

GET WITH THE PROGRAM

October 2004 Volume I, Issue 2

ELECTION DAY—NOVEMBER 2, 2004

Election day is Tuesday November 2. Branches offering "Meet the Candidates" meetings include: **LANSDALE** on Tuesday October 19 with the four candidates who are on the ballot for the 13th Congressional District including two women, Allyson Schwartz (D) and Melissa Brown (R). This program is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and is being held at North Penn High School at 8 PM. For additional information please contact Program Vice President Barbara Grula, 610-584-1032.

CARLISLE's meeting is on Tuesday October 26 and you have an opportunity to meet the candidates for the 31st Pennsyl-

vania Senatorial District. The meeting is at 7 PM in the Holland Union Building of Dickinson College. Slated to attend are Representative Patricia Vance (R) and Sean P. Quinlan (D). For additional information please contact Program Vice President Mary Brandt 717-249-1367.

In addition to these branch meetings, there is a Meet the Candidates presented by the **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS (NAWBO)**. This meeting is on Thursday October 14 at 7:45 AM to 10 AM. Expected to attend are Arlen Specter, US Senate, Joe Hoeffel, US Senate, Connie Williams, PA Senate, 17th District,

Melissa Brown and Allyson Schwartz, PA Congress, 13th District, Bob Casey, Jr., PA State Treasurer and Jean Craige Pepper, PA State Treasurer. The meeting is at the Pyramid Club, 52nd Floor, 1735 Market Street, Philadelphia. Registration is \$35 prior to October 11 and includes a buffet breakfast. For registration information go to www.nawbophila.org.

If your branch is close to one of these locations, please encourage your members to attend. Women are the majority in this country, we need to exercise that powerful right we hold. Encourage every woman you know to **GET OUT AND VOTE!**

Important Dates to Remember

October 8, 2004	Deadline for State Program Grant Applications and State Membership Grant Applications
November 2, 2004	Election Day
November 12-14, 2004	2004 International Symposium to Focus on Public Health and Technology, Washington, D.C.
November 15, 2004	Deadline for Membership Dialog
April 8-10, 2005	76th PA State Convention, Hershey-Harrisburg
June 24-27, 2005	National Convention, Washington D.C.

Regular Features:

- ?? Association News
- ?? AAUW-PA News
- ?? Program Ideas
- ?? Public Policy Priorities
- ?? EF/LAF Corner
- ?? Adelante Book Club
- ?? Association Community Programs

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Program Idea—No Child Left Behind

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 is a controversial law. No one disagrees with the intent of the law but many criticize its implementation. This issue being one of education is a natural for the AAUW.

The NCLB is designed to improve student achievement. The components include a stronger accountability for results, more freedom for states and communities, proven education methods and more choices for parents. It provides for measuring reading and math skills in grades 3 to 8 and at least once during grades 10 to 12, testing in science assessment by 2007-2008, it requires schools to report to parents the student achievement data, and provides for the transfer of students from schools classified as either needing improvement, corrective action or restructuring. Critics say that the law does not provide adequate funding, puts too much focus on a narrow curriculum and too little focus on social causes of poor performance (poverty, neglect and various social disadvantages), arbitrarily suggests transferring students to "better" schools, etc.

There is a wealth of information on the web if you choose to offer a branch program on NCLB. The government website ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml explains the law,

provides a powerpoint presentation that can be downloaded, has a 44 page parents guide (2003) and a Toolkit for Teachers both available to download or request copies. Of course being the government's website it also carries its inherent bias about the NCLB act. For an opposing point of view the website nochild-left.com provides adequate bias of its own. It gives many links to articles that further discuss criticisms of the NCLB act. The Pennsylvania Department of Education website pde.state.pa.us/ does a good job of highlighting key issues that would improve the implementation of NCLB in PA. It also provides the state's position paper, a 13 page document.

A good mix of pro and con advocates would be most useful to a program on NCLB so your members could evaluate this law and decide for themselves where they stand. Invited speakers could include local school teachers and administrators, local politicians, and parents including those with children with disabilities. If you live nearby you can also attend the **MAKEFIELD** Branch's NCLB Program on Tuesday October 19 at 7 PM. Speakers include moderator Mark Klein, Superintendent Council Rock School District and participants US Rep. James Greenwood, Legislative Chair Council Rock School District Anne Marie Owings, and Bensalem School Principal Mary Gentile. For location and

additional information contact Beverly Giardinelli at Bev333G@aol.com, 215-295-2344.

For those without computer access, contact Dot McLane 215-362-3805 for information about offering a program on the NCLB Act.



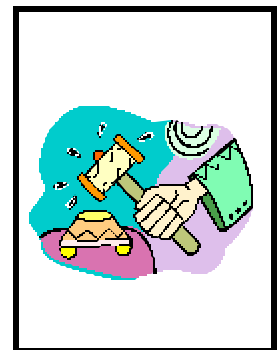
"They said we could move our kids to this so-called good school, but they squeezed 'em in so tight, it's like sardines in a can! How's that going to improve learning?"

PA Branch Meetings of Interest

EASTERN DELAWARE COUNTY Mother Jones: My Life and Times. A one woman play about the famous labor leader written and performed by Margaret A. Orner. October 4 at 7:30 PM, AT Covenant Methodist Church, Saxer & Springfield Roads, Springfield. Contact Phyllis Belk, phyllis.belk@verizon.net, 215-769-3553.

VALLEY FORGE Cynthia Little on "Remember the Ladies—Restoring Women's History". October 12 at 7:30 PM. Contact Eleanor Erskine eerskine.eerskine@verizon.net, 610-644-7631.

BEDFORD Eldercare Responsibilities. October 14 at 6 PM, Carriage House Restaurant. Contact Robin Imgrund 814-623-7327.



Association News

New Corporate Partner

AAUW's newest corporate partner is The Allstate Foundation, an independent, charitable organization made possible by the Allstate Corporation. In late April the Allstate Foundation awarded a \$155,000 grant to the AAUW Leadership and Training Institute (LTI) to help underwrite the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) held in June. The money provided 25 scholarships to minority and underserved students. The Allstate Foundation also sponsored AAUW's signature Women of Distinction Reception and will fund the

AAUW Emerging Leaders Program: Campus Community Action Project.

Membership Dialog

For several years AAUW members have debated the membership requirements that open AAUW membership only to people with four-year degrees. In an effort to survey its members at large, Association has requested a dialogue. The AAUW Membership Committee will review the responses and delegates will take up the issue again at the 2005 convention. The forms are to be completed and returned to committee Chair Jeannette Phillips by

November 15, 2004.

AAUW Online Museum

In April the AAUW Online Museum was introduced. The museum is a virtual clearinghouse of AAUW history. You will get a glimpse into AAUW's rich tradition of leadership, scholarship, advocacy, and action. The museum contains 123 years of AAUW artifacts and memorabilia and the stories behind them. There are three additional "wings" Advocacy & Action, Research & Publications, and Scholarship & Support.

**Membership
Dialog —
Express Your
Opinion**

**Visit a
Museum
Today**

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

EF

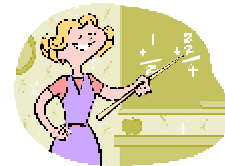
The AAUW EF has been providing educational and research support for international women graduate students since 1917. EF hosts a biennial international symposium and the next one will be held on November 12-14, 2004 in Washington D.C. entitled International Perspectives:

Women Leading Change in Public Health and Technology. The purpose is to explore the innovative ways women are creating change throughout the world. For more information visit aauw.org.

LAF

A former clinical instructor at the UCLA School of Medicine, Janet Conney, has won

a \$2.95-million judgment against the University in a sex discrimination and retaliation case. The jury found that UCLA had discriminated against Janet Conney in her efforts to obtain a tenure-track position, then retaliated against her when she complained. The bulk of the award, \$2 million, was for the loss of potential earnings.



United Nations Day—Women's Rights & Empowerment—Scranton Branch

The **SCRANTON** Branch's meeting being held on Thursday October 21 is a joint event with the Northeastern Chapter of UNA-USA. A workshop and luncheon is being held in honor of the founding of the United Nations over 59 years ago. The UN Day theme is Women's Rights and Empowerment. Approximately 300 people are expected to attend this luncheon including over 150 high

school and college students from Northeastern PA. The students attend a workshop in the morning arriving at 9:30 AM. The luncheon begins at 11:45 AM and the guest speaker will be Mary Purcell who possesses a wealth of knowledge and experience on AAUW and IFUW efforts at the UN. If you would like to make a reservation for this luncheon please call Eliza-

beth Bonczar at 570-563-1417, the cost is \$15 per person with entrée choice of Chicken Milanese or Baked Haddock. The luncheon is located at the Radisson Hotel at the Lackawanna Train Station in Scranton.





**AAUW Pennsylvania Newsletter
for Branch Program VPs**

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Lansdale, PA 19446

215-362-3805
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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 October (Disability Awareness Month) is ***Riding the Bus with My Sister: A True Life Journey*** by Rachel Simon (2002). Rachel Simon's sister, who has mental retardation, spends her days riding local public buses. Then she invites Rachel, who learns a lot about her sister, her sister's disability, and her own limitations.

Public Policy Priority

The Association website, aauw.org has improved its Issue Advocacy section.

Changes have been made to the look, feel, and organization. The site offers tools for individual or group grassroots activism and continues to make available comprehensive AAUW position statements on issues. A new Action Network is forming to help interested members stay current on AAUW's most pressing advocacy and action needs. Check it out.

The featured priority is:

"Adequately funding programs and services that educate women and girls for employability."

**DON'T FORGET TO
VOTE ON**

TUESDAY

NOVEMBER 2, 2004

**TELL ALL YOUR
FRIENDS**

**EXERCISE YOUR
RIGHT**

TO VOTE



***"Riding the Bus with
My Sister: A True
Life Journey"***

By Rachel Simon