

## Regional Director's Message

Shirley Breeze  
SWC Regional Director

With the fall and winter season upon us, AAUW activities are in full swing. AAUW is alive and prospering. With our new membership bylaw and the wonderful membership recruitment efforts of Christy Jones, membership director, we are sure to see an even greater increase in hardworking, dedicated members who support equity for women.

Ruth Sweetser, our newly elected Association president, will keynote the Regional Conference in St. Louis on June 9-11, 2006. It certainly is not too early to think about attending and encouraging other members to make plans to attend. We hope all states and branches have this exciting meeting on their calendars. One Kansas City member calls it the Association convention without the bylaws! Several fantastic activities are in the planning stages. There will be two official meal functions, plus sessions on public policy, leadership, membership and a variety of other enlightening topics. If you or a member of your branch is interested in helping with this event, let me know. We have "challenging jobs" for everyone.

The conference hotel is very easy to access, right off two major interstates, and a short distance from the airport. Fabulous shopping, including Sak's Fifth Avenue and Neiman Marcus, and restaurants are within walking distance.

Why not plan a family vacation around the Regional! Missouri has wonderful vacation destinations including the Lake of the Ozarks, with all its

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boating and recreational venues. Branson also is an exciting place for family fun; it has dozens of stage shows year-round.

We especially encourage young women to attend the conference. Although still in the planning stages, we anticipate some special activities for them at special rates. It would be a wonderful commitment to AAUW if each branch would sponsor one young woman to attend.

The states in the Region have some exciting events and activities; Arkansas has President Ruth Sweetser and Senator Blanche Lincoln coming to its convention in April; Missouri has been chosen to host the 2009 National Convention; Oklahoma was awarded one of the first Leader to Leader grants with Betty Bayless, Director, coming to the state as the Leader; Texas has been chosen, because of its Impact Grant, to host a national public policy staff person.

In my travels around the region, I am frequently asked if AAUW is in a positive mode. To that I say an emphatic "yes." With a modest growth in membership, a vibrant public policy and programming emphasis, professional, competent and enthusiastic leadership, recognition by media for our educated, timely responses to actions on Capitol Hill and in the White House, and our committed, capable local and state leaders, we are certainly an association on the move!!

As always, contact me at [sbreeze@mindspring.com](mailto:sbreeze@mindspring.com) if you have suggestions or questions.

125 Years--A Legacy of Leadership

### AAUW Louisiana Library Project

Our AAUW friends around the country have asked how they can help in the hurricane recovery. In response to their concern, AAUW Louisiana has developed the "AAUW Louisiana Library Project". We thought that a project to assist the public libraries damaged by the storm to rebuild their book collections would be consistent with the AAUW emphasis on education. About 15-20 public libraries have been damaged or destroyed. The project was developed in consultation with Rebecca L. Hamilton, State Librarian of Louisiana.

Here is what you can do:

1. **Money for Books:** The best way we can help libraries is with money to buy new books. The money will be funneled through the Louisiana Library Foundation, a 501(c) charitable organization. The Foundation will give the money directly to the libraries that need help without politics or red tape. Identify your contribution as

coming from your AAUW group and state that your gift is for libraries damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Make checks payable to:  
Louisiana Library Foundation  
PO Box 2583  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

2. **Send New or Used Books:** The affected libraries can only accept limited numbers of used books. If a AAUW group is interested in collecting and shipping books, they should contact the State Library of Louisiana: Diane M. Brown, Deputy State Librarian ([dbrown@state.lib.la.us](mailto:dbrown@state.lib.la.us))

When you send your checks or books, please let AAUW Louisiana know:

Anne K. Taylor, State President, AAUW Louisiana  
[Akt1208@bellsouth.net](mailto:Akt1208@bellsouth.net)  
225-767-3565

### Fellowships and Grants

#### Get to Know the 2005-06 Fellows!

The 2005-06 Online Fellows Directory is now available on the AAUW website at [http://www.aauw.org/fga/fellows\\_directory/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/fga/fellows_directory/index.cfm). The directory provides information on the educational, professional, and research pursuits of the AAUW Educational Foundation's more than 200 fellows and grantees for the current program year. All recipients were selected through a rigorous competitive process and represent the best and brightest among women scholars in the United States. The Fellows Directory features the ability to search using a number of variables, including institution, year, state, sponsor, and field. To communicate with individual Fellows, please contact the Educational Foundation at [foundation@aauw.org](mailto:foundation@aauw.org).

**News Flash:** Oklahoma has been selected to be a participant in the pilot *Leader to Leader* program for 2005-06.

On Oct. 26, we had a positive step in the Senate when an amendment requiring the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to continue the collection of the "Women Workers" data was approved by voice vote as part of FY06 Labor, Health, and Human Services and Education Appropriations Bill (Labor-HHS). Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) introduced the amendment.

## NEWSBRIEFS OF INTEREST

The Center on Hunger and Poverty at Brandeis University reported that 5.6% of Oklahoma households went hungry in 2004, the highest rate of hunger in the nation.

Ernest Goodlove and Beverly Young, members of the Oklahoma Parole board, discussed the need for work release and aftercare programs for Oklahoma inmates to reduce recidivism. In their article for NASWOK, the two stated, "There certainly is a strong vengeful appeal to just kicking inmates out of the prison gate with nothing but a growl and a warning to stay on the straight and narrow. And there are, no doubt, some people we simply won't be able to stop from committing new crimes and claiming new victims. But we can't sacrifice so many of those who can resume lives as productive, law-abiding citizens to our desire for punishment or a lack of will to try proven programs."

AAUW is still a member National Federation/Association (NFA) of IFUW. Although AAUW is in arrears for 2005 dues, we remain a member without vote through 2007. This status includes the next IFUW Triennial Conference scheduled in 2007.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE DAY

OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITOL, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

MARCH 15, 2006

## AAUW STATE CONFERENCE

GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA

APRIL 7-9, 2006

## AAUW REGIONAL CONFERENCE

ST. LOUIS, MO

JUNE 9-11, 2006

**Legal Advocacy Fund**

**New Material** The new LAF brochures are in! They are an updated version of the extremely popular previous LAF brochure. Brochures can be ordered through ShopAAUW via the AAUW website or by calling 1-800-225-9998. The brochures are free, but shipping and service charges must be paid when requesting them.

**New Case** LAF recently adopted the case *Russell v. The Trustees of Princeton University*.

In this case, Lynn Russell, a former assistant clinical professor in the chemical engineering department at Princeton University sued for sex discrimination in the denial of tenure, retaliation, and other claims under New Jersey state law. Only two of 20 faculty in the chemical engineering department are women. Read the case summary on the AAUW website at <http://www.aauw.org/laf/cases/russell.cfm>.

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THE SOUTH CENTRAL GIRLS COLLABORATIVE

The SouthCentral Girls Collaborative Kick-Off Conference was held on Monday, September 19, 2005 at the Science Place at Fair Park in Dallas to explore ways to promote collaboration among individuals and organizations in a five-state region (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) to motivate girls' interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). This conference is a first step in an ongoing collaborative effort that is paid for by a \$199,935 grant from the National Science Foundation's Research on Gender in Science and Engineering initiative, a gender-equity program that funds efforts to motivate and support girls' interest in STEM. The keynote speaker for the Kick-Off conference was Dr. Mary Ellen Weber, a former astronaut. Her topic was Stellar Inspiration for Tomorrow's Explorers, an exploration of methods to effectively convince young people to take on the daunting fields of science, math, and discovery. According to Martha Peet, Associate Director of the Texas Center for Educational Technology, "We have identified many organizations in the region that provide valuable but uncoordinated support services to motivate and support girls' interest in STEM careers. What the region needs is not a new, competing program but rather a way to coordinate the efforts of existing programs." There will be "virtual" conferences via the Internet and mini-grants available to organizations wishing to collaborate on a project to interest girls in STEM activities. For more information, contact Martha Peet 940-565-2963 or email [peet@coe.unt.edu](mailto:peet@coe.unt.edu)

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### State AAUW Convention

You should have received a brochure for the state AAUW Convention in a separate mailing. Please plan on attending the meeting in Guthrie April 7-9. Convention headquarters will be the Pollard Inn. Please return your registration as soon as possible so final arrangements can be made for meals and meetings.

### Women's Legislative Day

A brochure concerning Women's Legislative Day is included in this edition of the *Leader*. AAUW is one of the sponsors. Please consider joining other women builders of communities and dreams at the State Capitol on March 15.

Jeanna Wing reported the state AAUW Web page is up and running. Linda West is the WebMaster. The state Web site is [www.aauwoklahoma.org](http://www.aauwoklahoma.org).

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### AAUW Mission:

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

