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LOUISIANA STATE NEWSLETTER

Join Us! AAUW State Convention on March 13th “Breaking Through Barriers” in Government

Join us for the 2010 AAUW-LA State Convention to be held in Hammond on the Southeastern Louisiana University Campus. The theme will be “Breaking Through Barriers” in Government, with an emphasis on how government impacts women’s lives! One keynote speaker will be **Dr. Laura Badeaux, Director of the Louisiana Center for Women and Government**, at Nicholls State University. **Dave Kirkwood**, from the **AAUW national Board of Directors**, will also be attending to update us on national programs and activities. Dave is traveling from Minnesota, so let’s show some warm Southern hospitality through good attendance! The Student Advisory Council members and other students will participate as well. Small group breakouts will take place to share ideas on increasing membership and effective networking. Don’t miss it!

*** Refer to the last full page of this newsletter for Registration Form and more details!***

Coming Soon! New Branch at Nicholls State University!



On November 4, 2009, Anne Taylor and Debbie Freda met the faculty and students at Nicholls State University for an on-campus “Open House”. It was organized by Student Advisory Council members, **Jeannette Adams-Burke** and **Anika Keyes**. The group was supported by **Dr. Michele Caruso**, **Dr. Laura Badeaux** and **Dr. Diane Garvey**, just to name a few. It was announced that these enthusiastic women would like to form their own branch! They are working through the process now and we hope to see them at the upcoming State Convention!

President's Message



State President - Debbie Freda

Hello To All!

The new year has started with a flurry of AAUW Louisiana activities! In February, Loyola University will host “**Campaign College: Women to Win**”. March is the **State Convention**, and I look forward to seeing everyone there! In April, two **\$tart\$mart Wage Project** workshops will take place – one hosted jointly by Tulane and Loyola, and the other hosted by LSU. April 20th is **Equal Pay Day**! June is the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), where AAUW-LA will help send several students to this important conference.

Nationally, January 29 marked the one-year anniversary of the **Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act**. It was the first piece of legislation signed into law by President Obama. Together with the House passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act, AAUW felt they were on the road to fair pay.

But a year later, the **Paycheck Fairness Act**, the essential companion legislation to the Ledbetter bill, remains stalled in the Senate. Your voice, emails and letters to Senator Landrieu and Senator Vitter are needed now more than ever! **Neither Senator has supported this bill!** Nationally, women earn 77 cents for every \$1.00 a man earns. In Louisiana, women earn even less -- 67 cents to a man's dollar!

Take Action Now! Go to www.aauw.org “Quick Links”, then drop-down menu “Two-Minute Activist”. Click on “Take Action”, and the website helps you craft a customized letter to Senators Landrieu and Vitter. It is *so* easy to do! And you will have your voice heard on Capitol Hill! Do It Now!



Calendar

February 20: Campaign College at Loyola University, New Orleans

March 13: AAUW-LA State Convention, Hammond

April 17: \$tart\$mart Wage Project, Loyola/Tulane, New Orleans

April 19: \$tart\$mart Wage Project, LSU, Baton Rouge

April 20: Equal Pay Day

June 3-5: NCCWSL, University of Maryland. *Early Bird Registration: 2/15 – 4/16, \$395*

AAUW National and State News



Past State President - Anne Taylor

AAUW Executive Director Speaks at NSF: AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman spoke about the ways in which AAUW promotes and strengthens math and science education for women and girls in a presentation before the **National Science Foundation's Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering** on October 26. Hallman provided an overview of AAUW's comprehensive approach, which includes distribution of fellowships and grants, publication of research findings, and the pursuit of new public policy.

AAUW Analysis of the President's First Year: AAUW announced the release of a comprehensive analysis of President Barack Obama's first year in office and the AAUW Action Fund scorecard of congressional votes. Real progress is being made on the issues that matter most to women and their families. However, some issues still lack progress. The Obama Administration's First Year: A Progress Report on AAUW Priority Issues, available at www.aauw.org, and the Congressional Voting Record for the first session of the 111th Congress, available at www.aauwaction.org, outline the AAUW priority issues that became law in 2009.

AAUW Research Report Coming Soon: AAUW will complete a new research report on women and girls in **math, science, technology, and engineering** in time for presentation at state conventions. The report and presentation materials will be available in March 2010.

AAUW-LA Encourages Girls in Science: In light of the AAUW national emphasis on encouraging girls' interest in the STEM fields, AAUW-LA is co-sponsoring the **Women in Chemistry** program at the Girl Scout Center in Baton Rouge on February 6th. Members of the women chemists' group, Iota Sigma Pi, will do hands-on science activities with Brownies in the morning and Junior scouts in the afternoon. AAUW will provide lunch between the sessions so the girls will have more time with the scientists.

Branch News

Baton Rouge

Submitted by Alice Luno, Branch President

The *Holiday Happening* on **January 9, 2010** was well attended, with about \$200 donated for children served by *Court Appointed Special Advocates* (CASA). Our seven Interest Groups, now underway, are the heart of our branch. Members are encouraged to participate in one, more, or all beginning at the New Member Tea. These are: Morning Book Group, Evening Book Group, Campus Study, Day Film Group, Gourmet, Great Decisions, and Travel Group. For contact information, call Alice, 225-768-1985.

There is a *Celebration of Writers and Readers Symposium* on **Saturday, February 27th** (originally February 8th). This is sponsored by the West Feliciana Library and the Friends of the Library of West Feliciana and will be held at the **Oxbow Restaurant in St. Francisville** at **830am-200pm with lunch included**. The day's agenda also includes speakers, book signings, Q&A, and critiques. For information or to reserve a spot, **call 225-635-3364, and join us for a fun day!**

Covington-Mandeville

Submitted by Jean Lotz, Branch President

On November 19th, our members organized a presentation about emergency services in St. Tammany and toured the state-of-the-art facility at the Homeland Security & Emergency Operation Center in Covington. Our speaker was the Director of the facility, Dexter Accardo. The presentation was held in the "Situation Room" where all emergency services are coordinated. On December 6th, the branch celebrated the holiday season. Lois Zeller and Annette Doskey-Williamson were each presented with the 2009 Eve Award, which is given to a non-board member(s) who has done the most for the branch throughout the year. Lois and Annette were recognized for organizing our branch's Anniversary/Reunion in September 2008. Special thanks to Paula Reynolds who led the effort to collect money and gift cards for area families in need. On January 28th, our branch co-sponsored a panel discussion with the League of Women Voters to discuss the high school dropout rate in Louisiana.

Metairie-Eastbank

Submitted by Barbara Harris, Branch President

Our branch had a lovely Holiday Dinner in December, inviting seven guests who are prospective members. On January 23rd, our program was at St. Alphonsus Art and Cultural Center where lectures were held on Zettler's stained glass windows and Canova's magnificent frescos. MAL's in the New Orleans area were invited to join us. Our program in February or March will be a presentation by Dzevdana (Jenna) Alic on "Surviving the War". Jenna came to the U.S. following the war in Bosnia. On April 19th, we will have Sharon Vercellotti give a presentation on the History of Chocolate. In May, we will have a year-end dinner, inviting the four recipients of our scholarship awards, who are graduating senior girls from our Eastbank high schools. For personal reasons, two of our very active officers, Sandra Chase Morris and Paige Schulte, are no longer involved with our branch; and we are missing their wonderful dedication after many years of service.

Branch Membership Growing in North Louisiana!

Congratulations to **North LA** who has grown their membership by 4 to 35 members, +13% vs. 2008-09!



Update on the Equal Rights Amendment

Submitted by Camille Moran, Public Policy Chair

ANDREWS TO SPONSOR NEW NATIONAL ERA RESOLUTION

It is an exciting time for the national Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) movement, and AAUW Louisiana is playing a major role in the unfolding events! As most of you know, **AAUW Louisiana is one of the sponsoring organizations of the national campaign** to introduce a new ERA Resolution on the floor of Congress. This resolution, whose Congressional lead sponsor is **Representative Robert Andrews (D-NJ)**, combines Andrews' Three-State Strategy with a new proposal. Authored by Carolyn Cook, leader of the parent sponsoring organization, United 4 Equality, this new proposal seeks the removal of the 1982 ERA ratification deadline.

As board members of United 4 Equality, my colleagues and I had the privilege of being asked by Congressman Andrews to draft the new resolution. It was quite a challenging, but very exhilarating and rewarding experience. Our draft was reviewed and approved by Andrews and forwarded to the House Judiciary Legislative Counsel's Office for further review, from which we are currently awaiting its return.

Having the deadline removal proposal combined with the Three-State Strategy is the best scenario we could have hoped for, on both a national and a state level. The passage of this critical legislation will make it much easier to lobby for ratification of the ERA here in Louisiana, because the ratification deadline has always been one of our state legislators' main issues of concern. Therefore, **I recommend that AAUW Louisiana focus on passage of this crucial national legislation before introducing a state ERA resolution again.**

Once the Legislative Counsel's Office has approved our resolution draft, we will begin our national publicity campaign and move full speed ahead with our lobbying campaign. At this time, **we are looking for a Senate sponsor, so that we may introduce the resolution in both houses of Congress.**

Rep. Andrews plans a tentative date for introduction and filing of the resolution in **April 2010**, so in the meantime in addition to obtaining a Senate sponsor, we must work to obtain original House co-sponsors, whose names will be listed with Andrews' name on the resolution. Any co-sponsors obtained after filing of the resolution will not have their names on the legislation, but they will still be considered co-sponsors, as long as they sign on prior to introduction on the House floor.

Rep. Andrews and United 4 Equality will also be holding a kick-off event/press conference in Washington, D. C. prior to the filing of the resolution in Congress.

Much assistance is needed with lobbying efforts and other aspects of the upcoming campaign from all of our AAUW Louisiana members. So, please stay tuned to your e-mail to find out how you can help in this history-making endeavor!

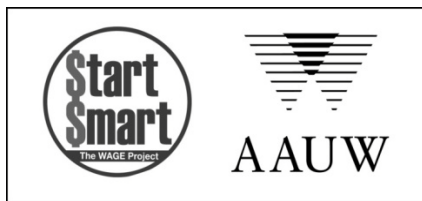
AAUW-LA Student Advisory Council

Two years ago AAUW-LA started a Student Advisory Council – a group of college students who advise us on how to serve the student community. Since that time, they have also promoted AAUW on their campuses and represented us at the National Conference of Women Student Leaders. Our SAC is modeled after a very successful SAC in Alabama. That one was modeled after the national SAC which helps to plan NCCWSL.

SAC members were recruited by contacting college presidents (and their representatives) from around Louisiana. In September we held an SAC meeting attended by 16 students representing 11 colleges. Debbie Freda and Anne Taylor presented an "AAUW 101" program for the students, and they brainstormed about potential topics for our state convention.

The SAC members have stimulated AAUW-related activities on their campuses. Loyola is hosting a Campaign College program on February 20. Tulane is hosting a Start Smart program and we expect other colleges to do so as well. The SAC members at Nicholls State University and their advisor organized a membership open house there in November. We expect to have a new AAUW Branch in Thibodeaux soon! Previously, SAC members stimulated the formation of a student Affiliate Branch at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond.

The Student Advisory Council will participate in the state convention on March 13 (as they did in 2007). They will join the "ladies" for the morning program of guest speakers and the luncheon and then have their own meeting in the afternoon. One of the best ways that we can serve the students is to provide them an opportunity for networking with each other.



\$start\$mart Wage Project Coming To Tulane, Loyola and LSU!

Congratulations to Tulane, Loyola and LSU for arranging this critically important workshop on their campuses! **Tulane/Loyola** will be on **April 17th**! **LSU** will be on **April 19th**!

Because negotiating salaries is a challenge for women at all stages of their career, the WAGE Project developed **\$start \$mart Campus Initiative** to empower young women starting their careers to avoid the gender wage gap. **Men are 4 times more likely to negotiate salaries than women!** This collaboration of WAGE and AAUW provides women, who are college juniors and seniors, with knowledge and skills when approaching the job market to negotiate salaries and benefits to receive fair and realistic compensation.

\$start \$mart Campus Workshops cover the following topics:

- The **personal consequences** of the gender wage gap: what a **\$1 million loss** over one's working lifetime means.
- **Resources** for benchmarking reasonable salaries and benefits
- **Negotiation** -- How to aim high and be realistic. Practice negotiation through role- playing exercises.
- **Know your bottom line** -- Develop a "bare bones" budget to pay rent, buy groceries, repay student loans, and other basic expenses.

For more information, please contact: **Cordelia Heaney, Tulane, cheaney@tulane.edu. Dr. Karen Reichard, Loyola, reichard@loyno.edu. Catherine 'Cat' Hopkins, LSU, chopkins@lsu.edu.**

Educational Foundation still needs our help!

Since the merger of the 2 halves of AAUW – the Association and the Foundation – AAUW is a single non-profit organization dedicated to equity and education for women and girls. All but a small portion of the organization is a 501 c 3 “corporation” so our donations are tax exempt. All the funds that we supported over the years, Legal Advocacy Fund, Eleanor Roosevelt, and others still exist and still need our help. (See www.aauw.org for more information on each.

There are a number of way that you can donate.

1. Donate through your branch. Have a fundraiser or collect donations in honor of someone. You can find the branch donation form in the Member Center of aauw.org.
2. Donate when you receive a mailing. You will hear form national several times per year and labels or note paper are sent out once or twice a year. If you donate this way, be sure to mention your branch and state so we get credit for it.
3. Donate on the computer. At www.aauw.org there is a box that says “donate now”. After a few clicks, you get a form to fill out, including a place to enter your credit card number. You will see a choice of funds for your donation:
 - AAUW funds (general support)
 - Legal Advocacy Fund
 - Fellowships
 - Research and Projects Grants
 - Public Policy Fund
 - Eleanor Roosevelt Fund
 - Leadership Programs Funds

To support our ongoing Women of Louisiana grant, choose Research and Projects Grants, then scroll down to LA – Women of Louisiana (#4253). We are trying to complete this grant so it can begin to help women.

Our Louisiana members have a good record of giving and we hope that it will continue!

Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to the following recent graduates who received a “Gift for Grad” membership from AAUW!

- **Anika Keyes** - Nicholls State University
- **Geona Garrett** - Tulane University
- **Sade’ Cyprian** - Southeastern Louisiana University
- **Ann O’Connor** - Southeastern Louisiana University
- **Deanna Rodgers** - Southeastern Louisiana University
- **Jacquita Garrett** – Saint Leo University, Florida

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Non-Profit Organization

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AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research