Winter 2008-2009

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Dawnbreaker Staff
Maine Division - American Association of University Women

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President's Message
by Charmin Goehring-Fox

As I plan what to write, a hundred thoughts run through my head, and my son's cat, Beanie, is draped across the top of my keyboard sound asleep and purring. How lovely it would be to be a cat with no concerns other than when the next nap is coming! Because we live in a world with many concerns, and seemingly more and more every day. It can be tough not to get caught up in the emotional frenzy of the current economic crisis or the rampages in Mumbai, India or the presidential transition. In the face of great challenges, it is easy to be overwhelmed and just throw up ones' hands in defeat. However, as Barack Obama said during his campaign, change is coming. Change is not to be feared, but is merely a part of life. Some changes don't appear to be positive in any way, such as the loss of a job (which my husband and I know first hand-he's had four such losses during our 10-year marriage). But over time, something may happen to change that view, such as our having to move to Maine, which has turned out to be one of the best things to have happened to our family. Sometimes, change makes room for something better. I hope people will remember that as we move through these difficult financial times. Our country and government have been around in relatively the same form for over 200 years because they work... and we will land on our feet again!

Similarly, in AAUW, we are seeing changes that, for some, are difficult to absorb. We have new bylaws being drafted, a new organizational structure, new branch formats being created, less members to spread news of the mission and conduct the work. Membership requirements are being looked at again-should we require a degree or should anyone who supports our important mission be allowed to join us? How do we deal with rising costs without raising dues and still offer the same level of membership benefit? How do we appeal to new, younger members when most of our members are on the other end of the age scale? These are challenges, but while working these questions out, we can't lose sight of the work that we are involved in, both here in Maine and nationally. We just experienced a historical election and there is an exciting vibe working its way around our country. I find myself full of hope for the new administration and the possibilities for women that may be realized. As AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman said recently, “You know things are moving fast in our nation’s capital. Decisions are being made quickly and AAUW cannot afford to sit idly by and let others speak for us. Transition teams continue to be assembled – TODAY. Tables of power are being set – TODAY. Issues are being prioritized – TODAY. AAUW must have a say in these changes.”

We had some significant victories during the past year, especially in the area of pay equity awareness (did you know that AAUW first began work on pay equity in 1913? It is an absolute shame that it is still an unresolved issue today.). But we can’t afford to lose momentum and not seize the opportunities at hand. AAUW is a powerful voice for women and girls and we have work to do. Tough economic times are difficult for everyone, but especially for women because of harassment, discrimination, unfair wages, etc. These are also issues for women in Maine. AAUW has paid staff who work with legislators daily on the issues of concern to us and we also have the Capitol Lobby Corp; AAUW members who visit and lobby our congressional leaders regarding areas of concern for AAUW members. We can assist them in several ways-financially by sending donations to continue to finance the work, by organizing lobbying activities here in Maine, by holding events that raise awareness for AAUW’s mission and public policy priorities, by helping to grow our membership numbers so that we continue to be that powerful force for women and girls into the future. To paraphrase the old cigarette slogan, "we've come a long way, baby," but we still have a ways to go!

DO YOU HAVE A FEW SPARE MINUTES? AAUW OF MAINE NEEDS YOU

AAUW of Maine has been fortunate to have so many step up to leadership positions. Currently, the VP for Membership post is vacant. This position is not terribly time-consuming and, yet, is very important to all the state branches. Please contact president Charmen Goehring-Fox (756-0406) if you are willing to step up and serve. Parliamentarian and Public Policy are also open positions.
**AAUW WEBSITES**

**AAUW of Maine:** www.aauwmaine.org  
**National AAUW:** www.aauw.org  
**Contribution Report Forms:** www.aauw.org/member_center/forms/index.cfm  
(Note you’ll need your member number, which I can provide you if you’ve lost yours, just email me at wilbro@fairpoint.net).  
**AAUW’s Blog Spot:** http://blog-aauw.org  
**New Legal Advocacy Fund Cases:** www.aauw.org/member_center/briefings/LAF_120408.cfm

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**2009 National AAUW Convention**

Plan now to attend the 2009 Association Convention, "Breaking Through Barriers," in St. Louis!

From now until January 15, the best value rate of $375 is in effect. This is the same fee that was charged in 2007. From January 15-March 22, an early bird rate of $399 will be charged and the registration fee will be $440 after March 22. You can register and pay online at www.aauw.org.

Hotel rooms at the convention hotel are $150 per night. Charmen Goehring-Fox already has one reserved and is looking for a roommate or roommates!

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**Local Scholarship Idea**

The Association board has recommended that branches use local scholarship monies to send a local college student to the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders, which is held in June. Not only will branch money be well spent in developing women leaders but the money also stays in AAUW and helps to build our organization. Many states and branches are already involved in sponsoring their local students. Maine has yet to jump on board with this incredible venture. With the ties that several of our branches have to local universities, creating a selection process would likely be easy to do. Also, by supporting a college woman now, we increase the likelihood that she will join AAUW upon graduation, something we traditionally don't see with high school aged scholarship recipients.

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**ANOTHER UPDATE: Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 Leadership Team/Board Meetings from Pat Rathbun**

On September 27, the AAUW of Maine board gathered for the fall meeting at UMaine Orono. We had intended to host a Member’s Focus with Dr. Gail Nordmoe, a national AAUW board member, in the morning. Due to a lack of member response, it was not worth Dr. Nordmoe’s time and expense to travel from Connecticut to Maine. So, we continued on alone. We reviewed several new leadership modules on DVD and then discussed how the information we heard applies to our branches and state. We all agreed that continuing to support our mission with a declining membership is a challenge, but one that we are willing to take on! We also discussed creating a strategic plan for AAUW of Maine and our branches. We will use Connecticut’s excellent plan as a model and inspiration. The board hopes to have the plan ready this spring. We heard updates from each branch, as well as National Girl’s Collaborative Project, the Keep Maine Connected campaign and the state convention to be held May 1-2 in Presque Isle.

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The spring leadership team/board meeting will be on March 7, 2009 (March 14-snow date) in Waterville at Marilyn Leimbach’s home (9 Wilson Park, Waterville, 873-7243). **ALL** members are welcome!

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. A refreshing new approach to strategic planning will be taken, regular business items will be covered, and programming and recruitment ideas will be discussed. The camaraderie should be delightful if all goes as normally does. Contact our president Charmen (756-0406) or Marilyn to indicate if you are planning to attend.

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**AAUW FORMS NEW PARTNERSHIP**

AAUW has a new partnership with Barnes & Noble's online sales site, www.BN.com. Customized for AAUW members, the www.bn.com/aauw website is our own AAUW bookstore. AAUW members automatically receive a five percent discount on purchases (10 percent periodically)—and that’s on top of other available discounts that apply to the purchase. You will also find information on:

- AAUW’s ¡Adelante! book club reading list  
- publications by AAUW members  
- AAUW award-winning books  
- International Affairs Committee reading list

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**BARNES & NOBLE BOOKSELLERS**

For help, e-mail connect@aauw.org or call Cordy Galligan at 202/785-7735. Happy reading!
AAUW of Maine
2009 Annual State Convention
May 1-2, 2009

The Future is Now:
21st Century Women Stepping Up to the Challenge

This year’s conference will explore some of the top challenges we face today and tomorrow. Educational strategies for today’s rapidly changing world, the continuing effort to encourage girls in math and science, the need for fiscal awareness, and the individual challenges of finding balance between work, health, and personal relationships.

Plan to join us as we explore these issues through thought provoking speakers and presentations.

Convention Headquarters:
Northeastland Hotel
436 Main St.
Presque Isle, ME 04769
768-5321
1-800-244-5321

Room rates: $75/night double occupancy.
(Nice room, coffee shop on first level.)
Watch for convention rates and registration forms in the Spring Dawn Breaker.

If we see ourselves as members of this community, this AAUW organization, we expand our perspective of the work ahead and strengthen our collective power. As members of the whole AAUW community, we can enhance our participation in several ways.

We can stay connected, be informed of AAUW’s work through www.aauw.org and publications such as Outlook. Read the briefings from Executive Director Linda Hallman, posted on the website, because they provide real updates on the organization’s direction. These briefings address many of our questions and include such topics as Breaking through Barriers -- AAUW’s Unifying Focus, the Value of Branches, Member Showcase, Program in a Box, Pilot Program for Dues Processing and Collections, Branch Tax Status after Restructuring. It is crucial that state and branch leaders forward these notices to members.

As branch members, we can tap the varied resources on the website as we plan program to support our Value Promise of “breaking through barriers.” Our branches need to reach out to other groups so that this becomes a collaborative, shared endeavor. The new programmatic focus will be highlighted at National Convention, June 26 – 28, in St. Louis.

Finally, your presence, if possible, at National Convention will ensure that you have a physical vote on the proposed bylaws that will impact membership, one member/one vote provisions, and the flexible structure of states and branches. All of these issues will shape AAUW for the future.

Happy 50th Anniversary to AAUW’s Educational Foundation
Founded in 1958
(to celebrate visit http://www.aauw.org/ef50/index.cfm)

“My mother drew a distinction between achievement and success. She said that achievement is the knowledge that you have studied and worked hard and done the best that is in you. Success is begin praised by others. That is nice but not as important or satisfying. Always aim for achievement and forget about success.”

~~ Helen Hayes
EF/LAF ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS
from Susan Landry, AAUW of Maines EF/LAF Chair

Contributions to AAUW’s Educational Foundation (ED) and its Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) must be sent to the Association office postmarked no later than December 31, 2008 in order for your branch to receive credit for calendar year 2008. Be sure that any gifts sent close to this deadline are clearly and prominently marked as 2008 contributions. This way your contributions will not be confused with early 2009 submittals. Clearly marking your contribution report form (http://www.aauw.org/member_center/forms/contribution_report.cfm) and/or any accompanying documentation for 2008 will help in ensure that gift processing at the end of the year will be as accurate as possible.

Checks should be sent to the AAUW Development Office, P.O. Box 630832, Baltimore MD 21263. As a reminder, LAF is part of EF now but you can still designate contributions for LAF specifically.

As noted above, you’ll find a printable contribution report form at http://www.aauw.org/member_center/forms/contribution_report.cfm

(You’ll need to login using your member ID to view this page.) It will be helpful if you’ll mail me a copy so that I can keep track of Maine’s contributions and compile an annual report. (You can also donate online by December 31—go to http://www.aauw.org/contribute/index.cfm; please update me as well if you contribute this way.)

Questions or concerns can be addressed to Mr. Tremayne Parquet in the Development Office (parquett@aauw.org or 202/728-7611).

2009 Achievement Citation Award
from Kristin Sweeney
Chair, Achievement Citation Award Committee

Don’t get Cold Feet this Winter after your Summer Resolution and Autumn Resolve to nominate a candidate for the 2009 Achievement Citation Award. As usual, the deadline is January 31, 2009. Nomination forms and instructions were sent to the Branches in October 2008.

The basic requirements include:

• The nominee should be a woman in Maine who has made a distinctive contribution in some AAUW field of interest or study (service to state, to education, to arts, or to humanity, for example).
• The nominee should have a valid connection with the state.

The nominee should exhibit achievement over and above job-related activities.
• The nominee should be a “pioneer” in her area.

Additional considerations include:

• The nominee does not have to be a member of AAUW and does not have to be an “unsung” heroine.
• The achievement does not have to be employment related.
• Other qualifications may be non-traditional fields and significant contribution to community/region/state, women’s issues, or a particular field.

Maine Girls Collaborative Project Update
By Anja Whittington, AAUW Liaison

The Maine Girls Collaborative Project held its kick-off conference on October 10th, 2008. Approximately 70 participants participated in a full day of learning about the project, networking, and brainstorming ways to collaborate. Participants consisted of girl-serving organizations, non-profit organizations, university members, public school educators and individuals interested in promoting girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. Dr. Amy Arnett (photo at left), Associate Professor of Biology at Unity College, was the keynote speaker. She is the author of many research articles focused on the ecology, evolution, and conservation of insects and recently received a Fulbright Scholar Award to teach and conduct insect research at the University of Maribor, Slovenia. Amy’s presentation addressed her path to a science career and the challenges of being a female scientist. The conference also included a panel of professionals that work with girls and a variety of activities to promote collaboration.

We are excited to announce our mini-grant application process is now open, and we will be accepting applications for this first round until the end of January. We have $10,000 to distribute and encourage you to collaborate with another organization to provide programs and/or activities that promote girls in STEM fields. For more information about MGCP visit http://www.pugetsoundcenter.org/ngcp/maine/index.html.
University of Maine's Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center to Offer Maine NEW Leadership from Mary Cathcart

The Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at UMaine will launch an exciting leadership program for college women students, Maine National Education for Women (NEW) Leadership on June 11-16, 2009, and we hope AAUW members will spread the word and recruit a diverse group of bright young women who will benefit from this training. The nonpartisan, six-day program will be offered free for up to 25 undergraduate women enrolled in any college or university in Maine and also to Maine students enrolled in out-of-state institutions. Based on a successful program at the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at Rutgers University, Maine NEW Leadership is designed to identify and help prepare the next generation of women leaders for a role in public service.

Students will live on the Orono campus and will experience interactive training in many aspects of civic and political leadership, including public speaking, coalition building, networking, and advocacy. Participants will spend a day at the Maine State House to observe the Legislature and get acquainted with women legislative leaders and policy advocates. They will tour and dine at the Margaret Chase Smith Library in Skowhegan, home of the first woman to be nominated by her party to run for President of the U.S. They will also participate in an an exercise in which they are assigned a political topic to research, hear from a panel of policy experts, and role-play as legislators, lobbyists, and others in a "mock" public hearing and debate. Participants will gain a greater awareness of their skills, leadership potential, and opportunities in civic life and public office.

AAUW members who want more information can phone 581-1646 or email Eva.McLaughlin@umit.maine.edu or Mary.Cathcart@umit.maine.edu.

BRANCHING OUT

Houlton Branch from Alison Bossie

The Houlton Branch is celebrating its 80th year!

We have heard a local woman tell of her experiences as a mentor to students in Cambodia. She had many pictures and we all enjoyed the program.

For our December meeting we will support the Healthy Snacks Program in the elementary school with approved snacks or donations.

A favorite program is book sharing in April. We all bring our most recent or favorite book.

On March 9, 2009 we will celebrate the women who founded our branch on March 9, 1929! We hope to have former members, state officers, and local officials as guests.

We will wrap up the year as co-hosts of the state convention in Presque Isle.

Mid-Coast Branch from Judy Dinmore

The Candidate Forum, held in Thomaston on September 15th, was organized by the League of Women Voters and co-sponsored by Coastal Senior College and AAUW Mid-Coast Branch. Candidates for the State of Maine House and Senate spoke and answered questions. The Blaine House Tea was held on October 28th and sponsored by the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence. AAUW Mid-Coast was honored by New Hope for Women on the 20th anniversary of the publication of the booklet, Information Guide for Abused Women in Maine, which is currently used by nine programs throughout Maine. Molly Brown, branch member and past president, remembers the effort that went into the Guide's composition and publication. AAUW underwrote the development of the copyright issued in 1988. The copyright was later passed to the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence. Good energy, discussion, food, laughter, and attendance characterized the Maine Literary Festival held from November 7-9 in Camden. The theme was For this Earth: Visions in Literature. Save the date for next year: November 6-8, 2009. The 2009 theme will be Cross-Cultural Experiences: Literature of New Voices in America. The Literary Festival is a scholarship fund-raising event organized by the AAUW Mid-Coast Maine Branch.

Our programs are presented on the third Wednesday of each month at the Rockland Public Library in the Community Room, with lunch starting at noon and the program at 1:00 p.m. Programs are free and open to the public. For questions call Ellen Goldsmith at 354-3659. The next several programs are: Preserving Landscape by Kristen Lindquist, Poet and Environmentalist, on December 17, 2008, Making the Everyday Poetic by Colin Page, Artist, on January 21, 2009, Your Money or Your Life: The American Health Care System The Way It Was, Is and Might Be by Dr. Sue Fisher, Medical Sociologist, on February 18, 2009, and Fear No Art – Maine is a Garden by Cathy Melio, Education Director of the Center for Maine Contemporary Art, on March 18, 2009. We send our best wishes for a good holiday season.
**Penobscot Valley (PV) Branch from Phyllis Borns**

This year, the Penobscot Valley Branch’s theme is “Celebrating Our Own, Our Branch, Our State!” Starting in September, Emily Ann Cain, branch member and State Representative for House District 19, spoke about her own experiences and challenges as a young woman in politics and about the state of women in politics, on the regional and national levels. She led a lively discussion about the role women can play in the political realm, especially in public policy-making.

October’s speaker was Sharon Barker, branch member and director of the University of Maine’s Women’s Resource Center. Largely because of her leadership, the Center has been chosen to coordinate a regional project for the National Girls Collaborative Project. The intent of this project is to create a statewide network of girl-serving organizations, to enable more active collaboration based on best practices and research, and to connect Maine’s science, technology, engineering, and mathematics initiatives involving girls with programs throughout the country.

In November, the PV Branch met at the Old Town Public Library to learn about their programs that fulfill needs of girls 9 and older. Cindy Seger, children’s librarian, discussed “Girls Talk,” a group of 55 5th-grade students who met with 55 mentors, with 110 books distributed to them, that all read and later discussed at their next monthly meeting. The fifth graders continued on through 8th grade. Then, in high school, the same students formed a book club, the “Chin-Wag Society.” The second round of “Girls Talk” included fourth and fifth grades. This time they did not read books, but just talked. This group of 35 girls and 35 mentors continued until 8th grade, considering “dilemmas” which a girl their age might encounter. In high school, 20 girls moved on to the book group, the “Book Worms.” Other groups of girls joined “The Blue Stocking Book Club” and “Sisters of Sewing.” Other library groups, for both boys and girls, include “Camp Discovery” and “Camp Library.”

**Waterville Branch from Bets Brown**

Fall is our busiest time. Charlie Hartman and her team of expert organizers conducted a successful Future Focus Career Day in October in which 350 8th-grade girls met with female mentors and learned about options for career choices. Charlie changed the formatting of the panels, such that the girls were far more involved in the conversations. AAUW of Waterville organized and hosted the event and Colby College provided the venue.

Sue Cook and Beth Craigie led the Waterville Branch in completing the final AAUW of Waterville Book and Bake Sale, raising $700 and disposing of ALL of the remainder of books to other charitable causes or recycling.

We look forward to a typically uproarious auction on December 17, when Betty-Jane Meader manages to convince us to buy, buy, buy so that we can give, give, give to AAUW causes (mostly EF and its affiliated LAF).

**LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND UPDATE**

from Susan Landry, AAUW of Maine EF/LAF Chair

AAUW will expand LAF case support beyond the academic sphere to the wider workplace in line with the Value Promise to break down educational and economic barriers so that all women will have a fair chance. In expanding its vision to include protecting the rights of all women, LAF will focus direct case support strategically, seeking plaintiffs to support whose cases address significant issues that will clearly impact AAUW’s fight for pay equity and workplaces free of sex discrimination.

AAUW will also continue and expand its long-term support as amicus curiae in gender discrimination and other civil rights cases. High in priority is working closely with other respected organizations active in the gender equity arena to identify key cases with significant issues that align with our mission and would benefit from LAF’s expertise and credibility. In other words, AAUW will look to organizational partners, collaborators, and members to help target cases in which AAUW’s voice will make a difference.

AAUW member financial support will continue to be essential. To focus on strategic litigation and landmark cases that make a difference for all of us, we will need to be financially prepared. If we are to broaden our focus beyond the academic arena and target our resources to cases that establish significant legal precedents, we must create a fund that will support a significant attack when a big case comes along. We will still need to support LAF travel grants and program management, but the real need will be for a “war chest” that we can call upon for strategic litigation.

With the continued support of AAUW members and strategic selection of significant cases, LAF has the opportunity to truly make a difference for all women; let’s galvanize our commitment to gender equity and fulfill our promise to break through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance!

NOTE: for more on LAF, see the updated Current Topics Briefing #13 at http://www.aauw.org/member_center/briefings/LAF_120408.cfm
KEEP MAINE CONNECTED CAMPAIGN

from Marilyn Leimbach

The development campaign that was launched last May at our state convention has been successful to date. With a goal of raising $2,000 to fill the budget shortfall rather than increasing dues, members have sent in $1,745 as of December 10. My ten-year old daughter Celia took responsibility for mailing almost 300 letters to the AAUW members of the state asking for contributions to AAUW Maine’s state budget. The effort is paying off! I have been receiving lots of mail recently!

The following generous folks have contributed $1,745 to our Keep Maine Connected campaign:

Bath/Brunswick Branch:
  Joanne Bollinger
  Linda Clement
  Sally Gray
  Alice Spindler
  Lucy Stinson
  Kirsten Sweeney
Caribou Branch:
  Darylen Cote
  Mary Kirkpatrick
Downeast Branch:
  Deborah Cravey
Hancock County Branch:
  Diann Bauersfeld
  Ellie Kates
Houlton Branch:
  Alison Bossie
  Nancy Hutchinson
  Deborah Melvin
Midcoast Branch:
  Margaret Boyajian
  Katherine Brown
  Ann Dewitt
  Judy Dinmore
  Anne Edmonds
  Mary Ireland
  Anne Morlan
  Sally Roberts
  Margaret Shea
Penobscot Valley Branch:
  Cathleen Bauschatz
  Lee Davis
  Evelyn Dearborn
  Dorothy Turner
Presque Isle Branch:
  Linda Graves
  Pat Rathbun
Waterville Branch:
  Bets Brown

Donna Buck
  Beth Craigie
  Jean Lamond
  Betty-Jane Meader
  Mollie Schmidt
  Margaret Whalen

Thank you all so very much!

UPDATE: THE MAINE CHOICE COALITION

The Maine Choice Coalition met on December 8, 2008. AAUW of Maine was represented by Sharon Barker and Sarah Standiford. Here are some highlights of that meeting:

• A legislative reception will be held at Slates January 27th from 4:30 to 6:30 to inform legislators about the problem with a parental consent bill. Maine Choice Coalition members have scheduled meetings with key legislators to discuss this possible legislation, including both Democrats and Republicans. They intend to meet with House and Senate Leadership, leaders of relevant committees and other legislators whose votes will be important.

• The Heart of Maine Campaign initiated by Family Planning Association has begun with community forums. To date, these have been well attended. In Bangor and Oxford they have received excellent media coverage.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. at Maine Equal Justice Partners.

AAUW FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Upcoming Fellowship and Grant Deadlines – Apply Now!
A complete list of fellowship and grant deadlines is available on the AAUW website.
www.aauw.org/About/deadlines.cfm

Fellowships and Grants Alumnae Update
Take a look at the Fall/Winter edition of AAUW Outlook for a brief summary of our first alumnae survey findings. AAUW will be developing resources and content to connect with past fellows and grantees. Visit the fellows alumnae page to see the latest updates on former recipients.
www.aauw.org/publications/outlook/index.cfm
www.aauw.org/education/fga/fellows_network/index.cfm
Calendar for 2008-2009

2008
December 31  Contribution Report Forms due for the Educational Foundation, the Association, LAF, and the AAUW Leadership and Training Institute

2009
January 10  Selected Professions Fellowships grant applications due
January 15  Community Action Grant applications due

January 31  Maine AAUW Achievement Citation Award Nominations Due
March 7  Spring Leadership Meeting
March 14  Snow Date for Spring Leadership Meeting
March 15  Dawn Breaker deadline
May 1-2  Maine State Convention
June 26-29  National AAUW Convention, St. Louis
July 1  FY09 Branch Dues Reports Due
July  Summer Leadership Team Meeting-date TBD
August 15  Dawn Breaker deadline