

GET WITH THE PROGRAM

December 2004 Volume I, Issue IV

Association's Election 2004 Wrap-Up Report— The Impact on AAUW Issues

On the Association website you can find the November 2004 Election Wrap Up. Here are some of the highlights taken from that report.

The recent election brought out an estimated record 120 million voters (nearly 60% of eligible voters) which resulted in a split of the popular vote with 51% for the president and 49% for Senator Kerry. In the state and federal Congresses, Republicans made gains. All 11 state ballot initiatives to ban same-sex marriage passed easily. Florida passed two referendums that affect women and families; one establishing a constitutional amendment that requires parental notification for minors

seeking an abortion and the second increasing the hourly minimum wage requirement to \$6.15. California passed a \$3 billion publicly-funded stem cell research initiative which allows stem cell research but prohibits funding for human cloning research.

AAUW's mission lost congressional allies in Representative Nick Lampson (D-TX), Representative Martin Frost (D-TX) and Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD), all of whom voted with AAUW's public policy priorities 100% of the time in the 108th Congress. "The more conservative bent of the 109th Congress means AAUW will probably spend its time protecting rights we've

already won and less time actually advancing our priorities."

The impact of the November elections on AAUW public policy priorities including education, the federal marriage amendment, social security, judicial nominations, and reproductive choice are outlined in the report. For more detailed information please check out the full report or contact me if you do not have computer access.

Dot McLane, AAUW-PA PVP

Regular Features:

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Important Dates to Remember

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| April 8-10, 2005 | 76th PA State Convention, Hershey-Harrisburg |
| June 24-27, 2005 | National Convention, Washington D.C. |
| June TBD, 2005 | National Conference for College Women Student Leaders |

Program Ideas—Diversity

Most branches want to have more diversity in their membership but they don't know how to accomplish this. Fortunately, we have some great resources in the state of PA. On the state board we have our Diversity Chair, Linda Robbins, 65 Colonial Road, Allentown, PA 18109, 610-264-4416(H); 610-821-6286 (W), LRob164832@aol.com who is from the Allentown branch. Allentown has been very successful in reaching out to their diverse community with their branch programs and community action programs. Linda has contacted each branch and sent some information about

resources available to branches. She has offered to help in any manner that she can. I urge you to take her up on it, she is very knowledgeable in the area and can really guide you in the process of planning programs in diversity or reaching out to the population in your community. Linda is also a Leader on Loan.

In addition, the PA International Relations Liaison, Linda Friscia-Oppe is also a member of the Allentown branch and has organized a Multicultural Public Forum for the past 3 years. At state convention 2004 Linda R. and Linda F-O. along with other Allentown members

presented a workshop in diversity which included defining diversity and suggestions for how to make a diversity initiative happen. Linda F-O. has provided me with a copy of the Powerpoint presentation used at that workshop. You can obtain a copy of that presentation from me if interested.

As a starting point, utilize our Diversity Chair, Linda is more than happy to help you on any level - your board, a committee, or branch programming.



**Building
Diversity
In
Our Branches**

Branch Programs of Interest

Most branches either do not have a branch meeting in December or have some sort of holiday outing. So, I would like to wish everyone and their loved ones a very Happy Holiday and peace and happiness in the New Year.



Association News

In a news release dated November 3, 2004, the AAUW offered its congratulations to President George W. Bush on his reelection, and praised the American people for their record voter turnout. Lisa Maatz, director of Public Policy and Government Relations for AAUW identified several key areas that need crucial attention from the president and congress in the upcoming session: "1) A renewed commitment to working for the best public schools possible by providing adequate funding and support for teachers and students. 2) Guaranteeing that women have access to higher edu-

cation—a key to achieving economic security and independence. Ms. Maatz further states that this goal can be advanced through improvements AAUW recommends for the upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, welfare reform, and Perkins Vocational Education programs. 3) Demonstrating an active commitment to defending women by strengthening and reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act. 4) Stronger enforcement of Title IX, the law that prohibits sex discrimination in education as well as protects students from harassment. 5) A fair and balanced

judiciary that will respect settled law on critical civil rights provisions so important to women."

You can read this news release in its entirety on the Association website or contact me.

Lisa Maatz
AAUW Public
Policy
Director on
the Election

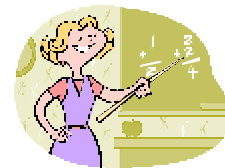
Educational Foundation (EF)/Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Corner

A recent report on the EF/LAF Merger was issued. Last May the EF Board agreed to accept the LAF Board's proposal of merger. Since then further discussions, research and consultation with legal and accounting professionals has been completed.

The EF and LAF Boards have unanimously agreed to

a full merger in which the LAF will cease to exist as a separate corporate entity (with an independent board) and the EF will be the surviving corporate entity. Further, the Legal Advocacy Fund will become a fund of the Foundation operating under the EF Program Committee and will retain its name. "For most purposes, this change will be

transparent to members and contributions will continue to be made payable to the LAF." Legal filings and documents are being prepared and approved by both Boards to complete the merger which should be completed in the next several months. (Excerpted from AAUW State PVP communication from Association November 17, 2004).



AAUW-PA Board News—State Convention

The Program VP is feverishly working along with the board to finalize plans for the State Convention being held April 8, 9 and 10, 2005 in Harrisburg-Hershey. The elements of the convention that are set include a social outing on Friday to tour the beautiful state capitol with our tour guide Representative Mauree Gingrich. After the tour we will have a light

snack and meet with interested state representatives. I will be asking branches to help me get their local representatives interested in participating—more on that at a later time. Workshops that are set include Trafficking of Women and Girls in the United States, Ensuring the Future of Your Branch, Website Design for Branches, and Women in

State Government. The balance of the workshops are in the process of being finalized as are the guest speakers. As information becomes available it will be reported in this newsletter and I plan to get the information on the website shortly. Of course, look for your convention Keystone in February.





**AAUW Pennsylvania Newsletter
for Branch Program VPs**

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The American Association of University Women promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

State Website aauwpa.org

Association Website aauw.org

Get With the Program

Adelante Book of the Month Club

The Adelante Book Club selection for December is ***When Zachary Beaver Came to Town* by Kimberly Willis Holt (1999)**. In a small Texas town, 13-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, billed as the fattest boy in the world.

Public Policy Priority

The featured priority is:

“Adequately funding programs that address the needs of all women, with an emphasis on financial security and quality health care”



“When Zachary Beaver Came to Town”

**By Kimberly Willis
Holt**