

From Your Co-Presidents. . .

Dear Branch Presidents:

This is the one *Branch Update* that will be mailed to you this year. Normally, we ask that members check our web page (www.florida-aauw.org) for updated information. However, with so much information to disseminate to all branches, and with our promise for more effective communication, the Board decided to make sure every branch is “on the same page”. Speaking of “pages,” *please be sure to pass on to your branch VP’s pages of this Update that might be relevant to them.* If you would prefer to have this issue as an e-mail attachment so that you can cut and paste to your branch officers, please contact Gretchen Zale, Administrative Assistant, at teal94@att.net.

First, we want to thank and congratulate all those branches that held candidate and issue forums, put together voter guides, worked on getting out the vote, and/or worked at the polls. In particular, kudos go to **the Palm Beach & Northern Palm Beach County Branches & Gold Coast BPW** for stuffing, licking, addressing, and sending out 14,000 voter guides in District 22!! Way to go!

We encourage you to now think about some good programming initiatives for the rest of the year. Don’t forget that Florida AAUW is one of the few states that offers its branches **mini-grants** to help offset some of your programming costs. The deadline for mini-grant support for spring programs is December 1, 2002. For mini-grant information and applications, contact Rose Webster at 813-634-1099 or getterry@aol.com. Congratulations to **Marco Island** and **Northern Palm Beach County**, recipients of the fall mini-grants!!!

Don’t forget that FL AAUW offers a Leader-on-Loan program. Branches and Interbranches may invite, once a year, a state officer or Foundation recipient to speak to their groups. The LOL application form is found on our web page under Member’s Corner, or from Martha Miller at marthajmiller1@msn.com or 850-386-4322.

Note that we have included an up-dated, action-packed calendar of events. We did this so that you can post it somewhere handy to recall action priorities. We also hope you will share it with your board and newsletter editor. In addition, please include the “**We vs They**” article in your newsletters whenever you have room.

Finally, a word about communication: should you or your members need information or advice, or if you have feedback, please use your FL AAUW Board as your first contact point. If all 15,000 branches contacted Washington with questions or complaints, it would cause a spectacular logjam. Let us play intermediary – more often than not it will speed up the process for you!!

Thank you for all the time, commitment, and love that you give to AAUW. It does not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

Leslie and Sally

Public Policy

Joy Bove Lurken, Public Policy Director

Now that the elections are over we are still faced with actions that our federal and state legislators took or failed to take that directly affect women and girls. These are a few examples of what has happened in the past year.

Congress has forged ahead with an agenda that can best be described as detrimental to equality and fairness for women and girls. In short they have:

- Pushed new welfare policies that would hurt women and families by not providing them with access to the education and training they need to become independent.
- Backed federal judicial nominees we can't trust to protect women's equality.
- Placed our retirement security at risk by moving forward with reckless tax cuts that put Social Security in jeopardy.
- Placed new restrictions on our reproductive freedoms and the right to choose.

Our state representatives have allowed childcare and family support to reach an all time low:

- 528,600 children are uninsured (14.4% of children.)
- 40,000 children are on waiting lists for subsidized child care.
- 4 out of 10 child care teachers leave their jobs each year.
- Fewer than 25% of Florida's licensed child care programs are accredited.
- Florida has the second highest number of child abuse and neglect cases in the nation.
- The percentage of children living in poverty in Florida grew 11% between 1990 and 2000.

Florida legislators have worked to defeat efforts for women to:

- Change being among the "worst states for women" in 200 (ranked 44th nationwide.)
- Reduce the discrepancy between women's and men's earnings. Women earn 77 cents to each dollar earned by men.
- Retain affirmative action in public employment, public contracts, and university admissions.
- Retain physical exams for poor women with life threatening medical situations as well as family planning services.

Florida AAUW is Turning 75!!

Planning is underway for a gala 75th anniversary convention in April, 2004. This celebratory convention should be fun! fun! fun! and we need everyone's ideas to make it the best ever.

The first "formal" planning meeting will be held at the home of Barbara Knapp, Chair, in Orlando on Saturday, November 23 from 10 a.m. until 2 or 3 p.m. Lunch will be served.

If you or someone in your branch would like to attend and brainstorm ideas to make this convention a truly festive and celebratory occasion, please call Barbara at 407/282-5449 (home) or 407/397-6178 (work) or e-mail her at jbknapps@cfl.rr.com and let her know you would like to be part of the fun. Directions to the meeting place will be provided.

Additionally, if your branch is celebrating 75 years or more, we really need to be in contact so synergy can be sparked! Fund-raising will **not** be a part of this planning session as it will be handled by a separate committee headed by our Co-Presidents. Come to Orlando on November 23rd and start the triumphant march to the very best convention Florida has ever created!

BRANCH HISTORIES DUE

All branch histories, or updates to their histories, must be in the hands of Leslie Henderson by April 25, 2003. Please send them to her as an e-mail attachment or on disk: FLAAUW@aol.com, 13608 Lytton Way, Tampa 33624. They should be camera ready, and should include name of branch, date established, name of first president, and number of charter members.

SHAPE THE FUTURE – WITH A TWO-FOR-ONE SPECIAL

Barbara C. Schwartz, Director of Membership and Emily H. England, Membership Committee

In order to encourage member-to-member recruitment, AAUW is continuing its Shape the Future Membership Campaign, including its Two for One Special. Shape the Future lets branches offer discounted memberships to new recruits while earning free Association memberships. It's simple: People joining at an AAUW-sponsored community event can take \$10 off Association dues. Or they can join with a friend and split the Association dues, saving almost \$20 each. Meanwhile, branches earn one free Association membership for every two new branch members recruited on the spot. Branches can also earn one free Association membership for every three new members-at-large recruited on the spot or after the activity.

This can be quite a boost for a branch and its members. Shape the Future enabled two Miami Branch members to remain in the branch. Thanks to layoffs, each had lost a job and felt she couldn't afford the membership with the austere budget that had become necessary. But Miami had earned two free Association memberships and used them to retain these members. While the free memberships must be **used** in the fiscal year in which they were earned, they can be **applied** toward the current or the following year's dues. There is a place on the redemption form to indicate which year the free memberships should cover.

Has your branch recruited a College/University member or used the Shape the Future program to recruit new members? Tell us your experiences. When branches share, Futures soar!

The New Year is around the corner which means so is the Shape the Future Half-Year Dues Incentive! For a great incentive, combine the Shape the Future Campaign with the half-year dues program, which runs January 1 to March 15. Under the half-year dues program, branch membership dues are more than 50 percent off: \$19.50 for membership expiring June 30th. Combine the half-year dues program with the Shape the Future Membership Campaign and what you have is...**Shape the Future Half-Year Dues Mania!**

- Take \$5 off the half-year dues discount and individual guests who join on the spot pay just \$14.50.
- Take 50 percent off the half-year dues discount for guests who join with a friend and they pay \$9.75 each!

We all know people who tend to join things together. Let's give them an incentive to join AAUW together!

Shape the Future – Recruit *Our* Future

Barbara C. Schwartz, Director of Membership and Emily H. England, Membership Committee

For an organization like AAUW to remain vital and thrive, it needs young blood. For an organization to avoid becoming stale, it needs new ideas and energy. Youth brings these to an organization. We need youth in AAUW to do this for us and to continue the work of AAUW for women and girls.

One of the best places to find the next generation of our members is a college campus. The best way to recruit students and faculty is with the institution's backing. As a College/University institutional member of AAUW, the C/U can get the word out to students and faculty and can also benefit from its membership.

The C/U benefits by being backed by a national network of 150,000 members and 1500 branches. AAUW will

- Spread the word about \$4 million in fellowships and grants
- Enhance the curricula with AAUW's cutting edge research
- Strengthen the community through programs for women
- Support public policy issues
- Give female students and faculty a dynamic national network

As a member, the C/U will receive special rates on

Research, Advertising, and Conferences, including the upcoming June conference, *The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (June 19-21, 2003 in Providence, R.I.)*

For your branch use, AAUW now has excellent brochures with attached applications to help you recruit C/U memberships. You should have received a few in your Membership Starter Kit, but you may order them via the help-line or even better, online at www.aauw.org. Log in to the Member Center by typing "aauw" to find how to order "Make the Connection" brochures and to view information and tips and a sample recruitment letter. Don't forget to be sure you have student affiliate brochures as well! Is the college or university in between two branches? Team up to recruit. More than one campus? Band together the appropriate branches and recruit.

FLORIDA AAUW 2003 CONVENTION

If you haven't put the convention dates on your calendar, April 25-27, 2003, do it now! Then share them with your branch members. The convention promises to be terrific! The committee is hard at work planning some super workshops and speakers. There will be time for fun and to chat with AAUW members from other branches. The format will be slightly different—after all, we are a vibrant, changing organization! You'll like the Orlando Airport Renaissance Hotel: it's nicely arranged, the rooms are lovely, the staff is very accommodating, and it is very accessible.

We are fortunate to have Pam Collins, Association Vice President for Program, as our leader on loan. In addition to being one of our featured speakers, she'll present an Intergenerational Workshop that has received rave reviews, and a session on What's Happening in Washington. As soon as we have the other speakers and workshop presenters confirmed, we'll let you know who they are. Watch your email and the web page for updates.

Sunday morning we'll discuss the proposed dues change that is to be considered at the Association Convention in Providence in June. AAUW, like all other organizations, must keep up with inflation. We've all seen our insurance costs go up alarmingly and they've gone up for AAUW, too! Please read more about the dues change on page 11 in the Fall issue of *AAUW in Action*. We'll also discuss any other items that will be voted upon at the Association Convention.

If you have ideas or suggestions for the 2003 convention contact, Alice O'Keefe (772/287-9878, email: dratok1@aol.com); Shirley Haglund (321/773-7912, email: sh7788@aol.com); or Sheila Leach (772/286-7589), email: Sheila.leach@juno.com).

WANTED: NAMES OF OUTSTANDING FLORIDA AAUW MEMBERS PAST AND PRESENT

Put your thinking caps on! The 2003 Convention Planning Committee wants the names of your present, past, and former branch members who, in addition to their AAUW membership, have accomplished something significant since 1929. Examples: Dedicated work in a non-traditional career for women such as sanitary engineering; election to the Florida Legislature; County office including Commissioner; or Mayor of a municipality, special awards for non-AAUW community service, etc. Send the name of the individual and the position held to Sheila Leach by January 1, 2003. Email: Sheila.leach@juno.com or US mail: Sheila Leach, 3624B SW Quail Meadow Trail, Palm City, FL 34990.

DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING! – November 15, 2002

We're looking for vitas from great prospects for the 2003-2005 Florida State Board of Directors! Have YOU considered throwing your hat in the ring for a state office? It is a marvelous opportunity to work with likeminded individuals who believe in the mission of AAUW and strive to make Florida an impactful part of the Association.

Unfortunately, Carolyn Willis who was elected Chair of the 2002-03 Nominating Committee has had to step down for personal family reasons, but we are pleased that committee member Doreen Archer, Central Brevard, has agreed to be Chair.

Nominees are needed for the following:

- President-Elect: this is a one-year term but is mandated to move into the Presidency in 2004-2006.
- Director for Program
- Director for Finance
- Director for Public Policy
- Director for Legal Advocacy Fund
- Director-at-Large: four to be elected

You may self-nominate or submit the names of those you feel would be well qualified to fill one of the vacancies. The permission of the nominee is required. Send names to Doreen Archer, 1265 St. George Rd., Merritt Island, FL 32952. Official vita forms are available from Doreen, da4567dig@aol.com, 321-453-4866; or from Barbara Knapp, jbknapps@cfl.rr.com, 407-282-5449.

Nominating Committee: Doreen Archer (Chair), Central Brevard; Janet Spurlock, Flagler County; Juliette Love, Ft. Lauderdale; Nancy Rachels, North Tampa; Renee Ramsay, New Smyrna Beach; ex-officio Florida AAUW Past Co-President, Barbara Knapp, Orlando/Winter Park.

WE vs. THEY

By Leslie M. Henderson, FL AAUW Co-President

Over the last several years I have either read in your branch newsletters or received telephone calls, e-mails and letters voicing concerns about dues increases, public policy positions, potential membership qualification changes, even about the direction of AAUW. Invariably they start off with the misconception that all of the above come down as fiat from Washington: "they" are doing "stuff" and "we" don't have a voice or a choice.

So I thought I would take a few minutes to clarify. First, let's talk about public policy, since that one seems to be in the forefront in an election year. AAUW decides on its public policy priorities via two ways. First, every biennium an "Every Members Survey" is published in *Outlook* and on the Association web page. In this survey members and members-at-large are asked to rank public policy issues according to priority, which includes an "other" category for those members who want to add an issue not included. According to the information gleaned from this survey, the Public Policy Committee puts together a list of priorities, which are presented at the Association convention and then are discussed and approved by the member delegates. Dues increases, membership qualifications, and other bylaws changes are either approved or rejected by member delegates at the Association convention by a 2/3 vote. The same is true for public policy priorities and dues increases on the state level; they are approved or rejected by delegates to the state convention.

Let's eliminate this "we versus they" once and for all! Members *have* a voice! But we need to learn how to use it effectively. This means urging our membership to fill out the "Every Member Survey" and to attend state and Association conventions. It means making our voices, and our branch and state delegate votes, count.

The next Association convention is being held in Providence, R.I. on June 20-23, 2003. I urge all branches to send at least one delegate, to vote your votes and to let your voices be heard. In addition, for the first time ever, **Florida AAUW has three (!) candidates running for AAUW office.** Barbara O'Connor is running for Educational Foundation secretary, Barbara Knapp is running for the Educational Foundation Board, and I am running for the newly created position of Director at Large of the Association. This is added incentive to help make Florida voices count. There is no doubt that Association convention is expensive, with travel, meals, and registration. Thus *I urge all branches to find some way of financially aiding your delegates, whether through a fund raiser or budgeting.* It will be money well spent!

We are one of the few thriving member-driven, grassroots organizations in America. It is up to us to participate in helping to shape the future and further the mission of AAUW.

CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

This year's Creative Writing Contest deadline is **March 10, 2003.** Categories and **maximum** word limits are:

- Short Story for Children, to 12 years of age: 900 words
- Short Story for Youth, 13-18 years of age: 900 words
- Short Story for Adults: 2500 words
- Humor: 2000 words
- Non-Fiction Articles: 2000 words
- Memoirs: 2000 words
- Rhymed Poetry: 30 lines max
- Free Verse Poetry: 30 lines max

ENTRY RULES:

1. Manuscripts must be TYPED double-spaced, one side, on 8½ x 11 white paper, top margin at least 1½ inches, sides and bottom 1 inch.
2. EACH entry must include a COVER SHEET with entrant's name, address (with zip code!), telephone number, branch, and category & title of entry. The WORD COUNT must be written on the top right-hand corner of the first page. Each succeeding page must be NUMBERED (by pen, typing, or computer).
3. A total of 3 SUBMISSIONS is allowed per member, regardless of category. Entry CATEGORY should be typed on the upper right-hand corner of the manuscript. Remember to **proofread!!!**
4. A CHARGE of \$5 PER ENTRY is made to cover cost of printing a booklet of winning entries to be given to winners, all Branch Presidents, and the State Board. Make check payable to Florida AAUW.
5. Mail to Kay Heimgartner, 15 Florabunda Circle, Orange City, FL, 32763, **POSTMARKED** on or before **MARCH 10, 2003.**

Entries **postmarked** after March 10th cannot be considered, according to Kay Heimgartner, contest chair. All entries should be unpublished, recent works. **DON'T** send your only copy as **no entries will be returned.** Many thanks to Gerry Tatham, New Smyrna Beach Branch, who is in charge of judging. This is always a BLIND judging.

Educational Foundation News

Beverly Kelly, Educational Foundation Director

Congratulations to the six Florida women who were awarded Educational Foundation Fellowships or Grants for the 2002-2003 year. Phyllis J. Henderson and Jessica Strate, both at the University of Florida were awarded Selected Professions Fellowships; Phyllis' area of study is Architecture and Jessica's is Environmental and Sanitary Engineering. Kibiby Mtenga, University of Florida, and Rashi Bahari, Florida State, were awarded International Fellowships; Kibiby's field is Agricultural Production and Rashi's is Radio and Television. Andrea Beane at the University of Florida was awarded a Career Development Grant in Education, and Kathleen O'Leary, Youth Development Director of the Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, was awarded a Community Action Grant to subsidize **On the Right Track, College Bound!**, a program for high school juniors and seniors.

Please consider inviting one of these women to speak at a branch informational meeting about the work of the Educational Foundation or at an Educational Foundation Fundraiser. Contact either Beverly Kelly (386/445-1249 or fuzzy@pcfl.net) or Sally Bailey (561/747-9909 or coflaauw@aol.com) for telephone numbers and addresses for these women.

SPECIAL 75TH ANNIVERSARY FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

By Sally Bailey and Leslie Henderson, Co-Presidents

Plans are already underway for our 75th Anniversary celebration in 2004 (*see article above*). In addition to the anniversary festivities, we would like to honor 75 years of commitment to our mission. To this end your board has decided to fund an Educational Foundation Research and Projects Grant, called the **Florida AAUW 75th Anniversary Grant**. In addition, this grant will hold a stipulation that, when possible, the grant monies should be awarded to Florida candidates. This particular grant was chosen for the following reasons:

- (1) These grants have been sadly under-funded in the last few years;
- (2) R&P Grants include Career Development grants for women who hold bachelor's degrees to prepare to advance their careers, change careers, or re-enter the work force. This works well into the branches' programming (both Transitions programs and Displaced Homemaker's scholarship programs);
- (3) R&P Grants are the funding source for Community Action Grants that provide seed money to individual women, AAUW branches and states, and community-based non-profit organizations for innovative programs that promote education and equity for women and girls. In recent years grants have been awarded to the Miami, Sarasota and Sun City Center branches, as well as to FL AAUW for their Financial Independence for Girls project. This year one was awarded to the Girl Scout Gulf Coast Council in Sarasota;
- (4) Both Career Development Grants and Community Action Grants afford great visibility for AAUW, and the money is much more likely to return to Florida in the form of grants helping women. These will provide not only great name recognition, but provide speakers for our branch and state events.

Please note that this anniversary grant is not meant to divert donations going to finish branch fellowships and grants that have not yet reached the stipend-bearing level, or from donations to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund. Instead we are hoping to raise \$100,000 separate from what we normally raise in Florida.

This is a big project, and we hope you are all as excited as we are! Won't it be wonderful to say that Florida AAUW contributions to an Educational Foundation Research and Projects grant regularly provide funding for an innovative program that promotes education and equity for women and girls? And won't it feel good to know that we help women with bachelor's degrees advance or change careers in order to become more successful?

Year's end approaches, so please ask those members who have not yet contributed to the Foundation this year to consider making a contribution to the 75th Anniversary Grant Fund. Checks should be sent to Sally Bailey, made payable to the AAUW Educational Foundation, at 140 Ocean Pines Terrace, Jupiter, FL 33477. She will put the proper fund documentation on them, make sure that all contributions are credited to the correct branch, and send them on to Washington before the end of December.

FL AAUW 75TH ANNIVERSARY CONTEST

Entries are now being accepted for a theme, with logo, for our 75th Anniversary Convention in 2004. Logos must be reproducible on computer, and be accompanied by an appropriate theme. All entries should be sent to Leslie Henderson, FLAAUW@aol.com. The deadline for entries is April 1, 2003, and the winner will be announced at our 2003 Convention in Orlando. Winner will be awarded a free AAUW membership for 2003-2004, including Association, State and Branch dues, and free registration (without meals) to the 2004 state convention

2002 – 2003 Calendar of Events

November 15 – Deadline for vita forms for candidates for Florida AAUW state board to be submitted to Doreen Archer, Nominating Committee Chair. Ask Doreen (da4567dig@aol.com), Sally Bailey (Coflaauw@aol.com) or Leslie Henderson (FLAAUW@aol.com) for forms.

December 1 – Mini Grant Applications due. Contact Rose Webster (getterry@aol.com) or call her at 813/624-1099.

December 31 – Deadline for Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund contributions to be in Washington for inclusion in the count for Contribution Year 2002. Mail earlier if at all possible due to the number of contributions sent in at the end of the year.

January 1 – March 15 – Half-Year Dues Incentive

January 1 – Names of Outstanding Women due to Sheila Leach, Sheila.leach@juno.com

January 6, 2003 – Deadline for Winter issue of *FloriVision*. Email articles written in Microsoft Word and jpeg photos to Irma Daniels at idaniels@cfl.rr.com.

January 11 – State Board Meeting – Lake Park Public Library, Lake Park, Florida

January 25 – Deadline to submit resolutions to be voted upon at the state convention in April. Contact Gloria Kapantais for submission form. 941/371-7575 or email: gkapantais@comcast.net

January 31 – New and renewal memberships must be **received** in Washington by this date to count for the 2002-03 membership year.

March 1 – Applications for 21st Century Recognition Program due in Washington.

March 10 – Postmark deadline for the Creative Writing Contest.

March 22-25 – Lobby Days in Tallahassee- Doubletree Hotel.

April 1 – Deadline for submission of themes including a logo for our 75th Anniversary Convention in 2004. Entries should be sent to FLAAUW@aol.com.

April 25 – Branch histories due to Leslie Henderson

April 25 – 27 State Convention - Orlando Airport Renaissance Hotel.

June 20 – 23 Association Convention - Providence, Rhode