

Breaking News



Kathy Frost

AAUW announced the appointment of new Executive Director Kathryn Frost, effective Aug. 1, 2005 at the National Convention. Convention attendees were able to meet Kathy at many events throughout the weekend and heard her first address to AAUW members at the Sunday morning business session. However, Kathy almost immediately resigned due to personal health reasons, as the notes below indicate.

She was replaced by Ruth Sweetser

Kathy Frost will not be joining us because she has been diagnosed with recurring breast cancer. It is traumatic and horrific for her - my heart goes out to her. And it is another sad day for AAUW because we will not have her as a leader in our family. You may send letters and cards of support to her to the Association: Kathy Frost c/o American Association of University Women, 1111 Sixteenth Street - NW, Washington, DC 20036 and they will be forwarded to her.

Lance Armstrong survived cancer more than once, and maybe our letters to Kathy will help her heal a second time. **Diana Campo Director at Large**

NEWSFLASH RUTH SWEETSER ELECTED PRESIDENT OF AAUW

See article on page 3

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State Leadership Conference

The Oklahoma Leadership Conference was held in Edmond at the UCO Wellness Center on July 16, 2005. The theme of the conference was "Purpose, Power, Progress." Diana Campo, outgoing SWC Regional Director and new Director at Large reported the following actions at the national AAUW Convention:

New theme: Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security

New statement of strategic direction: "To promote education and equity for all women and girls by positioning ourselves as the recognized leader, advocate, and resource on contemporary gender equity issues."

Continuation of the **One in a Million Campaign**.

Adoption of the **Member Get a Member Campaign**.

Pilot Mentor Leader Campaign,

Continuation of the 21st Century Program.

"To promote education and equity for all women and girls by positioning ourselves as the recognized leader, advocate, and resource on contemporary gender equity issues." AAUW's new strategic direction

Diana Campo also issued these challenges to the Oklahoma Branches of AAUW:

Have a minimum of 6 branch members in attendance at the SWC Regional Conference in June, 2006 (see Calendar of Events).

Increase membership by 5% with a priority on both women and men with 4-year college degrees.

Have a program that is either a community event or a branch/college/university event combined with an EF/LAF fundraiser.

Select a bill at either the state or federal level to support or oppose according to the AAUW position and have a letter or e-mail (but not petition or chain) campaign.

Provide your community media with 3-5 news briefs, media releases, or feature stories to increase AAUW visibility.

Make 21st Century applications for association and state recognition.

During the morning session of the leadership conference, Keith Weber, Managing partner of the Weber Group spoke on "Marketing AAUW."

Lunch was provided onsite through the efforts of Kari Lopez. The luncheon speaker was Dr. Nancy Osborn, Associate Professor at USAO, who spoke on "The Importance of Diversity within Organizational Leadership."

In the afternoon, participants broke out into groups where branch members shared information on leadership, programming, finance, EF/LAF, and membership.

The afternoon ended with state EF Chair Faye Henderson's report and pictures of the National Convention presented through a Powerpoint presentation and accompanied by popcorn. Carol Erikson rapped up the session by speaking about communicating state and local issues.

Board Meeting

Immediately following the Leadership Conference, the state officers met for a board meeting. Jeanna Wing suggested checking out the state AAUW webpage at aauwoklahoma.org. There are plans to place the newsletters online. Faye Henderson and Diana Campo took time to explain the combining of the Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund into one administrative group. The two entities still exist separately, but will share administrative staff. Kari Lopez explained what was happening with the International Federation of University Women (IFUW). This organization relies heavily on membership dues coming from AAUW, which AAUW can no longer afford. AAUW has asked for a restructuring of the dues. Nancy Knous raised the question of whether members wanted to receive a regular print-version of The Leader or would prefer to have it online only. The consensus was to continue with the newsletter in its current format for the time being.

AAUW
MILLION
ONE IN A MILLION

The logo features the text "AAUW" in a serif font at the top. Below it, the word "MILLION" is written in a large, bold, serif font. A stylized, teal-colored outline of the state of Oklahoma is superimposed over the letter "I" in "MILLION". At the bottom, the phrase "ONE IN A MILLION" is written in a smaller, bold, serif font.

Convention Notes

OKLAHOMA was represented at the AAUW National Convention by President Carol Erikson, Faye Henderson, Diana Campo, and Hazel McCord.

Each convention year, AAUW members gather to discuss issues important to the organization and imperil to equity for all women and girls. This year's convention was no exception. From the new Leadership and Learning Series workshops to the largest AAUW Lobby Day yet to the introduction of a new executive director and new biennial theme, this year's convention provided a collaborative foundation for the future of our organization.

Presidents Nancy Rustad and Mary Ellen Smyth unveiled AAUW's new biennial theme during the Saturday, June 25 *Purpose, Power, Progress* convention plenary. The new theme, "Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security", was developed by a team of AAUW staff, and Association and Educational Foundation board representatives, and will be central to programming and resource development. A handout outlining the new theme was distributed and convention attendees discussed AAUW's many national and local opportunities at future-focused table talks held during the weekend. Further discussion opportunities and additional information will be available as programming takes shape.

Ruth Sweetser Elected President of AAUW

Positioned to Lead 100,000-Member National Women's Organization

Washington, D.C. —Ruth Z. Sweetser has been elected president of the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

"As AAUW president, I am delighted to have the unparalleled opportunity to make a difference for women and girls, whoever and wherever they are," Sweetser commented.

"This is an exciting time for AAUW and for women everywhere," said Sweetser. "We have much to celebrate. Women are making great strides in educational attainment across the board, even outnumbering men on college campuses. But there are still major issues for us to address, because these great educational gains are not translating into lifelong economic security for women."

Sweetser points to research released by the AAUW Educational Foundation in January that revealed that in every state in the nation, women with four-year college degrees continue to earn, on average, \$17,600 less than men with the same level of education. In 2003, research from AAUW also indicated that women continue to remain largely pigeonholed in traditional occupations that do not

offer significant room for advancement, higher salaries, and financial security.

"Our work will focus on bringing equity into all aspects of women's lives, from the classroom to the boardroom," said Sweetser. "AAUW has been a leader in promoting equity and lifelong learning for women and girls throughout its history and this is another way for us to make our mark."

She is currently the Director of Professional Learning and Business Relations in the Graduate College, Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT). She works to strengthen relations between the university, and business and industry by developing programs to meet needs of industry, represents the university in areas of education/professional development, training/workforce preparation and research collaboration, and manages relationships with companies.

Associate's Degrees Accepted for Membership

AAUW voted to expand membership to include graduates who hold an "associate or equivalent" degree. The emotional debate began with an unsuccessful bylaws amendment to open membership to all who support AAUW's mission.

In support of the successful motion, Kenosha (WI) Branch delegate Frieda Schurch, who was born before women had the right to vote and has been a member of AAUW for more than 50 years, implored, "Today we ... must decide if our priority is to move ahead because we believe in our mission or if our priority is making sure that everyone knows that we have a college or university degree. ... To do justice we can and we must say yes to this motion."

Election Results

Delegates at the national convention voted for contested offices. Congratulations to the following winners:

Association President

Ruth Sweetser

Association Directors-at-Large

Betty Bayless
Diana Campo
Terri Griffiths
Ronni Nivala
Krys Wulff

Southwest Central Regional Director

Shirley Breeze

Submission Deadline: Please submit any information for the Winter issue to the Newsletter Editor by November 18, 2005.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WILMA MANKILLER 7:30 P.M.

September 22 OCU Freede Center Oklahoma City, OK

AAUW BOARD MEETING

September 17 Guthrie, OK

AAUW REGIONAL CONFERENCE

June 9-11, 2006 St. Louis, MO

AAUW OKLAHOMA STATE CONVENTION

April, 2006

CTEEC, Career and Technology Education Equality Council, held its second annual national conference in Tulsa September 14-16, 2005. This group was founded by employees of Career Tech and College programs targeting students that are low income; such as displaced homemakers and individuals receiving TANF (Welfare assistance). Their role in our educational environments is to assist these individuals with short term occupational training in order to gain sufficient employment.
Dana Johnston Allied Jobs Program Director
Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College Miami, OK

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN CAROL ERIKSON OKLAHOMA AAUW PRESIDENT

I told you that I would report about the National Convention when I got back. There were 1,197 attendees. We heard excellent speakers, attended recognition banquets and participated in meetings of dialogue and learning about our mission and the future of AAUW. Tahlequah and Tulsa were recognized from Oklahoma as 21st Century award winners. Members approved a bylaw amendment expanding membership eligibility to individuals with associate's degrees or an equivalent. They are anticipating that next year will be one of the best membership renewal and retention rates in many years. The current membership is 107,000, down only slightly from a year ago. A first step in traversing membership losses is the establishment of a new program theme: Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security. Both the Association and the Educational Foundation Boards approved major funding to support the theme. Last year the Legal Advocacy Fund, which just had their 100th plaintiff, was merged with the Educational Foundation. This merger will result in greater operating efficiency. This year, the Educational Foundation made nearly \$4 million available to women pursuing graduate education, helping them to enhance their career potential. The Educational Foundation also launched Pathways to Educational Leadership, a program to support women of color who are determined to break through the glass ceiling into administration in America's public schools. The last two years the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), hosted yearly approximately 200 young women educating them on women's issues and women's activism. They are hoping to increase the number of attendees in the coming years. A pilot program, the Campus-Community Action Project has provided an opportunity for 15 student leaders to gain ongoing training and support, including scholarships to attend the NCCWSL conference. During the convention, AAUW members congregated on Capitol Hill to visit with the congressmen, the largest group proportionally in years. AAUW's all-volunteer Capitol Hill Lobby Corps made approximately 1500 visits to the congressional offices in the FY05 fiscal year, lobbying for such issues as Title IX. To control membership costs and increase resources, AAUW has some major new corporate partnerships, like Prudential Financial Services and the Educational Testing Service. They hope to acquire more in the near future. They have continued to negotiate with the International Federation of University Women. AAUW has reduced operating costs and created opportunities for increased income. They have rented out more office space and the national office staff serves us with nearly one-third fewer people than were employed two years ago. There are a number of vacancies on the Association Committees (Program, Public Policy, Bylaws, College/University Relations, Membership, and Convention Procedures); if you or one of your state members is interested, please have them contact me or the Association. Committee appointments require that the person first complete the standard Association vitae. The deadline is September 26, 2005. Next year is the 125th Anniversary of the Association. Logos and other materials will be available for you to use with your newsletters and meetings. The promotion theme is "Expanding a Legacy of Leadership". I am looking forward to the National Convention in Arizona in 2007.

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Message from the Regional Director Shirley Breeze

AAUW is the premier organization working for equity for women; I am proud to be a part of this excitement as your new regional director.

The Association Convention was a re-energizing event--as those of you who were there can attest. We all came away with renewed resolve to work even harder for the issues that impact women. At the Convention Oklahoma branches Tahlequah and Tulsa were recognized with 21st Century Awards. That is a great accomplishment.

The Association delegates voted to change the bylaws to include membership for people with Associates' Degrees. Also approved was a bylaw change to elect all directors at large. These changes and other decisions will be forthcoming in the next issue of AAUW Outlook. The Public Policy Program was adopted; the major change was the addition of the statement "We support a fair and balanced judiciary." The new theme for AAUW: "Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security."

As you work in your state on programs and activities for the new year, keep in mind that AAUW's resources are unparalleled. Fact sheets and position papers are available on a wide range of women's issues including affirmative action, Title IX, pay equity, social security, higher education and the judiciary. The Association Public Policy program identifies many areas upon which the Public Policy Department lobbies on Capitol Hill for our interests.

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AAUW Mission:

AAUW promotes education and equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change



Social Security is much more than a retirement program – although without it more than half of women age 65 and older would be living in poverty. Social Security is a national commitment through which we care for one another across generations, providing critical insurance protections to women throughout their lives.

AAUW is a vocal advocate against privatization and works to make sure Social Security is strong for future generations. [Join us in urging members of Congress](#) to oppose privatization proposals and to preserve and protect Social Security's guaranteed, lifetime, and social insurance benefits.

Please keep me informed of your state's activities and programs; I am most interested in what you perceive as initiatives that will continue to move AAUW forward. As I visit your state AAUW activities, I hope to meet a great number of fellow advocates for women's issues. If you need assistance, please contact me; I can be reached at sbreeze@mindspring.com. Your ideas and dedication make AAUW stronger and more responsive to the needs of women. Put the Regional Conference, June 9-11, 2006, on your calendars; St. Louis will be host city.

AAUW--125 years of supporting women and advocating for equity.

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Distinguished Speakers Series at OCU has several upcoming events of interest to Oklahoma Women

**Wilma Mankiller The Role of History and Culture in Contemporary Tribal Life
Thursday, September 22, 2005 7:30 p.m.**

Freede Wellness and Activity Center

Wilma Mankiller is perhaps the most celebrated Cherokee of the twentieth century. A recipient of America's highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Mankiller served the 220,000-member Cherokee Nation as their first elected female deputy chief and principal chief. As tribal leader, she worked with presidents Reagan, Bush, and Clinton on a number of important issues and helped establish an Office of Tribal Justice within the Department of Justice. She is credited with making the tribe a national model for self-managed social programs. The author or editor of several books, her most recent is *Every Day is a Good Day* (2004). She has earned many honors, including holding honorary doctorates from over a dozen colleges and universities, including Yale, Dartmouth, Smith, and OCU.

Her lecture is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

**Lucille Clifton An Evening with Lucille Clifton
In cooperation with the OCU English Department's Creative Writing Workshop and the
Center for Interpersonal Studies through Film & Literature
Wednesday, November 2, 2005 7:30 p.m. Petree Auditorium**

Her lecture is free and open to the public.

**Judy Collins Sanity and Grace A Journey of Suicide, Survival, and Strength
Tuesday, March 28, 2006 Freede Wellness and Activity Center**

Folk singer, author, and political activist Judy Collins is a living legend. Her influence in music and politics has spread over decades. In 2003, Ms. Collins published *Sanity and Grace: A Journey of Suicide, Survival and Strength* which focuses on suicide recovery and is based on her own experience with the tragic loss of her son's life. Her latest book, *Morning Noon and Night: Living the Creative Life*, focuses on enhancing one's quality of life.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) will expire on September 30, 2005 unless Congress takes steps to reauthorize this legislation. The current bill provides the opportunity not only to continue successful and vital programs, but also to expand on 10 years of progress to further the safety and stability of the lives of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. VAWA 2005 would enhance the civil and criminal justice response; improve services and outreach to victims; provide resources for sexual assault victims through rape crisis centers and state coalitions; help children and youth who experience or witness violence; address the needs of victims from communities of color; aid immigrant and tribal victims; and support prevention, health, housing and economic security programs designed to stop violence and help victims.

AAUW Higher Education

Partners Rose Unterschuetz
The following are the only colleges and Universities affiliated as partners with AAUW currently as per association website.

University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma

Southwestern Oklahoma State University

Northwestern Oklahoma State University

Northeastern State University