



*AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.*

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year has been a very successful year for AAUW-TN in many ways. We made a statement in many venues as being the voice for women's issues. This was made possible because of all our leaders across the state, from branch officers and members to state board members.

Each one of you has done your part in our own way. Many of you participated in the Fall Board meeting and then made an impact at the Tennessee Economic Summit for Women.

I encourage you to put the date of October 26, 2015 on your calendar for this year's Economic Summit. This is an important event for networking with our alliance organizations and letting others know what we do. This year's summit will feature several well-known women including,

Pulitzer Prize Winning Columnist, Ellen Goodman, USA Today Columnist Christine Brennan, and concurrent sessions including a panel of legislators-Rep. Karen Camper, Sen. Becky Massey, Rep. Sherry Jones, Rep. Johnnie Turner, and Rep. Dawn White. Whether you are able to attend state-wide events/activities or work through your branches or let your voice be heard through e-mails, phone calls or twittering, each one of us can help to make a difference and level the playing field for girls and women.

Thanks to everyone who has worked so diligently this year to put us in a great position to do great things.

Sue Byrd  
2014-15 President



*AAUW-TN Board members meeting in March 2015. In this picture they are wishing Mel Jackowski well as she ends her job as Grassroots Advocacy Manager with AAUW National.*

**The Latest News:** AAUW-TN will be receiving an AAUW Impact Grant for 2015-16 which will help in our state wide initiatives.

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*(l to r) Sam Ray, Martin Branch President, Anne Loy, Knoxville branch President, Sue Byrd AAUW-TN President, at the 2014 Tennessee Women's Economic Summit.*

# AAUW-TN Annual Convention

The 2015 AAUW of Tennessee Convention at Montgomery Bell State Park was enjoyed by 34 participants with a jam packed agenda that met the needs of a variety of members.

- One of the highlights of the convention was hearing from Claudia Richards, National AAUW Senior Branch Relations Manager, who talked to us about how to market our branches and recruit/retain members. We learned how important it is to analyze the communications that our intended audiences are using and interact with them using that communication. Using a variety of strategies is important.
- Rachel Forlines, Assistant to the Public Policy Chair, continued the conversation by teaching us the ins-and-outs of tweeting.
- Learning more about talking to legislators and becoming more familiar with public policy was facilitated by Dia Cirillo, Public Policy Chair.
- Naomi Plant, the 2014 AAUW-TN NCCWSL Scholarship Recipient, shared

with the group her experience at the NCCWSL conference.

- During the state convention, Charlotte Crawford, representing the Tennessee Women Project, presented AAUW-TN a check for \$1,000 to be used to send additional students to the 2015 NCCWSL Conference. Because of this contribution, three students were sponsored by AAUW-TN to go to the conference this year: Megan Merrick, MTSU; Sarah Dianne Jones, Maryville College; and Jamie Farris, UT Martin.
- Students attending the state convention enjoyed two special sessions just for them, including how to network and communicate in the job market, led by Teresa Collard and Lisa LeBleu of the UT Martin Women's Center and learning about AAUW and how to become more involved, led by Rachel Forlines.

Make your plans now to attend the 2016 AAUW-TN Convention in Nashville at Scarritt-Bennett, on April 8-9, 2016.



*Dia Cirillo, AAUW-TN Public Policy Chair, presenting information about our public policy efforts this year and how to talk to legislators.*



*Students from UT Martin were among the participants at the AAUW-TN Convention.*



*Naomi Plant tells the group about her experience at the 2014 NCCWSL Conference.*



*Rachel Forlines, Assistant to the Public Policy Chair, conducting a Twitter Workshop*



*Anne Loy, 2012-13 President conducts the swearing in ceremony for the 2015-16 officers: Ayne Cantrell (President), Samantha Cantrell (President-Elect), Connie Malarkey filling in for Phyllis Driver, Finance Officer*



*Claudia Richards, National AAUW Senior Branch Relations Manager, presents a workshop on marketing your branch and recruiting members.*



*AAUW-TN representatives at the AAUW National Convention in San Diego*



*Participants in the AAUW-TN Leadership Summit*

# Branch – State Collaboration Proves Fruitful in Public Policy Change

The 2015 legislative session was an action-packed time for AAUW-TN in state public policy! Members across the state participated in events and reached out to elected officials to make our collective voice heard.

In February, AAUW-TN and the Nashville Branch co-organized a legislative panel on the Tennessee State Academic Standards at TSU. Here we greeted our speakers and facilitated public discourse on the Standards. After the event, we took the discussion to social media with our first statewide “Twitter storm”. Alongside these events, members across the state called and wrote their officials, who were

eager to hear our members’ positions in detail. Through these combined efforts, AAUW-TN was instrumental in the defeat of bills seeking to repeal the Standards. Our message to “stay the course on the Standards” was triumphant!

In March, we joined the Women’s Political Collaborative of Tennessee in their annual Day on the Hill. Branch members from across the state took to the capitol to meet with officials and lobby for our causes. During this Day on the Hill, we received news that a bill to extend the life of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women (TECW) was voted down in committee. AAUW-TN acted quickly, mobilizing our statewide network to appeal

to legislators directly to support TECW. No doubt our vocal support encouraged the House to pass the bill that has the potential of continuing TECW. We will be monitoring the status of this legislation next session (January 2016).

Thanks to AAUW-TN’s enthusiastic membership for making it all happen. This fall we will be taking-up equal pay and the pay gap across the state. We have plenty more work to do, so we’ll see you in September!

Rachel Forlines  
Assistant to the Public Policy Chair, AAUW-TN



*Left: Women’s Day on the Hill, meeting with Representative Brenda Gilmore (l to r): Samantha Cantrell, Sue Byrd, Ayne Cantrell, Representative Gilmore, LeeAnne Allen Carmack, Dia Cirillo, Rachel Forlines.*

*Below: AAUW-TN members join forces with WHET members to meet with First Lady Chrissy Haslam.*

*Above: AAUW-TN members meeting with Representative Harry Brooks during Women’s Day on the Hill (l to r): Dia Cirillo, Samantha Cantrell, Representative Brooks, Sue Byrd, Rachel Forlines, Ayne Cantrell.*



*Left: AAUW-TN members meeting with Representative Harold Love.*

## AAUW PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM, 2013–2015

*The Public Policy Program underscores AAUW’s mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research and speaks to women’s needs, aspirations, and concerns across the life span. The work of AAUW builds upon more than 130 years of responsible public participation, and the following principles provide a basis for AAUW members’ actions at the local, state, national, and international levels. Implicit in each of our principles is support for government agencies administering programs, including adequate appropriations, effective and accountable administration, and provision for citizen participation. We advocate public discussion to ensure enlightened decisions on these principles. We work to increase the number of underrepresented populations, including women, in policy- and other decision-making positions. AAUW is committed to working in partnership with diverse allies and coalitions to break through educational and economic barriers for women and girls.*

# NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

## Murfreesboro

In March, AAUW Murfreesboro celebrated National Women's History Month with a thematic panel, "Notes to My College Self." Panelists included Dr. Dawn McCormack, Associate Professor of History and Assistant Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, MTSU; Karen Alea Ford, Director of MTSU Write; and Collier Andress Smith, former staff member in the Clinton Administration and current Murfreesboro City School Board member. Branch nominee Megan Merrick was named as one of the AAUW TN NCCWSL Scholarship Award recipients.

On April 14 and May 5 in recognition of EQUAL PAY DAY, Branch Public Policy Chair Dia Cirillo met with a group of MTSU faculty and administrators to discuss the pay gap with an emphasis on exploring ways to increase collaboration between the branch and the university in the coming year in order to better prepare students who will graduate into the gap and to educate university faculty, administrators, staff, and students regarding the need for gender pay equity.

On April 23, the branch hosted the initial meeting of organizations interested in forming the Rutherford County Women's Council, a voluntary, non-partisan, coordinating council composed of diverse members and organizations and programs in Rutherford County and at Middle Tennessee State University focused on issues relating to women and girls. Seventeen organizations have expressed interest in joining the council. The purpose of the council will be to foster, promote, and support growth opportunities in education, at work, and in the community for women and girls in Rutherford County. An organizational meeting will be held in June and a date in July will be set for the official recognition of the council and its founding members.

The recipient of the Ruth Houston Memorial Scholarship was announced: Bethany Jackson is a junior at MTSU majoring in education. She will receive \$2,000 for the 2015-2016 year. The branch held its annual meeting and "Shape the Future" Buffalo Raffle, which raised funds for AAUW Educational Opportunities and Legal Advocacy. New officers were installed: Dia Cirillo, President; and Rachel Forlines, Communications.

On June 13 the branch will host the AAUW Tennessee Leadership Summit on the campus of MTSU.



Ayne Cantrell (right) installs Rachel Forlines (left) as Murfreesboro Branch Communications Officer and Dia Cirillo as Branch President, May 14, 2015. Photo by Laura Bartel.

## Memphis

We have had three interesting and inspiring programs this spring. In February our speaker was Claudia Haltom, President and CEO of A Step Ahead Foundation. Her topic was "A Conversation about Contraception: Helping Women Make Wise Choices." One of the main goals of this foundation is to lower the high rate of teenage pregnancies in the Memphis area. They hope to influence both the health care community and young women to consider Long Acting Reversible Contraception as an alternative to birth control pills.

For Women's History Month, in March our own branch member Paula Casey told the story of "Tennessee—The Deciding Vote for Woman Suffrage." Paula was instrumental in helping Carol Lynn Yellin and Janann Sherman to get their book published, *The Perfect 36: Tennessee Delivers Woman Suffrage*. She is also one of the authors who contributed to *Tennessee Women of Vision and Courage*. The 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment will be in 2020. In celebration

of this event, she exhorted us to help with a current effort to raise funds for a Suffragist monument to be created and installed near the War Memorial Plaza in Nashville.

In celebration of Equal Pay Day in April, we arranged a panel discussion on the topic, "Graduating into the Pay Gap: Young Women and Work." Our three panelists were Felicia Echols-Lee, Student Affairs Manager at Tennessee College of Applied Technology—Memphis; Charlene Wooldridge, teacher of Business Technology at Fayette-Ware Comprehensive High School; and Connie Williams, CEO and co-founder of Shine Marketing Group, a consulting and management firm. They described how they encourage and assist young women and girls in career choices during high school, college, and after graduation, with an eye to the negative consequences of the Pay Gap.

Submitted by Ann Indingaro, Secretary

## Maryville

AAUW Maryville had a busy spring!

Nine members & friends read from family histories, contemporary writers and their own experiences for an open mic "women reading women" event for Women's History Month. Held at Vienna Coffee, a Maryville casual gathering spot, the evening was capped with the singing of suffrage campaign songs.

To recognize Equal Pay Day four members held a tabling event at the Blount County Campus of Pellissippi State Community College & spoke with concerned students and professors about pay inequity. Many were surprised at the width of the gap. Karen Coleman spoke to two sociology classes with detailed information about the pay gap.



WHM Readers: Back from L: Ashley Watkins, Vandy Kemp, Karen Coleman, Sharon Cousins, Autumn Hall. Front from L: Kathryn Ann Loy, Lois Van Wie, Joan VanSickle Sloan, Nancy McEntee

At Maryville College the second \$tart \$mart Workshop co-sponsored by the Branch and Maryville College opened the eyes for students from MC and PSCC about the realities of entering the job market.

We concluded the spring with our annual "buffalo auction," a white elephant raffle and dinner. The proceeds

of the raffle help send a local college woman to NCCWSL.

# NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

## Martin

AAUW Martin Branch was actively involved in many activities centering around Equal Pay during the Winter and Spring of 2015. This included celebrating Women's History Month by participating in the annual UT Martin Women's Studies Symposium, presenting Point-Counterpoint of important women's issues. Member Teresa Collard made a guest appearance as Mrs. Febb Burn (mother of Harry Burn, Tennessee Legislator who ratified the 19th amendment).

On Equal Pay Day, the branch visited the County and City mayors offices and had Equal Pay Day Proclamations signed by both mayors, led a forum on pay equality and did a tabling event on the UTM campus, distributing 78 cent bills. In 2015 the branch led 10 events related to Equal Pay with a total audience 325 individuals. The branch also organized and presented a workshop to Girl Scout members in the area for a Netiquette badge.



Martin Branch president Sam Ray hands out 78 cent dollar bills at a UT Martin tabling event on Equal Pay Day.



Teresa Collard, UT Martin Women's Studies Director, portrays Mrs. Febb Burn during the Women's Studies Symposium.



City of Martin Mayor Randy Brundige signs an Equal Pay Day proclamation (Sue Byrd, state President left, Sam Ray Martin Branch President right).

## UTC University Partner



Above: UT Chattanooga Students presenting their 'Elevator speeches' during the Elect Her Workshop.

Right: UT Chattanooga students took part in an Elect Her Workshop from grant received from AAUW in February 2015. L to R: Kendall Hill, Planning Committee member, Sue Byrd AAUW -TN Pres., Melissa Richmond, presenter from "Running Start" co-sponsors of Elect Her.



## Knoxville

The Knoxville AAUW Branch supported the UTK's Women's Studies Department with its tabling event on April 14, 2015, in the Student Center. AAUW materials were available, along with bookmarks and "dollar bills" which were handed to students and adults going to and from the cafeteria. Several people stopped to ask for more

information. One man said that he would email both U.S. Senators that day!

The students were given extra credit for working on this. Most also signed up to become e-student affiliate members. They have since been invited to a Branch meeting.

## Membership Update

Membership for AAUW-TN is growing and we are excited about our new members. We will continue the efforts in making AAUW-TN known in many communities across the state. For the fiscal count from 3/14/2014 to 2/1/2015, state membership grew by 18 new members and the national membership grew by 32 members.

- Congratulations to the Nashville branch on its revitalization.
- Murfreesboro recently added e-student affiliates to its branch roster.
- Branches that would like to add registered e-students to their roster (providing the students want to be members) can get this process completed by the branch finance officer.
- Updates/Reminder
- For electronic correspondence and postal mail purposes, please update your email and home addresses.
- Membership renewal for 2015-2016 year is currently in progress. Make sure you contact the appropriate individual before your membership expires.
- Membership is from 7/1 to 6/30 of the following year.

We express our sincere thanks and congratulations to all our new members. We hope you take advantage of all the benefits available to you. We are here to make your experience the best that it can be, so don't hesitate on engaging with our AAUW family.

Letha Granberry, Membership VP



UTK Equal Pay Day Tabling Event with UTK Women's Studies staff AAUW Knoxville Branch members and UTK students.



## 2014-2015 Executive Committee

**PRESIDENT**  
Sue Byrd

**PAST PRESIDENT**  
Mayme Crowell

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**  
Ayne Cantrell

**FINANCIAL OFFICER**  
Samantha Cantrell

## 2014-2015 Appointed Officers

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**  
Jamie Olson  
LaRose

**DEVELOPMENT CHAIR**  
Anne Loy

**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY  
RELATIONS/NCWSL**  
Taylor Emery  
Teresa Collard

**PUBLIC POLICY**  
Dia Cirillo

**MEMBERSHIP**  
Letha Granberry

**WEBMASTER**  
Connie Malarkey

**BYLAWS/POLICY COMMITTEE**  
Peggy Emmett

## AAUW National Contacts

National President, Patricia Fae Ho  
Executive Director, Linda D. Hallman

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# AAUW-TN

## 2015-16 Calendar



See newsletter  
for details of  
events

### August 26, 2015:

Women's Equality Day

### October 25, 2015:

AAUW-TN Board Meeting - Nashville

### October 26, 2015:

Tennessee Economic Summit for Women  
- Nashville

### April 8-9, 2016:

AAUW-TN Convention – Scarritt-Bennett  
- Nashville

## Our Mission...

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

## Our Vision...

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

## The AAUW Value Promise...

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

## Find us online

[aauw.org](http://aauw.org)

[aauw-tn.aauw.net](http://aauw-tn.aauw.net)

[facebook.com/aauw.tn](https://facebook.com/aauw.tn)