



CONNECTIONS

Columbia Branch

Advocacy, Education and Research

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

How Far Can We Go?

I hope that all of you have had a restful summer. It has been a busy spring and summer for the board, with members attending both the State meeting in Jefferson City and the Southwest regional meeting in Overland Park, Kansas. Those who attended the events learned a great deal and came away with enthusiasm for deepening the roots and extending the reach of the Columbia Branch.

Our traditional carry-in supper will kick off the year September 9th. Guest speakers will be current and past Missouri state AAUW presidents. We will also look at the 2008-2009 proposed budgets and answer any questions

regarding our financial plans for the upcoming year.

There are a lot of changes being implemented at the national and state levels which Marcia Koch (current state president) and Lynne Rooney (immediate past president) will explain. I know that some members have expressed concerns about the changes. It is my hope that after listening to Marcia and Lynne you feel less concern and better understand the reasoning behind the changes coming from the national office. Our September meeting is always great: lots of food and lots of time to catch up with friends. I hope to see you there.

I know that every member wants AAUW to continue to impact women and girls on the local, state and national stages well into the future. It is in that spirit that we

will be holding a Columbia Branch Retreat at Grace Butler's house on Saturday September 27 from 10:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The retreat is meant to give members an opportunity to brainstorm and to construct a strong vision for our local branch in light of changes in the national AAUW organization. The strength of the Columbia Branch, and its future existence, comes from the collective ideas and active participation of its members. Please attend the retreat if you are able.

Another big item to mark on your calendar now is the national AAUW convention which will be held in downtown St. Louis, June 26-28, 2009. This is an excellent opportunity for members to see the national organization in action and to participate in AAUW on the national stage. To minimize

costs, AAUW has shortened the length of the convention to three days. Our branch has the advantage of carpooling to the site. In other words, there are lots of reasons for Columbia members to "Meet Me in St. Louis" and see the power of the national organization at work.

Please watch for additional activities outside our monthly programs. We are planning more social activities during the year so that members can get together and continue to build a strong network of women. With the September meeting early, and the retreat following on its heels, the branch is going to hit the ground running this year. I am interested in seeing exactly how far we go.

Positively *Popping* Programs for 2008

With the help and good suggestions of AAUW members, we are excited about the programs planned for this year!

September: The traditional September Pot Luck Supper will be held Tuesday the 9th, 5:30 p.m., at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Program: "AAUW Looks to the future"... an update on Policies, Programs, Vision. This very important and informative program will be presented by Current State President, Marsha Koch and Immediate Past President, Lynn Roney. This will be a chance to meet our State Officials if you haven't had that chance in the past. They are great women and an asset to AAUW.

A Pressed Flower Gift Basket will be raffled for Educational Foundation. **Books** will also be on sale to benefit the Legal Advocacy Fund.

If you don't have time to bring food, don't let that deter you ... there will be plenty for everyone!

October: Tuesday the 21st 7:00 p.m. at Stephens College, Windsor Lounge, in the Commons of Stephens College.

Program: "Are We Better Off Now? An Exploration of the Erosion of Women's Rights in the last Eight Years." This program will be presented by one of our own members, Dr. Mary Mosley. Jane Biers and Grace Butler heard Mary's presentation at the Southeast Regional Conference in Kansas City. They said it was a must for this club. Please invite any guest or potential member you think would be interested in this 'timely' topic.

We will be having a Fall "**Fallout**" Fundraising Activity to benefit the Legal Advocacy Fund.

November: Saturday the 15th 10:00 a.m. at the YouZeum, 608 E. Cherry Street, admission \$8.00.

Program: A tour of this wonderful new facility. We will learn about the dream of an interactive science center, the plans for the future and, of course, and a chance to "play" with all the interactive displays. I took a tour and visited with Executive Director Gwen Robbins and am very excited about this science

center. I know you'll enjoy it. Please bring a friend or potential member. Members are encouraged to continue with lunch at Addison's.

December: Sunday the 14th 2 p.m. at the Library Pent House at Stephens College.

Program: Traditional Holiday Tea: Friends, family and potential new members are most welcome.

Please bring gifts (gift cards are great) in gift bags for teenage girls at **Missouri Girls Town**.

We hope you are as excited about this year as we are. Great things are happening with AAUW!

BOOK CLUB

September's read is Isabel Allende's *Ines of My Soul*. Ellen Flottman will announce the meeting date at AAUW's regular meeting on September 9th. *Ines of My Soul* is a work of breathtaking scope: meticulously researched, it engagingly dramatizes the known events of Ines Suarez' life, crafting them

into a novel full of the narrative brilliance and passion readers have come to associate with Isabel Allende. The Book Club meets at the Bread Basket Cafe in the Crossroads Shopping Center at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome!

GET OUT THE VOTE AND SHOW OFF AAUW'S LEADERSHIP!

September Twilight Festival: Downtown Columbia. This year Veronica Kramer has graciously allowed us to set up a table in front of her business, Pen Point Paperie.

We will be passing out literature about AAUW as well as emphasizing the AAUW theme: **Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout...**

The Power of One Vote. We will be needing volunteers from 6 until 8 p.m. on Thursday 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th.

Please contact Holly Burgess if you are willing to participate. It is great people-watching time... you will see lots of friends and neighbors AND you will be

promoting AAUW.

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have forty members who have paid their dues. For those of you who have not yet renewed, please send your checks to Jane Biers at 2310 Fairmont, 65203, or to treasurer Marianne Fues, 707 Kingsbury Place, 65203. Dues for 2008-2009 are \$67.00: \$49 Association/\$10 State/\$8 Branch.

Our branch needs more members in order to remain a strong and healthy group. Please encourage friends to join and plan to bring a guest to the September meeting.

NEW BRANCH MEMBERS

Two new members have joined our branch. **Carolyn Mulford** recently moved to Columbia. She has an MA in Journalism from the University of Missouri and a B.A. and a B.S. in Education from Truman State. She worked as a magazine writer and editor

in Washington, D.C., and Vienna, Austria, before opening her own editorial business. Her clients have included the Library of Congress, the American Red Cross, and the National Institutes of Health. Her articles have appeared in approximately forty newspapers, newsletters and magazines. She serves as senior writer and editor of *Writing That Works*, a national newsletter for corporate communicators. The author of several nonfiction books, her latest book is a middle-reader novel, *The Feedsack Dress*.

Chris McCray has a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from William Woods University. She is a lifetime learner and will train in September to tutor English as a second language. She really enjoys reading, traveling and meeting people. Her career history includes business, healthcare and education, and she still teaches for William Woods University periodically. She has three grown children and three grandchildren. She comes originally from New York, and although she has lived

in the Columbia, Missouri, area since 1969, she retains a little bit of a New York accent.

2009 AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION IN ST LOUIS

Mark your calendar! June 26-28, 2009 AAUW will be having their 2009 national convention at the Renaissance St. Louis Grand and Suites Hotel. Check their hyperlink:

www.aauw.org/convention/conv2009/index.cfm

CARLYNN TROUT

The Columbia Playmakers presented A Concert Reading of Short Works by former AAUW member Carlynn Trout on July 13th at the Daniel Boone Public Library.

ALICE ANNA REESE

Member Alice Anna Reese received first place in the essay division of Fulton's One Hundred Years Writing Contest for 'Fulton's Fleetest Feet,' an essay

about Olympic champion Helen Stephens.

GIRLS = BOYS

In the largest study of its kind, Science (as cited in the July 25, 2008 Tribune) reported girls measured up to boys in math in every grade from second to eleventh. Researchers are attributing that advance to the increasing number of girls who are taking calculus and other advanced math classes. Women are now earning 48 percent of undergraduate degrees in math. However, they still lag far behind in physics and engineering.

GENDER EQUITY

On Tuesday, May 20, 2008, AAUW released the most comprehensive study to date on trends in educational achievement by gender, race/ethnicity, and income. The report, 'Where the Girls Are: The Facts About Gender Equity in Education' looks at girls' educational achievement over the past 35 years, paying special attention to the relationship between

girls and boys progress. The findings show that girls' successes do not come at boys' expense. Rather, when girls do better in school, so do boys. This report shows that girls and boys from the fourth grade through the end of college are making steady educational gains. It is also the first report to analyze gender differences within economic and ethnic categories. So, while the report finds no evidence of a boys' crisis, it does uncover large disparities in educational achievement by race/ethnicity and family income. www.aauw.org/research/WhereGirlsAre.cfm

AAUW recommends the data be cross-tabulated to allow for detailed and accurate comparisons between various subgroups of children. With cross-tabulated data, for example, schools could compare the test scores of African American girls to Hispanic girls to understand how these different groups of students are performing, allowing the schools to tailor solutions to improve educational achievement.

In addition, there is currently no standard method of calculating graduation rates from state to state. The adoption of an accurate and uniform method would provide a more complete picture of how schools are faring across the country and shine a light on the high school dropout problem.

MATH TEACHERS

In a report released in June by the National Council on Teacher Quality, of the undergraduate education schools they studied the majority failed to adequately prepare elementary teachers to teach mathematics.

MATH DEGREES SHORT

According to the July 16 Tribune there has been substantial bipartisan support in Washington for boosting science training, including passage last year of the "America Competes Act." Apparently, however, there has been little follow-through with funding to support the program.

In 2005, fifteen prominent business groups warned that a lack of expert workers and teachers posed a threat to U.S. competitiveness and said the country would need 400,000 new graduates annually in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields by 2015. The high-profile push is falling way behind. In an update published in July, the number of degrees awarded annually has remained around 225,000 per year for the last several years.

LOGOS

It is not a change for us, but the Association and EF boards affirmed use of the stylized "W" logo and the acronym "AAUW" at their joint meeting February 22, 2008. Our branch uses the common logo/acronym. The boards emphasized that it is essential that states, branches and the national office adopt and use the current AAUW logo/acronym throughout their programs, presentations, publications, signage, etc. www.aauw.org/member_center/tools/graphics.cfm