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DAWN BREAKER

**THE NEWSLETTER OF
AAUW OF MAINE
WINTER 2007/08
VOLUME 55, NUMBER 3**



**AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

OPPORTUNITY FOR AAUW: MARCH 2008



Opportunity is defined as “an appropriate or favorable time or occasion.” AAUW of Maine has many opportunities to grow while continuing to be one of the primary organizations for equity and education.

The first opportunity is to attend our 2008 Maine AAUW State Convention on May 4 and 5 in Freeport. Charmen Goehring-Fox and her committee have worked very hard at creating a wonderful event at which AAUW members can learn about the national AAUW changes and other exciting mission-based programming. The convention is a time to applaud our accomplishments; discover and share ideas, “best practices” and friendship; and plan for AAUW’s future. Members also will learn from Patricia Ho, AAUW New England Director, about the organization of AAUW as we transition to the merged Educational Foundation and the Association, a step which was mandated by our members at the 2007 National Convention in Phoenix.

Another opportunity is to plan your branch’s program for the coming year, using mission-based programming as a guide. Some Maine AAUW branches are working on Wage Project events or planning with local community colleges for month-long, equity-based programming. Branch leadership for many branches has been difficult, but some variation of group leadership seems to be working. The February Member Count shows that Caribou gained members over the past year. Congratulations to Caribou!! Although our other branches have shown a decrease in membership, new members have been added to their rolls and the challenge is to add more new members while retaining our current members.

Another branch opportunity is to promote the 2008 Student Leadership Conference held in Washington, DC

in June 2008. Their new website is the place to find out about this year’s conference offerings, Women of Distinction Awards, and how method to register and apply for scholarships (www.nccwsl.org).

And lastly, this is my opportunity to thank you for this chance to be your AAUW of Maine state president for the past two years. This experience has been a wonderful time for me. I have made many new friends. I also met and networked among branch, state, regional, and national members at the Brattleboro AAUW Regional meeting last September, the 2007 national AAUW convention in Phoenix, and the State Leadership AAUW training in June 2006. I have not had the chance to visit all the branches, but those I have visited continue to have yearly programs that focus on the mission of AAUW. I look forward to our incoming president, Charmen Goehring-Fox and her leadership as we continue to bring AAUW further into the 21st century.

Thank you again,
Betsy Eggleston
AAUW of Maine State President 2006-2008

**Come Join the Fun!!
See old friends and meet new ones!
Network with women from Maine!
Meet a national AAUW leader!
Learn new ways to help women and girls!**

**ALL AT THE
AAUW of Maine State Convention**

**SEE PAGES 2 & 3
FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

AAUW Maine State Convention
May 2-3, 2008

FINDING OUR PUBLIC VOICES

Hilton Garden Inn
5 Park Street
Freeport, Maine 04032

On May 2-3, 2008, AAUW members from all over the state will gather in Freeport for the annual State Convention. With the theme, "Finding our Public Voices," members will explore ways to step out of their comfort zone to promote AAUW's mission in their communities and the state. We will learn about the new National Girl's Collaborative Project here in Maine, gather wisdom from an enlightened panel of involved women, and share in the delight of Carol Pierson and her recent trip, which took her way out of her comfort zone!

We also will hear from Regional Director, Patricia Ho, and President Betsy Eggleston, meet our branch award winners, conduct annual business and elect new officers. There will also be an optional pre-convention tour of the recently remodeled Bowdoin College Museum of Art. And, don't forget the incredible basket raffle which will conclude our time together. Make plans now to join us on May 2-3 and be an active member of AAUW Maine. We need you, your ideas, and your creativity!

Schedule at a Glance

Friday, May 2, 2008

3 p.m.	Tour of Bowdoin College Art Museum (optional)
6:30-7:00 p.m.	No Host Social Hour at the Hilton Garden Inn
7:00-8:00 p.m.	Dinner
8:00-9:30 p.m.	Branch Awards

Saturday, May 3, 2008

8:00-8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast at the Hilton Garden Inn
8:30-9:15 a.m.	Welcome and Regional Update from Regional Director, Patricia Ho
9:15-10:30 a.m.	Business Meeting and Elections
10:30-10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45-11:45 a.m.	National Girls Collaborative Project in Maine
12:00-1:30 p.m.	Lunch and Speaker, Carol Pierson, "Stepping Out of Our Comfort Zone"
1:30-3:00 p.m.	Panel "Finding Our Public Voices"
3:00-3:30 p.m.	Wrap up! Basket drawing and evaluations

DIRECTIONS to Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport

Exit 22 off I-295. Follow sign to Freeport. Turn right on Route 1 South. Take the next left onto School Street. Follow 2 blocks to Park Street. Turn right and the hotel is on the right.

REGISTRATION FORM
FINDING OUR PUBLIC VOICES

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email/Phone: _____

Tour of Bowdoin Art Museum (optional, no charge, but we'd like a count) _____

CHOOSE ONE:

1) Friday Only (Baked Stuffed Haddock____ Rosemary Chicken____) \$40) _____
(includes registration fee and Friday dinner)

2) Saturday Only \$45 (includes registration fee, breakfast, and lunch) _____

3) Both Days (Baked Stuffed Haddock____ Rosemary Chicken____) \$80 _____
(includes registration fee and all meals)

Total Enclosed _____

Do you have any special needs? _____

Please mail registration by April 22 to Lucy Stinson, 2 Schooner Ridge Rd. #18, Bath, Maine 04530. Confirmation will be emailed if email address is provided. **Make checks payable to "AAUW of Maine."**

Please send your registration form in **as soon as possible**. A block of rooms at the Hilton Garden has been set aside for our use at the discounted rate of \$129 per night + 7% room tax. Be sure to mention AAUW when making your reservation to get the group rate. The phone number at the Hilton Garden Inn is 865-1433. **After April 11**, the rate will be \$169 per night + 7% room tax, while rooms last.

If you have any questions, contact Charmin Goehring-Fox at 756-0406 or charminme@yahoo.com.



MEMBERSHIP: IT'S UP TO EACH OF US NOW

HOW MUCH DO YOU LOVE YOUR BRANCH? OR WILL YOU MISS US WHEN WE'RE GONE?

Submitted by Pat Rathbun, Membership VP, 762-1791, prathbun@maine.rr.com

What does your branch mean to you? Is it a cherished circle of friends, near and dear to your heart? Do you take pride in all that you and your fellow branch members share with your community? Do you treasure that one night a month spent examining issues with a group of kindred spirits who inspire one another to continue to achieve?

If these thoughts affirm your feelings for AAUW, you must take note and take action. I'm sorry to report that membership numbers in Maine tell a sad story. AAUW has been at a crossroads for some time. As membership numbers are dipping to an all-time low in spite of efforts to reorganize and revitalize the organization, now may be our last chance. Can we save it? Do we want to try? *Let's do it!*

Over the past two years alone, Maine has dropped from 400 members statewide to just under 300. That is a three-year drop of 25 percent (see table below). The impact of this decline is felt nationally, as other states experience similar declines. National expenses continue to rise as income from dues shrinks proportionally, adding financial pressure to the other problems. At national, state and branch levels of AAUW, the decline creates a dwindling pool of leaders, and a shortage of fresh energy and ideas from new members to accept the torch and continue the legacy. How shall we reverse the trend?

I hereby challenge every branch to come up with one individual plan to energize and increase its membership and to come to our state convention prepared to share that plan.

Evidence indicates that young women seek opportunities to become involved in their communities and to associate with a diverse group of women outside their workplaces. *Let's try to locate and accommodate them.*

Whether you have already held a successful branch recruitment that you can share, or you are putting something together for May or September, I urge you to come to the state convention prepared to tell your story and inspire your fellow branches.

Until then, don't forget that all new members recruited between now and June 30 are included in next year's membership, and carry over until June 30, 2009. *Let's do it!*

MEMBERSHIP DATA TRENDS *from Betsy Eggleston*

	2/1/2005	2/1/2006	2/1/2007	2/1/2008	Three-Year Rate of Change 2005-2008	One-Year Rate of Change 2007-2008
Bath/Brunswick	84	79	74	64	-23.8	-13.5
Caribou	27	25	24	25	-7.4	4.2
Hancock County	32	28	27	25	-21.9	-7.4
Houlton	18	16	14	12	-33.3	-14.3
Mid-Coast	78	76	72	57	-26.9	-20.8
Penobscot Valley	54	48	45	36	-33.3	-20.0
Presque Isle	18	16	17	9	-50.0	-47.1
Waterville	64	67	61	49	-23.4	-19.7
York	6	6	6	6	0	0
TOTALS	381	361	340	283	-25.7	-16.8

CONSIDERING TITLE IX

by Pat Rathbun

Over the years, my husband has turned me into a fan of “March Madness.” To the uninitiated, this is the month when all the college basketball playoffs are televised pretty much non-stop and around-the-clock on the sports networks over a two-week period. In the past few years, a wonderful thing has happened, and there is usually one network dedicated to the women. Yes, that’s right, they really do get equal time these days, and is there a lot of talent and leadership out there! It’s visible on the girls’ faces, as they perform with superb confidence, poise, and pure athleticism. It’s visible on the sidelines, where many of the coaches are now women, too. It’s even audible, as women commentators share the sports desk with their male counterparts. None of this would have happened without Title IX. I don’t know about you, but I am proud to be part of an organization that helped make that happen. It gives me goose bumps to think what AAUW helped accomplish with that act alone!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT/CONFESSION

from Pat Rathbun

The nominating chair spent part of February and March on vacation. Thus, nominations are pending, but not quite finalized. The full slate will be announced at the state convention. There are still committee vacancies and volunteers are cordially invited to come forward and serve on our board.

THREE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY MEMBERS ON 2008 ROSTER

from Betty-Jane Meader

Your help is needed! Since only three colleges/universities in Maine have paid their dues through June 2008, please encourage the president(s) of the college(s) in your area to join AAUW. Dues are based on student enrollment (\$125 for <1,000 students, \$175 for 1,001-5000 students, \$250 for 5,001-10,000, and \$275 for 10,001-20,000).

Present college members and their representatives are as follows: Colby College, Susan Cook; Thomas College, Betty-Jane Meader; and University of Maine at Presque Isle, Linda Graves. For additional information, contact Betty-Jane Meader at meaderb@thomas.edu or 872-7895(H).

If you have a community college, college, or university in your area, plan to talk with the president about joining. AAUW has a long history of supporting education for women, and institutions of higher education often look for ways to partner with community groups whose missions overlap with theirs.



ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE

from Judy Fuller, Corresponding Secretary

One of my last duties as Corresponding Secretary will be the production of the annual report booklet for the May 2 & 3 convention in Freeport. **Board Members and Branch Presidents/Leadership Teams** please send me your reports for the 2007-2008 year by **April 11th** for inclusion in this useful document. My mailing address is: Judy Fuller, 7 Waldron Road, Bar Harbor, ME 04609, and my email address is jfuller@bhbt.com (email preferred). Thank you all for your cooperation – as usual, I will be on vacation the week before convention, and will need to organize and prepare the booklet before I travel.

YOUR NEXT STATE PRESIDENT: CHARMEN GOEHRING-FOX



At the AAUW State Convention May 2 - 3, 2008, the new president of AAUW of Maine will be inducted into office. One of our most active members, Charmen Goehring-Fox will step up into this vital leadership position.

Charmen moved to Maine a few years ago from California, where she was born and raised. She graduated from Elk Grove High School in Sacramento. She first attended Bakersfield College for two years, while she lived with her grandmother. She transferred to UC Davis where she received her BA in political science.

After graduating, she moved back to Bakersfield and lived with her grandmother. Charmen received her first AAUW membership from her grandmother, who had been involved in AAUW for 40+ years. Charmen obtained her teaching credentials, bought a house, and taught special education.

She met and married her special someone. They have since lived in Bakersfield, CA, Wilkes-Barre, PA, Sacramento, CA, Fresno, CA and Hollis Center, Maine. Throughout all these moves, she has been active in AAUW. She has been AAUW branch president in Bakersfield and Fresno, and now the Bath/Brunswick Branch. She has two, ages 6 and 8. Currently she is a substitute teacher and an activist locally in her area.

Charmen says that, as president of AAUW of Maine, she hopes to inspire women to recognize that women’s equity issues are vitally important today and that our energy is well spent working on this front. She also hopes to inspire younger women to become involved in AAUW, perhaps by partnering with groups that have more appeal younger women. She is a team builder and looks to the membership to help fulfill AAUW’s mission.

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (AND HENCE LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND) NEWS

from Nancy Hutchinson

Thanks and gratitude to all Maine members for their 2007 contributions to the Educational Foundation (EF) and the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). Totals were \$4,672.50 for the EF and \$2,283.12 for the LAF. These amounts include the proceeds from our 2007 convention basket raffle (\$412.50 to each).

The basket raffle themes for this year's state convention look as intriguing as ever:

1. Bath-Brunswick: "Local Treasure"
2. Caribou: "Writing and Words of Women"
3. Hancock County: "Downeast Delights"
4. Houlton: "Picnic Basket"
5. Midcoast Maine: "At the Shore"
6. Penobscot Valley: "Cozy Corner"
7. Presque Isle: "Three Cups of Tea"
8. Waterville: "Green" (as in environmentally friendly)

We will have raffle tickets available to branches for pre-convention sales for those who will not be able to attend the convention itself. Let's beat last year's total!

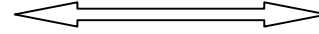
EF: There was a joint meeting of the Association and the Educational Foundation Board at the end of February 2008. Highlights included a commitment to continue the mandate from members to have a unified AAUW 501I (3) organization. Both boards agreed to carry out the AAUW Value Promise: **"By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance."** There will be a review of all programs and activities as well as an extensive review by member committees, staff and an independent consultant for a rewrite of the bylaws of both the Association and the Educational Foundation to reflect the consolidation. For further details go to www.aauw.org/ef and link to the *AAUW EdEqChange* #12 issue.

LAF: This program of the Educational Foundation began in 1981 and has since supported over 100 legal cases. LAF has fought sex discrimination through the courts by giving over \$1.5 million to plaintiffs. Information from a recent LAF Fund Fact Sheet outlines the main works of LAF:

- *Case Support* for cases brought by students, faculty, college/university staff, and administrators. Currently it is supporting 17 cases.
- *Legal Resource Referral Network* of attorneys who consult with the involved parties about sex discrimination in education.
- *Public Education on Campus and in the Community* with campus or community workshops for education on dealing with and stopping sex discrimination.
- *Awards* include the yearly Progress in Equity Award for a college/university that has a program showing significant progress for women on campus and the Plaintiff Travel Grants to help states gain LAF knowledge and raise funds by having persons involved in supported cases visit state conventions. A

biennial Speaking Out for Justice award is given at AAUW's National Convention to a person who has brought nationwide attention to LAF's purpose.

For up-to-date information on cases and further details, check www.aauw.org/laf.



HOW IS THE DATE FOR EQUAL PAY DAY SELECTED?

By Barb Nichols, Public Policy Chair



Do you know the answer to that question? We will observe Equal Pay Day on April 22 in 2008, because it is the date that indicates how far into each year a woman must work to earn as much as a man earned in the previous year. Because women on average earn

approximately 73% of a man's wages for equal work, women must work longer for the same pay. For women of color, the wage gap is greater.

The discrepancy between what a woman earns compared to a man doing the same type of work is a persistent inequity that affects women throughout their lives, even into retirement. Retirement income is based on what is earned during their career. Although we have made advances in pay equity, the equal pay goal is not a reality.

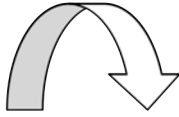
What can we do (besides living longer)? We can support legislation at the state and national levels that promote the economic interests of women. Examples, at the national level, are the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act, and at state level, legislation to provide sick pay for part time workers.

What do I mean by "support?" I mean support in whatever ways we can. With legislation we can write letters, e-mails, visit with our legislators ... Let lawmakers know you care and, when they support our causes, let them know we noticed and thank them. Legislators are people, too, and they need to know when they've done something we approve of. Of course, key to making a difference is to inform ourselves by reading and learning about the issues and responding to AAUW Action Alerts and related information.

At the branch level, we can support projects such as Expanding Your Horizons to educate girls concerning their potential. This project needs volunteers to stuff packets and perform other duties. We can also support the work Sharon Barker and others are doing on the Wage Project, so that young women are informed and educated as to how to get the wage they have earned and deserve. There's no shortage of things to do!

Some people believe that education guarantees financial security. Although educated women do command higher salaries than those without education, they still earn proportionally less, and the gap continues to grow throughout our working lives.

Let's look forward to a Pay Equity Day that we cannot only observe, but actually celebrate ... when the date is the *same* for men and women. Meanwhile, positive change really does depend on our vigilance and action, because equity *is* still an issue.



**VALUE PROMISE FOCUSES
AAUW'S WORK**
*From Patricia Ho, New England
Regional Director and Association
Board Member*

Excitement and enthusiasm highlighted the joint meeting of the Association and Educational Foundation boards on February 22 – 24. In carrying forth the compelling member mandate for strategic change, board members unanimously adopted the Value Promise, which now provides the framework for all AAUW work.

“By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.” This guiding principle unifies our complex organization, reflects our mission, and serves as a standard for all work we undertake. The Value Promise will be the filter for program planning, outreach initiatives, conduct of research and advocacy, and development and allocation of resources.

As an Association board member, I was proud to be part of this initiative, and look forward to sharing this commitment with our New England members. As a foundation for branch and state work, the Value Promise offers unparalleled opportunities for fulfillment of our mission and vision in credible, effective ways.

In other board business, we worked with dynamic new Executive Director Linda Hallman and new Chief of Strategic Advancement Jill Birdwhistell, who are steering AAUW toward realization as an organization uniquely positioned to make a tangible difference for women.

In alignment with the Value Promise, staff and board are comprehensively reviewing all programs, activities, and structures to assess overall impact and return on resources expended. As part of effective governance, the bylaws of both organizations will be rewritten to reflect the consolidation. Probably the most significant guidance from the Board to the Bylaws Committee was support of the “one member, one vote.” Every member will have an equal vote for the Board and officers of AAUW. The Board committed to a national convention in St. Louis by June 2009.

Underlying each Board decision was a commitment to the mandate of the members to undertake a process of analysis and implement fundamental changes that:

- Respect the legacy of our historic organization and its contributions to advancing education and equity for women and girls,
- Respect the worth and contributions of each member,
- Establish and implement a plan that will attract and retain membership, and
- Reinforce our commitment to the Value Promise as a unifying concept for member affiliation and work.

BRANCH AND STATE PROGRAMS

There are many, many programs run by AAUW branches and states throughout the country. To read about them, see http://www.aauw.org/education/community_programs/index.cfm. Some of these are:

¡Adelante! Book Club -¡Adelante! book of the month club participants broaden their own diversity perspectives.

Bullying Program –AAUW offers training to stop bullying and sexual harassment in school.

Community Action Grants provide funds for projects that promote education and equity for women and girls.

Education and Equity: Choices for a Changing World –offers a portfolio of community projects addressing opportunities for women and girls and the circumstances affecting their decisions.

National Girls Collaborative Project.

Signposts – Signposts offers schools an equity road map for the coming century.

Sister-to-Sister Summits, Summit Follow-Up, and Sisters-in-Action –offers teen girl a forum to talk about their generation's challenges.

Tech Check helps schools help girls become technology-competent.

Transitions Conferences for Women – These one-day events ease women's educational decision-making at key points in their lives.

Voter Education Campaign

Woman-to-Woman Community Dialogues on Social Justice

Spring Conference

Sponsored by AAUW

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY – MYTH OR REALITY?

EQUITY IS STILL AN ISSUE

19 April 2008, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Educators and Citizens: Pre-school through University and Life-long Learners

Decision-makers: Parents, Teachers, Students, Boards of Education, Selectmen, Mayors, Legislators, Superintendents of Schools, School Staff, College and University Administrators and Faculty, Tax-payers, Public Safety Officers and Employees

Consumers of Education: Students, Businesses, Home-schoolers, Mentors, Counselors, Planners

Advocates: for Children, Families, Women, Men, Equity in the Workplace, Jobs in New Hampshire, Tourism, Justice, the Environment

anyone who cares about EDUCATION

Program

Welcome: Maggie Ford, Coordinator, AAUW/New Hampshire

KEYNOTE: Dr. Helen Giles-Gee, President Keene State College

REACTOR PANEL:

- * Moderator: Virginia O'Brien Irwin, Administrator, Career Development Bureau, NH, Department of Education
- * Judith Burrows, Director of Program Operation and Student Aid, NH Charitable Foundation
- * Sylvia Gayle, Executive Director, NH Commission On the Status of Women
- * Dr. Richard A. Gustafson, Interim Chancellor, Community College System of NH
- * Michael Power, Executive Director Community Outreach, Workforce Opportunity Council

BREAK-OUT DISCUSSIONS:

- * Business/corporations – what they're looking for in workforce skills. Michael Power, Executive Director Community Outreach, Workforce Opportunity Council
- * Non-traditional Careers and the Role of the Community College – Katharine Eneguess, President, White Mountains Community College, Berlin, NH
- * AAUW research on Equity in Education and the Workplace – Lisa Maatz, Director of Public Policy and Government Relations, AAUW

BUFFET LUNCHEON: (included in registration fee)

* Speaker: Lisa Maatz, Director of Public Policy and Government Relations, AAUW, "Education: The View from Washington"

* Wrap-up: Patricia Ho, New England Regional Director, AAUW

Sponsored by the AAUW/New Hampshire

Co-sponsored by the New Hampshire Department of Education

See aaunh.com for more information and registration information.

Or call Maggie Ford, 603.526.7245; Eleanore Smart, 603.352.0488

Costs are \$30 for the day.



BRANCH NEWS

Hancock County by Louise Storer

In November, the Hancock County Branch had as its guest speaker a retired historian who spoke on the relations between church and state in colonial America. Our December meeting was our annual Holiday get-together and fund-raising auction to benefit EF/LAF. In January, we shared books which we have read recently and which we thought other members would enjoy. At our March meeting, which had to be postponed because of weather, the speaker is scheduled to be the director of our local battered-women's shelter.

In Ellsworth, we are partnering with BPW and Women, Work, and Community to sponsor a series of meetings during March at the University Center, designed to help students - especially women - get off to a good start on their careers. There will be workshops on writing a resume, surviving an interview, establishing reasonable salary expectations, and presenting a professional appearance.

Waterville by Bets Brown

The Waterville branch has had several exciting programs, thanks to Joan Sanzenbacher. In March, Professor of Religion Nikki Singh of Colby College spoke on Globalism and Women in India. She pointed out that until the dowry system in India disappears and women can inherit, equity for women in India will not become a reality. In February, Lauren Lessing, Educational Curator of the Colby College Museum of Art, discussed Women in Art in the Colby Collection. Next month, we will hear from the director of the Waterville Public Library on the future of libraries.

Bath/Brunswick by Charlene Goehring-Fox

The members of the Bath/Brunswick branch have had their share of interesting meetings lately! In January, we were entertained at lunch by a professional storyteller. February found us at the Brunswick Library learning about the Cornerstones of Science program from Director Jocelyn Hubbell. Jocelyn brought one of her student participants along, who shared a wonderful marine science book that she created for her Girl Scouts Gold Award. We look forward to connecting Jocelyn with the newly created National Girls Collaborative Project liaison here in Maine. In March, members will be learning about personality types and the research of new member, Elizabeth Rodenz at a tasty brunch. Growstown School, a one room school house project sponsored by our branch, is getting ready for students who will begin to visit soon. A tour of the Bowdoin Art Museum (also being offered on May 2, prior to the opening of the State Convention) is being offered in April for members and guests. Bath/Brunswick members will also have the opportunity to participate in a Smart Start workshop, put on by the Wage Project, at USM on April 22, Equal Pay Day.

AAUW RELEASES NEWLY REVISED COMMUNITY ACTION GUIDE TO MOBILIZE WOMEN VOTERS

"This is the most critical election in a generation, and AAUW is committed to ensuring that women's voices are heard at the polls. Making this valuable how-to manual available free on our website is a critical part of our voter education campaign."— Lisa Maatz, AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations

Washington -- The American Association of University Women (AAUW) has released a second edition of its well-received publication, *Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout: A Manual for Community-Based Campaigns to Mobilize Women to Vote*. Thanks to critical donor support, this new tool is now available free online to both AAUW members and coalition partners who are making plans to activate women voters across the country this fall.

"This is the most critical election in a generation, and AAUW is committed to ensuring that women's voices are heard at the polls," said Lisa Maatz, AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations. "Making this valuable how-to manual available free on our website is a critical part of our voter education campaign."

AAUW's *Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout* guides advocates step-by-step through planning a campaign, which includes recruiting volunteers, working with publicly available voter registration files to identify drop-off women voters in their community, and contacting those women through canvassing and phone banking. In addition to the manual, other online tools include nonpartisan voter guide templates, e-cards, position papers, and AAUW's *Congressional Voting Record* for the 110th Congress, First Session.

"With approximately 100,000 bipartisan members and more than 1,000 branches, AAUW has the community connections to have a positive effect on the turnout of women voters," said Maatz. "The Woman-to-Woman program also stresses the value of continued outreach to drop-off women voters throughout the year, as well as the importance of educating women about policy issues important to them through public forums, candidate nights, and other community activities."

The methods detailed in the *Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout* manual www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/voter_ed/index.cfm were successfully used by AAUW branches and states in the 2006 midterm election to reach out to women in their communities. "AAUW expects this resource to be the centerpiece of its ongoing member-led voter education campaign and a catalyst for long-term efforts to increase voter turnout among women nationwide," said Maatz.

START SMART CAMPUS INITIATIVE *from Charmen Goehring-Fox*

Negotiating salaries is a challenge for women at all stages of their careers, as women are less likely than men to ask for what they want. The WAGE Project piloted **Start Smart Campus Initiative** on nine college campuses in the fall of 2007 to empower young women starting their careers to avoid the gender wage gap. This initiative provided women who are college juniors and seniors with knowledge and skills when approaching the job market to negotiate salaries and benefits to receive fair and realistic compensation. Follow-up coaching and mentoring will be provided by volunteers from collaborating partners. The WAGE Project will conduct over 20 **Start Smart** Workshops in the spring of 2008 in Arizona, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New York, Rhode Island, and Virginia.

Start Smart Campus Workshops cover the following topics in a presentation:

The personal consequences of the gender wage gap: what a \$1.2 million loss over one's working lifetime means.

Resources for benchmarking reasonable salaries and benefits: learn about job titles, their functions and salary ranges, the impact of market realities on salaries; compare skills and accomplishments to job requirements and market to target a realistic salary range.

Negotiation: how to aim high and be realistic; practice negotiation through role play exercises.

Know your bottom line: develop a "bare bones" budget to pay rent, buy groceries, repay student loans, and other basic expenses.

The WAGE Project is in the process of replicating the initiative on college campuses across the country in partnership with local collaborators. The model will also be adapted for use with all working women in partnership with local YWCAs, BPW and AAUW chapters, State Commissions on Women, and other grassroots organizations serving low-income women. (Information from a Wage Project flyer)

There will be a Smart Start workshop held at USM in Portland on, appropriately, Equal Pay Day, April 22. If you are interested in attending and seeing the workshop, please contact Charmen Goehring-Fox (756-0406) or Annie Houle at The Wage Project (899-2883 or ahoule@wageproject.org) for more information. If after attending, you feel you could be a facilitator, you can fill out an application and begin training for that role. The Wage Project's goal is to present this important workshop on every campus in Maine! They will need our help to do so!

WHAT HAPPEN WHEN YOU LOOK FOR "WOMEN IN MAINE" *from Bets Brown*

I decided to see what was going on with women in Maine, so googled them. I learned a great deal...for instance, that the Maine Women's Lobby and the Maine Women's Policy Center has a new website. Here are some other discoveries.

- The Women's Agricultural Network enables women and other underserved people to successfully own, operate and support agriculturally-related enterprises.
www.umaine.edu/umext/WagN/
- The Maine Women Writers Collection, Abplanalp Library, Westbrook College Campus of the University of New England, is a pre-eminent special collection of published and non-published literary, cultural and social history sources, by and about women authors, either native or residents of Maine. These sources document and illustrate the times, circumstances and experiences of Maine women writers, revealing their public actions and private thoughts. The Collection is a permanently endowed library special collection of literary, cultural, and social history sources by and about Maine women authors. www.une.edu/mwwc/collection/
- Maine Media Women is a community of communications professionals who meet regularly to exchange ideas and information, and to offer mutual support and professional recognition. Their mission is to promote the advancement of women in the communications professions. Their members represent the full spectrum of communications careers, including writers, graphic designers, artists, editors, publishers, photographers, videographers, advertising and marketing professionals, public relations practitioners, communications educators, and specialists in broadcast, print and electronic media.
www.mainemedia.women.org
- <http://janus.state.me.us/house/history/women.htm> provides data on the number of women in the state legislature (45 in the House – 29.8% and 12 in the Senate – 34.3%).
- http://maineguides.com/search_by_sport/for-women-only.html describes programs for women only led by women Maine Guides.
- The Maine Women's Economic Security Agenda reflects the voices of Maine women. In community forums in each County across the state, women in Maine have voiced their concerns about the economic issues that face their communities and their families. They have confirmed that women's economic security encompasses a wide spectrum of issues. Beyond the obvious issues of work and wages, women's economic situation is affected by many other factors, including health care, safety, child care, education and training, equal opportunity, asset development, business ownership, and even tax policy and infrastructure. To learn more see:
<http://www.womenworkandcommunity.org/wesa/>

PROPOSED BUDGET 2008-09: FOR CONSIDERATION AT STATE CONVENTION
from Marilyn Leimbach

<u>Revenue</u>	08/09 Budget		Projected Cash Flow
Dues	2,600.00		
State Meetings	1,900.00		
Fundraising - 30 Lucinda pins	450.00		
Fundraising - campaign	2,000.00		Checking balance 4,416.54
Total Revenue	6,950.00		CD balance 8,000.00
			Cash on hand 12,416.54
			Projected revenue 6,950.00
			Projected expenses -6,940.00
			Ending balance 12,426.54
Expenses			
Officers and Committees			
President	300.00		
Board Officers	120.00		
		includes	
Committees	120.00	travel	
Public Policy	75.00		
		includes	
Achievement Citation	75.00	presentation	
State Meetings	2,400.00		
Miscellaneous			
Sponsorships	100.00		
Gifts/Flowers	100.00		
Travel			
NE Regional meeting	not being held		
State Leaders Conference	not being held		
Canadian Federation	250.00		
National Convention	1,650.00		
Publications			
Dawnbreaker	1,400.00		
Brochure	250.00		
Directory	50.00		
Annual Report	50.00		
Total Expenses	6,940.00		

Board Officers include President Elect, Program Vice President, Membership Vice President Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer @ \$20 each

Committees include Bylaws, College Relations, EF/LAF chair, Historian, Nominating, Diversity @ \$20 each

CFUW - Atlantic Council. Every other year attendance, half budgeted this year budget suggests \$150 lodging/\$100 travel/\$150 registration/\$100 meals (2 people)

National Convention, June 2009 St. Louis budget suggests \$800 lodging/\$1200 travel/\$500 meals/\$800 registration (2 people) this expense budgeted over two years - first half this year, balance in 2009/2010

BETS BROWN

Editor, *Dawn Breaker*
AAUW of Maine
109 Vassalboro Road
South China, Maine 04358

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Please send all address corrections directly to:
AAUW Members Records Office
1111 Sixteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

CALENDAR FOR 2007-2008

2008

May 2-3 Maine State Convention hosted by
Bath/Brunswick Branch (see convention
registration information above)
July 1 FY09 Branch Dues Reports Due
July 9 Summer State Board Meeting
August 15 ***Dawn Breaker deadline***
Sept. 27 Every Member Leadership Training
Dec. 10 ***Dawn Breaker deadline***
Dec. 15 Educational Foundation donations due

2009

Feb. 7 Winter State Board Meeting (Snow date
Feb. 28)
March 10 *Dawn Breaker deadline*
May 1-2 AAUW of Maine State Convention hosted
by Presque Isle Branch
June National Convention, St. Louis