



The Clarion



Notes from President Rose Cyert

It's time again to keep in touch with the membership. If you missed September's meeting, you missed hearing about important aspects of AAUW and wonderful women who have influences our lives. Plan to come to future meetings. The programs planned for 2009-10 are awesome!

Since fall usually brings about elections of some sort I found and want to share some very interesting information from AAUW Washington Update, an e-mail from AAUW. "According to a study from Stanford University and the University of Chicago researchers, women are more effective lawmakers than men. According to *Politico*, the study which focused on the performance of House members from 1984 to 2004, found that on average, women representatives introduced more bills, attracted more cosponsors, and brought more money to their districts than their male peers did. The researchers accounted for things like representatives' seniority, party affiliation, majority/minority status, and priorities when making their comparisons. Women currently hold just 17 percent of the seats in the House and the Senate." From

this study one can see that women get things done!

Another hot topic of concern to all Americans is health care. I want you to know that "AAUW's emphasis is not on pushing one proposal over another, but instead ensuring that whichever program ultimately emerges provides access to quality and affordable health care for all Americans. Specifically, AAUW believes that any health reform legislation must include the following three tenets: an end to the practice of gender rating; coverage of reproductive health services; and access to and coverage of preventive services and care." A small portion of our membership dues supports lobbying in Washington, D. C. for health care, pay equity, public education, violence against women and many more issues. As educated women we need to keep informed and act accordingly.

If you have any ideas, suggestions or whatever, please share your thoughts with a Board member or myself. The Branch belongs to its members.

Rose Cyert, President

Women's Resource Center Service Project

The AAUW Branch will no longer collect toiletry items for the Women's Resource Center. The Dan Corcoran and Bethany Houses are not accepting toiletry items either.

Therefore the Branch is discontinuing this service project. Thanks to all who have contributed. Thanks too to Darlene Metzler who so graciously accepted the task of collecting the items at Branch meetings and delivering the items to the Women's Resource.

AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

American Association of University Women promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change.

November Branch Meeting

We're back in the Purple Rooms of Kryzsko Commons for the November 14 talk by Ann Olson of WSU and Winona Health.

Social hour starts at 9:00am, followed by the business meeting at 9:30am. At 10:00am Ann Olson will present her recent research on Bone Density of Women in the Winona Area. Some of us are familiar with Ann's thorough yet gentle approach to women's health. This topic sounds like one we will all be interested in hearing. Come early to get a good seat.

Mark Your Calendar

The December Holiday Luncheon will be held at Watkins Manor on Saturday,

December 5th. The social hour will start at 11:00am followed by the luncheon at 11:30am. The entree choices include Chicken Oscar or Mushroom Ravioli both at \$14.00.

The program is organ selections of special winter music by Larry Finke on the Watkins Great Hall historic organ. This is a special treat to have this wonderful organ music as part of our holiday luncheon.

Mark your calendar and join with your colleagues to relax and enjoy this festive event.

October Meeting

Carolyn Kosidowski, Barbara Feiten, guest Donna Peplinski, Director at Large Mary Breunig, and Historian Marian Carroll visit amicably during the social hour prior to the October program on Habitat for Humanity.



Membership

I love it when I know that people read what I write. We had three guests at our last AAUW meeting, and two of us invited people who weren't able to attend. Thanks to those who invited guests - (maybe you

would have done it on your own, and that's even better!). Our current membership is 59 and our goal is 70 members this year. If we get a couple of new members each month, we'll soon reach our goal. There is still time for current members to renew their membership if they haven't done so. How many of you are members because someone invited you to visit a meeting? I'm one of those, and I thank that friend for thinking that AAUW is a group that would interest me. I'm looking forward to meeting more of your friends at our next meeting!

Kay Shaw
Vice President for Membership

Legal Advocacy

In October 2009, the national AAUW Board approved \$4,000.00 in each of six cases supported by the Legal Advocacy Fund. Among those cases is Schuster vs. Berea College, currently awaiting a new trial in Kentucky. The plaintiff, Claire Schuster, is a tenured Associate Professor of Nursing there. She is suing the college for sex discrimination in violation of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act, as well as breach of contract and intentional infliction of emotional distress. The lawsuit alleges the college hired its first male faculty member in the nursing department at a higher salary bracket, and as an Associate Professor, despite his lack of any special qualifications that would have justified his higher rank and salary, compared to the other female faculty members. At the first trial, the jury ruled against Professor Schuster. However, the Kentucky Court of Appeals reversed the verdict, and remanded the case back to the trial court. This decision was based partially upon the trial court's refusal to allow Professor Schuster to use critical discovery as evidence at trial. The Kentucky Supreme

Court declined to hear the college's request for review of the Kentucky Court of Appeals decision. No date has been set for the new trial.

Professor Schuster spoke at our state convention earlier this year. Her case illustrates the often lengthy, expensive process whereby discrimination cases proceed through the legal system. She has expressed her gratitude for the ongoing support of the Legal Advocacy Fund. Ironically, Berea College was founded in 1855 as the first interracial and coeducational college in the south. It charges no tuition, and admits only academically promising students, primarily from Appalachia.

Susan Cooper
Legal Advocacy Chair

Special Interest Groups

Adventures in Dining – An outing is planned for November 19. Watch your emails for the place and time.

Mona McMahon Bridge – This group will meet at 1:00pm on November 11 at Nancy O'Reilly's home.

"500" Group – This group will meet on November 3 at 6:30 p.m. at Carolyn Kosidowski's home.

Gourmet - Gourmet will meet on November 17 at 6:30p.m.at Jeanette Steiner's home. The theme is Rachel Ray recipes

Literature

The afternoon group will meet at 1:00p.m. on November 17 at Dee Cipov's home. Pat Nolan will lead the discussion.

The evening group will meet at 7:15p.m.on November 24 at Barb Sheilds' home. Robin Richardson will lead the discussion.

Both groups are reading "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks.

Knit Pickers – This group meets each Thursday at Callista Court from 2 – 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

AAUW Minnesota State Website

<http://www1.minn.net/~aauwmn>

AAUW Association Website and Email

<http://www.aauw.org>

info@aauw.org

DIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

In principle and in practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. The Educational Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund also value and seek diversity. For all three corporations of AAUW there shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability

Winona Branch 2008-2009 Contacts

President Rose Cyert

Finance Officer

Pat Thomas

Newsletter Gail Bradbury

Public Policy

How to Thrive in a Woman's Nation

[Take Action!](#)

For the first time in our nation's history, women make up half of all workers and are becoming the primary breadwinners in more families than ever before. Times have changed, but policies at government, education, and business institutions haven't kept up.

Last Friday, AAUW released [policy recommendations](#) in response to a new report from Maria Shriver and the Center for American Progress. [The Shriver Report-A Woman's Nation Changes Everything](#) highlights the rise of women in the workforce while emphasizing that working women and their families lack the critical support they need to thrive in today's changing world. One of the report's main authors, Heather Boushey, is a former AAUW Fellow.

The media has picked up on the importance of this shift in our nation's demographics - Maria Shriver was a guest on [Meet the Press](#) this Sunday, a full week of programming related to the report began this week on NBC, and the report is also highlighted in [Time Magazine](#). News of AAUW's policy recommendations was picked up by several agencies, and we were all over [blogs](#) and [Twitter](#). Now, it's time to take our message to Capitol Hill.

We know that equity in numbers has not translated into gender equity in America's workplaces, educational institutions, or government agencies. In areas from pay equity and work/life balance to education and health care, there is much work to be done to break through the barriers which have impeded the progress of women and girls for far too long.

Take Action!

Urge your members of Congress to support AAUW's policy recommendations aimed at continuing to improve women's status and strengthening the economic security of their families. Simply click on the "Take Action" link in the upper right corner or copy and paste the following URL into your Internet browser. Then follow the instructions to send your message.

<http://www.capwiz.com/aauw/issues/alert/?alertid=14210126>

Read AAUW's [policy recommendations](#) based on the report, then download our [Program in a Box](#) to see how you can turn the recommendations into action with your branch or community. For all this and more, see AAUW's [new webpage](#) devoted to our response to *A Woman's Nation*.

The grassroots liaisons in AAUW's new Leadership Corps program will be reaching out to AAUW branch leaders to provide mentoring and assistance. Whether you are a member of an AAUW branch (an officer or not) or a member-at-large interested in becoming involved with other AAUW members, please fill out the [online form here](#) to indicate areas of branch programming or administration for which you would like assistance.

[Washington Update](#) is AAUW's free, members-only weekly e-bulletin. It offers an insider's view on the legislative process, the latest policy news, resources for advocates, programming ideas, and updates from the Public Policy and Government Relations Department. To stay up-to-date on all issues important to our mission, all AAUW members, including college and university partners, are encouraged to subscribe to [Washington Update](#) by emailing VoterEd@aauw.org.

Visit AAUW's blog, [AAUW Dialog](#), to share your thoughts on current news and events and the way they relate to AAUW's mission.

Read the 2009-2011 [AAUW Public Policy Program](#).

Become part of the AAUW national community and break through barriers for women and girls. [Join now](#).

Strengthen AAUW's voice with policy-makers! [Donate now](#).

Kathy Jarvinen
Winona AAUW Public Policy Chair

AAUW Branch Meeting
Dining Room C, Kryzsko Commons
Winona State University
October 13, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm. President Cyert read the mission statement of AAUW.

Secretary's report-The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report- In the absence of the treasurer, President Cyert asked that the treasurer's report be accepted as printed in the Clarion. Joan Greshik moved and Phylliss Johnson seconded this action. Motion passed.

Barb Feiten introduced her guest, Donna Peplinski, to the membership.

EF- Diane Dingfelder announced that tonight's meeting includes a silent auction with donated items. Marsha Yancy created a fall wreath and Rose Cyert donated an Italian Supper Basket. These items will help us toward our goal of \$600 for EF for 2009. The highest bidder at the close of the meeting will be winning these items. Next month will also have silent auction items.

Program- Mariann Alsum reported on the "I'm Going to College" event. Even though Mariann, Lisa Lundquist from Big Brothers

Big Sisters, and SMU representations had prepared for the event, none of the students showed up. Mariann read a note to the Branch from Lisa thanking us for our support on this project.

LAF- no report

Membership- Kay Shaw reported that the total amount for new members to join is \$43.50 with half-price association dues. We now have 59 members.

Public Policy- no report

Old Business- Directories have been completed. Marsha Yancy has printed copies available for members who do not have access to an email copy.

By-laws- Joan Greshik and Rose have met twice and the board has also worked on the revisions. Six by-laws need to be revised. Two are completed and four more need to be finished. The national association mandates the other ten by-laws. The state assoc. is now known as AAUW MN. Revisions will be complete by the first of November.

New Business- The proposed budget for 2009-2010 was printed in the Clarion. Rose read some corrections so that income and expenses for the year balance at \$6,285. Phylliss made a motion, seconded by Carolyn, that the budget be approved as

corrected. Motion carried. An internal audit will be carried out in the near future.

President Cyert reminded members that at the November meeting a wreath made by Marsha and a basket prepared by Joan will be auctioned. The branch is trying to complete funding of the Mona McMahon named unit.

President Cyert then read the values promise of AAUW.

The WRC is no longer taking donations of sample toiletries so our members will look for another place to direct these donations.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm after a motion by Kay, seconded by Caroline. Motion carried.

A program followed the meeting from Stephanie Orr of Habitat for Humanity on

Habitat in general and the new Women Build project.

Submitted by,
Barbara Shields

Treasurers Report

Not available.

