

GET WITH THE PROGRAM

September 2005 Volume II, Issue 1

Welcome to the Branch Program VP Newsletter

For those of you who are new Program Vice Presidents (PVPs) for your branch let me explain what this newsletter is. This newsletter is designed to help keep you informed about the many aspects of AAUW. Topics to be covered in this and successive newsletters are meant to help you better perform your role as a Branch PVP. A lot of what will appear will be informational. Regular updates on what is going on at AAUW national and the state will be given. Updates on EF research and LAF will be featured in the EF/LAF Corner. Each issue will highlight one of the Public Policy Priorities established by the state or national AAUW. Any up-

coming AAUW meetings or symposia, both national and state, will be mentioned and registration information provided for those interested. Grants that are offered will be described and application procedures given. International women's issues that are being addressed by national and the states may be highlighted. The Adelante Book Club selection of the month will be included as well as any other similar AAUW items of interest.

Each newsletter issue will endeavor to help you with some aspect of programming. This may include sharing a good program one of the branches presented, programs that

national has created, resources for programs, and so forth.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you up to date on AAUW happenings and to help you with your branch's programming. If you have any suggestions or contributions you would like to make to the newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact me. The plan is to provide this newsletter via e-mail or USPS for those not computer-connected, on a monthly basis from September to June. I hope you find it useful.

Dot McLane, AAUW-PA Program Vice President

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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Important Dates to Remember

November 15, 2005	PA Governor's Conference for Women, Philadelphia, PA
September 21, 2005	Deadline State Program Grant Application
October 14, 2005	Deadline State Membership Grant Application
March 31, April 1-2, 2006	77th PA State Convention, Johnstown

Program Ideas—National Convention 2005

At the programming sessions during Convention 2005 some suggestions for branch programming were discussed. I have summarized these and placed them on the state website, aaupwa.org, under Program.

Briefly the new theme Education as a Gateway to Women's Economic Security was unveiled. The focus of this theme is to take the accomplishments that AAUW has made in equity in education and ensure these translate into lasting, lifelong equity for women and their families.

Another session emphasized the power of forming coalitions with other women's organizations with similar missions to share the burden and joy of program planning and implementation.

The idea of using one theme for a year's worth of programs was presented. Suggestions were to focus on a Educational Foundation report on a topic of interest and build multiple speakers around this report.

Using monthly meetings as program committee meet-

ings was also suggested in an effort to minimize meetings for those members who serve on branch committees for various branch projects.

All sessions on programming emphasized that it is important that the majority of branch programming be devoted to ideas relevant to the AAUW mission—promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change including objectives in educational equity, diversity, public policy, voter education, membership, EF, LAF, etc.



PA State Website for Programming

Several items have been added to the state website under Program. You will find a listing of the Pennsylvania EF grant and fellowship recipients for 2005. These women are excellent choices for program speakers and may be in your neighborhood.

A summary of the Education as a Gateway for Women's Economic Security theme, ideas for seeking out coalition partners, and notes from the convention are given.

The 2005-2006 Leader on Loan brochure is also on the website.

Last year's PVP newsletters are available for your reference and some program ideas are listed. Later this year I will be asking you to help me increase this list of programs by submitting a good program your branch may have offered that others could replicate.



Pennsylvania Governor's Conference for Women, Philadelphia PA, Tuesday November 15, 2005

The second PA Governor's Conference for Women is taking place in Philadelphia at the Convention Center. AAUW-PA is a supporting organization and will have a booth at the exhibitions. The keynote speakers include Madeleine Albright, Sandra Day O'Connor, Lisa Ling and

Sarah Jones. Individual registration is \$100 by October 13 and \$110 after that. Karen Rowe, PA State President has been taking names of those interested in registering under a Group Registration which will also cost you \$100 but you would get a reserved table for lunch. Also if you are interested in

staffing the exhibitor booth she is looking for individuals. Please contact Karen (karenrowe@suscom.net or 717-767-6654) if you want to be part of the Group Registration (DO NOT register on-line). For more information visit the website www.pagovernorsconferenceforwomen.org.



Association News— Convention 2005

At convention 2005 Ruth Z. Sweetser was elected president of AAUW. Ms. Sweetser served as President of AAUW Illinois from 1995-1998. In 1996 she was key in the establishment of AAUW-Illinois' Gender Equity Fund (GEF) and currently serves on that board of directors. Since 1996 she has been a member of the Illinois State Board of Education Gender Equity Advisory Committee. A frequent presenter on the topic of gender equity, she was invited by the White House to testify before President Clinton's Commission on the Celebration of Women's History. Ms. Sweetser serves on the Advisory Council of the Junior League of Chicago, the Lombard Planning Commission since 1989, her church as an elder, and finished seven years on the board of the

SciTech Museum in Aurora. She is currently the Director of Professional Learning and Business Relations in the Graduate College, Illinois Institute of Technology.

The newly appointed AAUW Executive Director was Kathy Frost. However, do to health issues, Ms. Frost regrettably had to withdraw from this position. The new interim Executive Director is Michele Warholc Wetherald.

A new biennial theme was unveiled at convention 2005 entitled "Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security". A summary of this theme is available on the state website under Program. Programming information from national will follow in the coming months.

A by-law change was made

in the eligibility criteria for AAUW membership. Persons with an Associate's Degree or equivalent are now able to join AAUW as full members. An equivalent degree is defined as an academic degree or diploma awarded by an institution such as a business school or hospital. Those with more than two years of college but no degree or diploma are **NOT** eligible for membership. Questions on eligibility can be directed to membercriteria@aauw.org or the AAUW helpline 800-326-2289.

Convention newsletters and additional convention coverage is available online at association's website, aauw.org.

**Ruth Z.
Sweetser, new
AAUW
President**

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

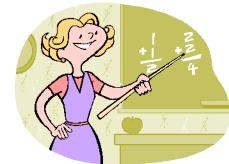
EF

At the national convention the EF presented to Madeleine Albright the 2005 AAUW Achievement Award which is awarded biennially to a woman of outstanding achievement whose lifetime body of work aligns with the AAUW mission.

LAF

In a July Association press release they urged the senate not to rush to judgment on the nomination of Judge John Roberts to the Supreme Court reissuing their strong concerns about Judge Roberts judicial philosophy including his strong opposi-

tion to reproductive choice and family planning. For the complete article see the association website aauw.org.



AAUW-PA Board News

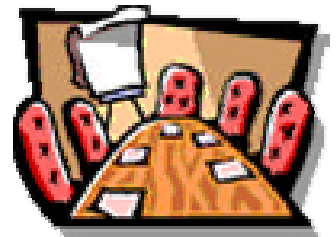
The STATE Convention 2006 has been set for Friday March 31 and Saturday April 1-2, 2006 in Johnstown, PA. Additional information will follow in the coming months.

State program grant applications have been sent to

PVPs of record last year, to branch Presidents and are available on the state website or from Dot McLane, AAUW-PA PVP. The deadline for submission is September 21, 2005.

Membership grant applications have been sent to

branch presidents and are available on the state website or from Jane Snyder, AAUW-PA MVP. The deadline for submission is October 14, 2005. This year winning branches will receive two vouchers for association and state dues.





**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 September (Hispanic Heritage month) is ***The Pearl of the Antilles* by Dr. Andrea O'Reilly Herrera (2000)**. This book chronicles the lives of several generations of Cuban women focusing on Margarita, an exile in the U.S. who struggles to come to terms with her divided identity, a past she has suppressed, and her failure to share her heritage with her children.

Public Policy Priority

The public policy program underscores the AAUW's mission of promoting equity and education for all women and girls. AAUW-PA actively endorses the Association Public Policy Program. Branches are encouraged to offer programs that reinforce these priorities. The featured association priority is:

To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW advocates:

"Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the work force, including nontraditional occupations."



***"The Pearl of the
Antilles"***

**By Dr. Andrea
O'Reilly Herrera**