



AAUW Tennessean

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FROM THE PRESIDENT, ANNE LOY:

During the holidays I was able to view my recorded movie, Missrepresentation, and was quite disturbed by its viewpoint that much of the media portrays women as objects, and particularly sex objects. One of the authors who spoke in the movie was Barbara Berg, author of *Sexism in America: Alive, Well, and Ruining Our Future*. I put a “hold” on it with our library and am reading it now. Katie Couric was also featured and has written a book on the subject. You might want to investigate this topic. The movie was featured at the AAUW Convention last June and it can be ordered through aauw.org for viewing in your branch. With such a prevalent culture in our society today, it’s no wonder that girls, especially, are being sexually harassed at school, the topic of the latest AAUW research report, *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harrassment at School*.

Hard copies are available from ShopAAUW. For members with internet access, you may access the *Crossing the Line* report now, bypassing the information collection form. Go to <http://www.aauw.org/learn/research/upload/CrossingTheLine.pdf>.

AAUW of Tennessee sponsored a congratulatory newspaper ad in the *Knoxville NewsSentinel* on the inauguration day of the first female mayor of the four largest cities in the state, Saturday, December 17, 2011. Madeline Rogero won this distinction and many people contributed financially for the ad so that no AAUW funds were used. She is not the first woman mayor in the state, but they are far and few between, and of smaller cities and towns. She encourages women to run for public office, as do we!

IMPORTANT NOTICE: DUES INCREASE AND SIMPLER BYLAWS PROPOSED: At the April AAUW of Tennessee Annual Meeting, to be held in Knoxville on April 21, 2012, a vote will be held to increase state dues by \$2, to \$10. You will need to make your various representatives know your desires. (We are operating with a deficit budget, and this slight dues increase will help ease that difficulty.) We will also vote on a simpler and streamlined set of Bylaws. More later.

NEW OFFICERS NEEDED: Soon a Nominations Form will be sent to all state members with the request that nominations be made for several vacancies in the Board of Directors. It includes recommended qualifications and duties. You may nominate others (best to get their agreement) or yourself. Votes will be taken at the Annual Meeting, installation will

take place at a Board meeting subsequent to that, and officers take office on July 1, 2012. There is a great need for leadership for our organization and I want to encourage everyone to think seriously about this.

Also be thinking about the NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) and the opportunity to send Tennessee college women leaders to the June 2012 conference in Washington, D.C. Last year more than 500 young women attended. Since 2005, AAUW of Tennessee has awarded scholarships to fourteen students to this event, co-sponsored by AAUW and NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education).

We again invite branches to nominate students for the scholarship for the May 31 – June 2, 2012 event, and it would be great to have a branch or two sponsor financially other candidates, in addition to the one for whom AAUW of Tennessee sponsors. The state scholarship pays for registration, including board. Branches are expected to cover some travel costs. Forms will be sent to branches in the spring.

AAUW member honored at White House event: In a recognition ceremony recently for community heroes, Tamara Brown, member and former president of the AAUW Buffalo (NY) Branch, founder of Buffalo’s *Tech Savvy* program, was honored for her work to engage women and girls in STEM fields.

Tennessee Women’s History Project

This project is an outgrowth from an article in the *AAUW Tennessean* celebrating Women’s History Month in March

2011. AAUW members were asked to submit brief narratives honoring AAUW members who led the way for AAUW in Tennessee. Four women were presented in the article, and plans were made to expand this initial undertaking. Newsletter editors, Charlotte Crawford and Ruth Smiley, conceived the idea of a booklet honoring AAUW members. That idea grew into a book that would include all Tennessee women who should have a place in Tennessee history. Organizations (such as the League of Women Voters, YWCA, and others) may co-sponsor the project with AAUW of Tennessee. Organizations and individuals may nominate Tennessee women (now deceased) and/or apply to submit articles about them.

Credit will be given to each author, and a brief biographic sketch about the author will be included. AAUW of Tennessee is applying for an AAUW Community Action Grant to be supplemented with funds from organizations within the state, as well as in-kind

support from members. Whether or not we get a grant depends in part on how much support the state organization and branches will supply.

Proceeds from the sale of this book go to AAUW of Tennessee's scholarship fund to send Tennessee college students to the annual National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Please discuss this project within your branch and let us hear from you!

AAUW members may participate in this project by recruiting co-sponsors, nominating women to be included, writing articles, and helping with promotion and distribution of the finished book. **Our goal is to have all AAUW branches in Tennessee represented.** For more information see link <http://aauw-tn.aauw.net/projects/state-projects/tennessee-women-project/>

FROM Charlotte Crawford & Ruth Smiley, Project Directors. tnwomenproject@gmail.com

BRANCH NEWS:

CHATTANOOGA: Although the Chattanooga Branch has only seven members remaining (Life members) it has had a rich history. Its first meeting was held on February 4, 1927, at the Girls Preparatory School, according to Life member Frances Bishop. Miss Tommie Payne Duffy, co-principal of the school, formed the branch. Miss Margaret Giles was elected as the first president. In 1937-38, a big project was begun—bringing traveling players to produce plays for children. This continued for some time, and Frances said that she remembers being taken to see “King of the Golden River,” by her aunt.

KNOXVILLE held its annual Holiday Auction in November to benefit AAUW Funds' Educational Scholarships, raising \$3000 plus another \$500 in donations! A good time was had by all.

OAK RIDGE, along with Knoxville, held the 31st SHADES (SHaring ADventures in Engineering and Science) workshop at the new “L&N STEM Academy” in Knoxville. This is a day of fun and hands-on learning in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields. Forty girls from middle schools in Anderson, Knox, Blount, and Campbell counties participated.

CALENDAR

January 30, 2012: Deadline to apply for State Board Seats
March 2012: Women's History Month
April 20-21, 2012: State Convention, Knoxville
April 20, 2012: Equal Pay Day June 1, 2012: Branch and State officer forms due to Association and Anne Loy
July 1, 2012: new officers assume their duties
November 6, 2012, ELECTION DAY

Has your branch made plans to encourage the community to get out to vote? Many AAUW members have received information and a Pledge Form to participate in the AAUW campaign to increase attention to our key issues and to strengthen women's involvement in the 2012 election. If not, think about it, and plan for it. Donations are also needed for the “My Vote,” to help create 30-second public service announcements.

AAUW of TENNESSEE was founded in 1926. We are 95 years old! Celebrate!

Lilly Ledbetter Publishes Book: Lilly Ledbetter's book, *Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond*, can be ordered on Amazon. AAUW has worked closely with Ledbetter to fight pay discrimination. After the Supreme Court decided against her in the discrimination suit against Goodyear, legislation was passed amending the loophole Goodyear had exploited. President Barack Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law in September 2009.

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.

Deadline for the next newsletter: February 24th

