearn. Both are former Alexandria/Pineville Branch Presidents and AAUW Louisiana State Presidents. The dinner menu will consist of salad, entrée, and dessert. The cost per person is \$30.00/\$20.00 for students, which includes an EF/LAF contribution. Registration information is included in this edition of *The Magnolia* (page 6). Wine will be available for a small charge. Make plans now to join us for this memorable evening and show your support for our Athena Award nominees. Family and friends are invited to attend this event.



President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden lead the extended, enthusiastic applause for the Face of Pay Equity (and AAUW convention keynoter in June!), Lilly Ledbetter.

AAUW Photo Gallery Link:  
[http://picasaweb.google.com/AAUWwebmaster/Lilly\\_LedbetterFairPayActSigning#](http://picasaweb.google.com/AAUWwebmaster/Lilly_LedbetterFairPayActSigning#)



Great shot of the lawmakers witnessing history in the East Room of the White House--the new president's first bill signed into law is one that assists women and other workers in the fight for pay equity -- an AAUW priority.

AAUW Photo Gallery Link:  
<http://picasaweb.google.com/AAUWwebmaster/LillyLedbetterFairPayActSigning#>

# The Regional Director's Message

As we enter the spring of 2009, I wanted to remind everyone that the Early Bird registration of \$375 for a member to attend the full national convention in St. Louis ended on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The next discount rate is \$399 and it extends until March 22<sup>nd</sup>; after that the price of the full convention rises to \$440.

There are additional prices for non-members and guests as well as a daily attendance rate. Are you planning to attend this historic convention? For many of us in the SEC Region, St. Louis is a drivable distance ... perhaps your state or branches could get a carpool together and share expenses. Room rates start at \$159 and of course, sharing reduces the burden.

Another option to reduce costs is to volunteer at the convention – see the AAUW website ([www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)) for more details. At the 2007 convention, delegates voted to combine the EF Board and the Association Board into one board overseeing all of AAUW. At this 2009 convention, delegates will be voting on the bylaws changes necessary to move AAUW into the future as a viable organization. In addition to these, the Bylaws Committee has suggested several others which they feel will strength our organization. One of these is the elimination of the Regional Director (RD)

position. It may seem strange to have me recommend to eliminate my job, however, the justification for the proposal is valid: A Leadership Corps member will be assigned to each state and will provide consistent messages from the national office (speaking with the “same voice”). Another proposal involves national collection of dues; this is the situation with many national organizations. The advantage is that a credit card can be used to pay the dues AND it will reduce the problems occurring with national recruitment of MALs since they will be given an option to join the state and a branch. This is an optional pilot program now and branches can opt to join the program IF the state opts in as well, although the state does not need to participate for the branches to do so. The reason the state must “opt in” is to have the information of state dues so that member dues can be correctly collected nationally and the dues remitted to branch and state. Dues may still be collected in the branches as usual but they may gain new members through national collections of dues. Look on the AAUW website for the latest version of the bylaws: the committee made some changes based on comments from members during the initial preview period. The final version will be voted on at the convention, June 26-28, 2009 in St. Louis, MO. I have had some

comments from members concerning the cost of the optional awards dinner; it is pricey at \$125. At previous conventions, there were two optional banquets (LAF and EF) which totaled \$150 together. I have been told that the \$125 cost does not even cover expenses since this is a national convention and at a downtown hotel. While we are discussing the convention, I want everyone to vote for Audrey Salgado of Alabama as a Director-at-Large! Audrey would be a great asset to the national board and she is the only member of the SEC region running for a national position. Many of you know that Audrey spearheaded the highly successful and much duplicated state Student Advisory Council which has brought younger members into AAUW. If you would like an opportunity to serve on the national level, after the convention there will be numerous opportunities for members to be appointed to the committees (such as Membership, Public Policy, Program, Bylaws, etc.) that help the functioning of our organization. Hope to see you in St. Louis! You never really realize the power and scope of our organization until you attend a national convention.

Eileen deHaro  
Regional Director

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# The President's Message

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*Hello AAUW people!*

I expect this to be my last President's message. It has been a satisfying experience to serve as your state president, but I am ready for it to end. I learned that my function was to serve as a liaison between the branch members and the national organization. One thing I have learned is to appreciate the work done by the staff in Washington – a small group of hard working people. Among other things, they supervise the research and work with the volunteer Lobby Corps on public policy issues. A main function of our state organization is to bring people from the six branches (plus MALs) together for our State Convention. We will meet on Saturday, March 28, in Baton Rouge on the LSU campus. We are honored to have Barbara O'Connor, national President of the Educational Foundation (a volunteer position), as our keynote speaker. There will be an international program and a business meeting, but the highlight will be the luncheon. It will be a good opportunity to socialize with the people from the other branches. The

evening before the convention will feature our Annual Athena Award Banquet – another opportunity to get acquainted with other members. Perhaps the most satisfying accomplishment of my term is the formation of the AAUW-LA Student Advisory Council. During its second year, the Council is becoming known and is more established. Thirty students were appointed by their colleges, but we don't expect all to be active. The SAC met in early Jan. in Baton Rouge for a get-acquainted luncheon with their leaders, Mary Anne McDougall (ULL) and Aleice Allen (SU). The leaders had planned to hold their own women student's conference, but when they learned that there would be a similar conference at LSU, they decided to combine their efforts. The conference should be a good experience for our SAC. Unfortunately, it is the same day as our Convention, so we will not have the students with us. However, we will have reports from student members. Those students who attended the AAUW-sponsored National Conference of College Women

Student Leaders in Washington, DC., are enthusiastic supporters of AAUW and women's issues. Last year we paid partial expenses for 4 of the attendees. Those 4 are leaders of this year's SAC, so our money was well-spent. When I agreed to be state president, I told Eileen deHaro that I was not really interested or experienced in the public policy area. That has certainly changed! I am fully involved in our effort to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in Louisiana. We now have an online petition which you can sign and ask you friends (including men) to sign. We will also have a Lobby Day on April 28 at the State Capitol. Watch your Inbox for more information. Debbie Freda will be your next president, and I expect to stay involved at the state level. I think she will do a wonderful job and bring a new perspective to our group. I know she will have your full support. Thank you for your confidence in me!

**Anne K. Taylor**  
**State President**

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2009 AAUW National Convention

# Breaking through Barriers

June 26-28, 2009  
St. Louis



## AAUW LOUISIANA TO CO-SPONSOR ERA LOBBY DAY

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Everyone, please mark your calendars now for this very important date! A special Lobby Day, co-sponsored by AAUW Louisiana, the Louisiana Coalition for the ERA, and BPW/LA, will be held on **Tuesday, April 28, 2009** at the State Capitol Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. We need all of you to attend, and plan to lobby your legislators during that day, and before then as well. The tentative Lobby Day schedule of activities is as follows:

9:00 a.m.--9:15 a.m.	Briefing
9:15 a.m.--11:30 a.m.	Lobby Legislators (in their committee meetings)
11:45 a.m.--1:45 p.m.	Lunch in Senate or House Dining Room
2:00 p.m.--2:15 p.m.	Introduction on Floor of House and/or Senate (presentation of online petition to legislature)
2:30 p.m.--4:15 p.m.	Lobby Legislators (on floor of House and Senate)
4:15 p.m.--4:30 p.m.	Debriefing

Since there are many legislators we must reach, if at all possible, please visit your Representatives and Senators in their District offices to ask them to co-sponsor the ERA prior to our going to the Capitol. We will be lobbying the legislators by sending in notes to them when they are in their committee meetings in the morning, asking them to step outside and speak with us. We will also do the same when they are on the House and Senate floor in the afternoon. We realize that 9:00 a.m. is early, especially for those traveling to Baton Rouge from out-of-town, but we have found that the most successful lobbying takes place in the morning, when the legislators are in their committee meetings. Experience has also taught us that a lot of co-sponsorships can be obtained when having lunch in one of the legislative dining rooms at the same time as the legislators. In addition to Lobby Day, we are also sponsoring an online petition, which you have recently received. Please send it to everyone in your listserve and ask them to do the same. The more signatures we have at the start of the legislative session in March, the more influence we will have with the legislators when they vote on our ERA Resolution. Other plans possibly include a rally at the Capitol on the morning of the ERA committee hearing. Please watch your e-mail for more details of all of these upcoming events. We saw firsthand what advocacy can accomplish, with President Obama's signing of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. If we all work hard, one day very soon, it will be the ERA that is also signed. It will take a lot of hard work, but I know we can do it! Thank you all for your dedication to our cause and for your assistance with our advocacy efforts. For questions or additional information, please send an e-mail to The Louisiana Coalition for the Equal Rights Amendment at [era4la@gmail.com](mailto:era4la@gmail.com).

-----Camille Moran, AAUW Louisiana Public Policy Chair and Sandra Hufstetler, AAUW Louisiana ERA Coordinator

### Student Advisory Council

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The 2009-2010 Student Advisory Council hosted their introductory luncheon on January 10th, 2009, at the LSU Women's Center. New appointees were introduced to AAUW and their new role in advising the organization on issues students are passionate about, through presentations by Eileen deHaro, Anne Taylor, and SAC co-chairs Aleice Allen and Mary Anne McDougall. Members began planning the statewide Women's Leadership Conference that the Student Advisory Council is co-hosting on March 28th, 2009, along with the LSU Women's Center. This year the Louisiana Student Advisory Council represents eleven universities across Louisiana and has 32 members.

### BRANCHES IN ACTION

#### **Family in Need Grateful to AAUW Covington-Mandeville Branch**

Approximately \$1,000 in money, gift cards, and wrapped presents were donated by the branch to a needy family this past holiday season. The family thought they would not have any Christmas at all. Yet the branch came through in a big way with much needed clothing, shoes, food and other essentials. Some of the money raised even went to help with car repairs for the oldest, a 22-yr. old woman, who needs her car to get to/from work and college, and also to transport her siblings. A special thanks to **Paula Reynolds** who gave her time to act as the liaison with the family! The branch also received a thank you note from Terry Meyer, Supervisor of Federal Programs: *"Dear AAUW Members, On behalf of the St. Tammany Parish Kids in Transition and the students we serve, I would like to thank you for your generous donation to our homeless program. Because of the kindness of your organization, a worthy family was able to enjoy Christmas this year. It is because of caring people like you that the KIT program can continue to benefit these needy children and their families."*

# MAGNOLIA

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Helpline 800-821-4364, ext. 78

AAUW promotes equity for women and girls, lifelong learning, and positive societal change.

(Detach form below and send in.)

**AAUW State Convention 2009 Registration Form**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana – March 27--28, 2009**  
(Deadline for registering is Saturday, March 14, 2009)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH: \_\_\_\_\_ MAL: \_\_\_\_\_

BOARD POSITION \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

ATHENA AWARD BANQUET (**\$30 members/\$20 students**) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Friday, March 27 at 6:00 p.m.—4750 Sherwood Commons, inside Remax Building)  
\* **Please bring an item for the silent auction to benefit EF and LAF.**

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE (**by March 16--\$25 members/\$15 students**) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Saturday, March 28, 8:30—3:00, International Cultural Center, LSU, Baton Rouge)  
(Saturday lunch included in registration fee)

LATE REGISTRATION FEE (**after March 16--\$30/\$20 students**) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to **AAUW Louisiana**. Mail check and registration form to: **AAUW Louisiana**  
Phone: 985-727-3850 **Treasurer Deborah J. Freda**  
**68 Forrest Green Dr.**  
**Mandeville, LA 70448**