

GET WITH THE PROGRAM

May 2005 Volume I, Issue 8

AAUW-PA CONVENTION REPORT

Convention 2005 was a great time. Our keynote speaker for Friday's dinner was Leslie Stiles and she informed us about what was happening at the PA Commission for Women, she was comprehensive and entertaining. The Lt. Governor, Catherine Baker Knoll, opened our business meeting. She is a remarkable woman who has built an impressive career. Her passion and dedication to her work was quite apparent. At Saturday's lunch we had fabulous presentations by Dr. Catherine Hill from the EF who spoke about the publication Tenure Denied that PA helped to get published and distributed; and a former LAF

plaintiff Dr. Ricky Hirschhorn who chronicled her experience in being denied tenure. Dr. Hirschhorn was courageous to fully pursue her case and after hearing about her ordeal you could not help but admire her. At Saturday's dinner Dr. Irene Baird spoke about her program in which she works with women in prison using literature and writing to help them understand how they got where they are. She is an amazing woman to take on such a critical and difficult project. The last session breakfast on Sunday was followed by a Town Hall on AAUW and its international connections. Louise McLeod introduced the

topic and did a great job summarizing our past connections with the various international women's groups and what our status is now. Camille Macdonald-Polski made some additional remarks about Association and IFUW. The previous day at the Business Meeting the body passed a resolution as follows—Resolved that AAUW-PA urges the National Association to make every effort to remain members of the International Federation of University Women. It was clear that AAUW-PA members feel strongly that we need to maintain our bonds with the IFUW.

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Important Dates to Remember

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| June 2-4, 2005 | National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, Washington, D.C. |
| June 24-27, 2005 | National Convention, Washington D.C. |
| July 16, 2005 | AAUW-PA Branch Leadership Meeting, Lewisburg, PA |

Program Idea— LAF Programming

The Legal Advocacy Fund Tool Kit provided by Association states that the key to boosting personal and financial support for LAF's mission is effective programming within your branch. They provide several suggestions for programming.

Show an LAF Video. There are several tapes in the LAF library which run from 20 to 40 minutes and can be borrowed free of charge. These videos are of individual plaintiff presentations including the award-winning *Speaking Out for Justice*. Contact the LAF national office to reserve a video and it will be mailed to you no later than one week before your scheduled viewing.

Perform the Reader's Theater. From the LAF national office you can obtain the most recent version of the Reader's Theater. This program consists of a script featuring the compelling stories of LAF-supported plaintiffs. A moderator and five to 10 women read plaintiff's roles and engage the audience over each plaintiff's legal frustrations and triumphs. Since the scripts are read you do not need to memorize but simply can practice a read through prior to the actual performance.

Invite Guest Speakers to Your Branch. Former or current LAF Plaintiffs. Find out if there is a former or current plaintiff located near you from the LAF staff. If you have a plaintiff nearby, ask LAF staff about inviting her to speak—please do not contact a plaintiff directly. This program is a good opportunity for donors and potential donors to learn the benefits of their contributions.

Local University Speaker. Ask the campus women's center or women studies department in your community to recommend a faculty member who can speak about women on campus and invite her or him to speak. The speaker can address topics such as women and tenure, the climate for women on the local campus, the institution's sexual harassment policies, and Title IX's impact. Another option is to invite the institution's Equal Employment Opportunities officer or the Title IX compliance administrator to speak.

Legal Professional. Locate an attorney, law professor, or legal consultant to discuss issues involving sex discrimination in education. You can contact the LAF national office to see if an LAF Network member is located near you. Ask members to recommend a legal professional with expertise in sex discrimination. Contact your local or state bar association for a list of attorneys in your area who have experience with sex discrimination cases. Contact the National Employment Lawyers Association at www.nela.org (415-227-4655) to locate a potential speaker near you.

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Local Progress in Equity (PIE) Awardee. Contact LAF staff or check the AAUW website to verify if a current or former PIE Award winner is located near you. Invite the project director or other representative to speak about the program and the impact of LAF's support.

Organize Support for Local LAF-Supported Plaintiffs. Contact LAF national office to request the names and contact information for local LAF-supported plaintiffs whose cases are active. You can work with branch members to organize attendance at the plaintiff's court hearing, or perform campaigns in the community to raise awareness about the issue in the case.

AAUW website resources—Go the aauw.org and enter the member center. Click on Legal Advocacy Fund along the top bar and it takes you to the LAF home page. Here you can access the Tool Kit for free download and other information. The contact is listed as laf@aauw.org and the LAF Director is Leslie Annexstein, 202/785-7750 or use the laf@aauw.org e-mail.

PA Branch Meetings of Interest

Most branches are having a closing dinner banquet and/or scholarship awards ceremony in May.

In the next issue of this newsletter I hope to provide you with some resources for planning your programs for fiscal year 2005-2006.

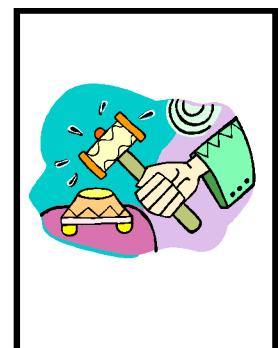
Please consider sending me a list of your programs for the year once you have scheduled them so I can list them on occasion in the newsletter.

Also, if your branch is changing Program Vice Presidents, try and send me

the name(s) of the incoming officers and contact information. Thanks.

As always, if there is anything I can do to help you in your programming endeavors, please contact me.

Dot



AAUW-PA Convention Report—continued

The workshops were outstanding, each and every one. Attendees remarked that the workshops were excellent, timely, great. No one went away disappointed. The Trafficking of Women and Girls in the US was praised as a vital topic we need to discuss more and that it raised awareness. Camille Macdonald-Polski organized this workshop and introduced the topic followed by Phyllis Forman and Cherie Sammis, a particularly impressive speaker. The Women in State Government workshop presented by Representative Mauree Gingrich drew remarks like “I wish that Mauree was my representative” and “Thanks Mauree—you go girl!”. The Website Design for Branches presented by Louise McLeod was extremely informative and exceeded expectations. The Ensuring the Future of Your Branch was highly praised and the presenters complimented, Jane Snyder—“Can we bottle Jane’s energy? And Susan Nensstiel—“She is a poised speaker

that knows a great deal about AAUW and its mission”. The No Child Left Behind Act presenters—Marianne Bartley, Audrey Utley and Bernadette Meck—were just great. They did a terrific job of explaining a difficult law and speaking about how they deal with the implementation of it in their respective school districts. The Branch Programs in Literacy (Let’s Read Math, Write Read Write, and Family Dinner Hour) presented three wonderful programs that branches undertake to promote literacy in their communities. Dr. Claire Passantino discussed her Let’s Read Math program, Janice Cromer and Barbara Rooney presented Write Read Write, and Alice Lichty, Betty Fortner and Anita McCarthy described Family Dinner Hour.

The social outing on Friday consisted of a tour of the Capitol building and a get together with Representative Mauree Gingrich and Senator Pat Vance to talk about being a woman in government. It was a great outing.

Nearly everyone attended their district caucus, reviewed the state grant winner displays and bought items from the sales room. The meals and accommodations were rated as a mixed bag with most people feeling they were at least good. Several participants remarked that they really enjoyed the icebreaker activities that were done at two meals in which attendees were randomly seated. At Friday’s dinner each person needed to tell the rest of the table something about themselves as instructed on a card given to them and for Saturday’s lunch each person had a card describing a different famous American woman and the table had to guess the identify. This gave attendees an opportunity to mix with women they did not know and share experiences from their branch. Most people liked it—“I loved the icebreakers”, “Fabulous icebreakers”, “Mixing seating a great idea”. Old friends were able to catch up at the other meals.

All in all it was a great experience.

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

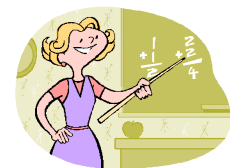
Many of you know that in April the AAUW-PA EF Chair/LAF Liaison, Kathy Lepovetsky, was tragically killed in a car accident at the age of 45. It was an unbelievable shock to all the board members who currently and previously served with her.

Kathy was a petite woman with a effervescent personality. She passionately believed in the AAUW mission and worked diligently to contribute to that mission. She loved animals of all shapes and sizes.

Kathy was devoted to and very proud of her husband

Neal and her dog Logan. She was very close to her parents and her siblings.

Kathy will be terribly missed by her loved ones, her AAUW colleagues, and all who knew her. God bless you Kathy.



AAUW-PA News

New Officers

Incoming officers elected during the Business Meeting at convention were—Jane Snyder, Membership Vice President, Marda Kunkle, Finance Officer and Wilma Kennedy, Secretary. Congratulations to all.

PA STAR Applications

Applications for the new PA STAR Program for Branch recognition are due by May 1 to Maryrose Petrizzo, MVP maryrose60@yahoo.com. They may be accepted if you are not too much later than this.

AAUW-PA Branch Leadership Meeting

This meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2005 at the Best Western in Lewisburg (Country Cupboard). Information was sent to branch presidents in the FYI.



**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 May, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, is *First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers* by Loung Ung (2001).

Public Policy Priority

The featured priority is:

"Promoting and encouraging women to seek appointed and elected public office."



"First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers"

By Loung Ung