



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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Some people are lucky, and some are simply very lucky! I consider myself the latter in knowing and working with so very many wonderful individuals dedicated to the mission of AAUW. We may be few in numbers in Tennessee, but we are a powerful bunch in quantity of effort. Let's keep up the good work.

Our Summer Leadership Conference will be in Murfreesboro on Saturday, June 21. We will hear from branches as to their priorities and then will solidify our state plans for the next three years.

The Fall Board meeting will be in Nashville on Sunday, October 19, in conjunction with the Tennessee Women's Economic Summit. Sue Byrd, your new president, will preside. You will want to stay for

the Summit, where the Honorable Janet Yellen, Chair, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve Bank, is the invited speaker.

As I leave you as AAUW-TN president, I want to thank you for allowing me to lead your dedication and spearhead your efforts to AAUW causes. You are the beating hearts and brains behind this organization. I admire and congratulate you!

--Mayme



A warm welcome to Sue Byrd, 2014-15 AAUW-TN President

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## WELCOME NASHVILLE BRANCH!

The Nashville Branch is viable once again thanks to the efforts of many devoted-to-AAUW individuals. A get-acquainted evening was held at Maggiano's in March. In late April a nucleus of interested members met, decided to become an AAUW branch, elected officers, determined branch dues, and began establishing its by-laws.

The Nashville Branch officers are Rachel Wright, President; Julia Anderson High, Secretary; Brandi Van

Order, Treasurer; and Sherry Elrod, Public Policy. The local dues are \$5. The May meeting was on Tuesday, May 27, at 7 p.m. at 2500C West Linden Avenue, Nashville. Members discussed finding a permanent meeting location.

How delighted AAUW-TN members are to welcome the newly activated branch! You will want to meet and welcome the remarkable Nashville members when attending state meetings.

## Photos from State Conference

Please visit AAUW-TN's Facebook page to view several wonderful photos from the State Convention in April.

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## Additional AAUW online resources

[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)  
[aauw-tn.aauw.net](http://aauw-tn.aauw.net)  
[www.facebook.com/aauw.tn](http://www.facebook.com/aauw.tn)

**Have you invited a friend to an AAUW meeting lately?**

# NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

## Maryville

AAUW Maryville will be participating this summer with a new local education project, the New Opportunity School for Women at Maryville College.

NOSW is a 3-week residential program of education and support to help low-income, under-educated, middle-aged Appalachian women develop essential tools for advancing education, gaining sustainable employment and rebuild self-esteem. This 4th NOSW is funded with a grant from the Women's Fund of East TN.

The first began at Berea College in 1987. AAUW members will be providing an evening meal to the participants and staff as well as donating business clothing for this exciting program with a proven track record.

For more information about NOSW, visit <http://www.maryvillecollege.edu/about/outreach/education/the-new-opportunity-school-for-women/> or contact Ueland at 865.981.8123 or [linda.ueland@maryvillecollege.edu](mailto:linda.ueland@maryvillecollege.edu).



AAUW Maryville branch members celebrate their year of success at their annual business meeting.

New officers were installed at the May 19th meeting, and the Education Award Winner, along with the Roane State Community College Scholarship (RSCC) winners, were introduced. Each year the Branch offers scholarships to women over 25 returning to RSCC. With a generous donation by a longtime member, the Branch this year awarded ten scholarships to deserving women.

Most recently the Murfreesboro branch has focused on the public policy issue of Equal Pay for Equal Work, fundraising for the branch scholarship, and strategic planning.

Equal Pay Day activities in April included a branch-sponsored Equal Pay Proclamation signed by Murfreesboro City Mayor Tommy Bragg, pay gap tabling at MTSU, and a \$tart \$mart Workshop for MTSU female students. Also in April the branch held its annual used book sale, which netted \$2000 toward funding the Ruth Houston Memorial Scholarship, and in May the 2014-2015 scholarship of \$1000 per semester was awarded to Kanwal Qureshi, an international student from Pakistan and a junior at MTSU majoring in Nutrition/Food Science with a concentration in Dietetics.

Also at the May meeting, members unanimously approved the AAUW Murfreesboro Strategic Plan, 2014-2016. Over the next two years, the branch will

1. become widely known in Rutherford County for creating opportunities for women and girls;
2. connect young women and girls to opportunities that will equip them to be successful in pursuing post-secondary education, careers, and earning a living wage; and

## Oak Ridge

The May program featured Mary Mahoney, UT-Knoxville, speaking on the "Basics of Negotiating for Women." Members brought items for the Battered Women's Facility and brought box tops for education coupons. The book group met this month at Greenfield's Assisted Living and reviewed *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan. In June the group will hear a Nashville forensic dentist talk about his work in identifying 9/11 victims. The Lunch Bunch and Gourmet

## Murfreesboro

3. be the go-to organization on public policy as it relates to women and girls in education and at work.

Specific actions to accomplish these goals include increasing branch membership by 20% and diversifying membership, launching a social media and marketing plan to clarify the branch image, co-sponsoring the \$tart \$mart Workshop for MTSU female students and the EYH Conference in Science and Math for middle and high school girls, engaging in the AAUW statewide campaign for a TN Paycheck Fairness Act, and developing a Rutherford County women's council on systemic change as it affects women and girls.



Dia Cirillo reviews Strategic Plan, Branch Meeting May 9

Other branch activities included the branch nomination of Ayne Cantrell for the inaugural RutherfordCable ATHENA Leadership Award and branch-sponsored NWHM panel presentation by five women in local city and county government for which the branch received an AAUW LAF Outreach Grant.

The branch continues to advise and have close ties with the AAUW MTSU Student organization as evident in the students' participation in most branch activities, including strategic action planning. The students recently elected new officers and over the next year plans to increase its membership by at least 10 new active members.

Group ended their years with festive activities.

Virginia Jones, Public Policy Chairperson, placed an AAUW display at the public library. She also instigated an Oak Ridge City Council proclamation on Equal Pay or Equal Work. Virginia urged Branch members to contact their Federal representatives concerning their votes on the national minimum wage act.

# NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

## Memphis

In the observance of Equal Pay Day, the AAUW-Memphis branch and The Center for Research on Women (CROW) held a panel discussion about the effects of the wage gap on women. The discussion was held on the campus of University of Memphis (thanks to Dr. Lynda Sagrestano, Director of CROW). AAUW-Memphis received a proclamation from Memphis' Mayor AC Wharton making April 8 Equal Pay Day in Memphis.

The panel discussion was focused on the economic case for equal pay, which was evidence base driven; taking the issue to state legislatures; and how employers can have an

impact on balancing the pay scale between women and men. The panel discussion was moderated by Dia Cirillo, Murfreesboro and state Public Policy chairperson. The panelists were: Audrey Bonner from EEOC-Memphis; Dr. David Ciscel, Prof. Emeritus of Economics at the UofM; Wanda Halbert, City

Councilwoman, District 4; Kelly Penwell, Director of Academic Internship at UofM; and John Mareck of Congressman Steve Cohen's office.

At the end of the event, Dia Cirillo and Letha Granberry were interviewed by a reporter from WMC-TV, an NBC affiliate.



From left to right: John Mareck, Dia Cirillo, Vicki Armstrong, Letha Granberry and Dr. Lynda Sagrestano

## State Organization Seeks Grant for Public Policy

At the end of May, the state organization submitted an application for an IMPACT Grant to national to bolster the public policy work that the state board endorsed at the State Convention in April. If received, the grant would provide \$1000 to aid the advocacy activities related to two of these priorities, paycheck fairness and common core.

Working with the local branches, the state organization will pursue state legislation for paycheck fairness, seek to host candidate forums on the topic and host a lobby day. In the next year, AAUW-TN will be working to crystallize its position on common core and will monitor and track the discussion in the state legislature. The grant will also require some work on Getting Out the Vote, by registering people to vote in time for the fall elections.

The timing is certainly impeccable to be applying for this grant, in that the grant eligible priorities coincide with the decisions rendered at the State Convention, where the board voted unanimously to pursue the development of a Tennessee Paycheck Fairness Act and to address the three other secondary issues, including: Education & Education Funding; State Ballot Initiatives on Taxes and Abortion; and, Getting Out the Vote efforts.

We will keep you informed of our progress. Any questions, please contact Dia Cirillo, public policy chair at [AAUWTNpolicy@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWTNpolicy@gmail.com).

## State and Branch Leaders to Hold Summit in Murfreesboro

Saturday, June 21  
10am - 4pm

Tom Jackson Building, MTSU

In the wake of securing five municipal proclamations in five cities of Tennessee, the State Board unanimously voted at the April Convention to launch a statewide campaign to establish a paycheck fairness act here in Tennessee. Developing and advocating for state legislation is not a decision that is made lightly. To be successful, AAUW-TN requires the support of at least a majority of its branches, a well-informed and active base of members and strong local allies willing to support the effort.

The June 21st Leadership Summit seeks to engage branch presidents and their public policy chairs in a dialogue with the State Organization on how to coordinate efforts to make this first year launching the TN Paycheck Fairness Act a successful one. While it will take several years to enact a piece of legislation, such as this one, the Summit will offer the necessary time to determine a Year 1 plan that defines clear roles for branches and for the State Organization. We will also consider secondary topics of public policy that were discussed at the State Convention in April.

We look forward to seeing you at the Summit! To attend, please [click here](#) to accept the invitation to the Leadership Summit. Any questions, please contact Dia Cirillo at [AAUWTNPolicy@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWTNPolicy@gmail.com).



# AAUW of Tennessee

## 2014 Calendar

### 2013-2014 Executive Committee

**PRESIDENT**

Mayme Crowell

**PAST PRESIDENT**

Anne Loy

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Sue Byrd

**FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Samantha Cantrell

### 2013-2014 Appointed Officers

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Jamie Olson LaRose

**PUBLIC POLICY**

Dia Cirillo

**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY  
RELATIONS/NCWSL**

Taylor Emory

**MEMBERSHIP**

Letha Granberry

**WEBMASTER**

Connie Malarkey

**BYLAWS/POLICY COMMITTEE  
STATE ORGANIZER LIAISON**

Peggy Emmett, Chair

**DEVELOPMENT CHAIR**

Anne Loy

**June 5-7, 2014:**

The National College  
Conference for Women  
Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

**June 21, 2014:**

AAUW-TN Leadership Summit

**August 25, 2014:**

Women's Equality Day

**October 19, 2014:**

Fall Board Meeting

**October 19-20, 2014:**

Tennessee Women's Economic  
Summit

## 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.*

## AAUW National Contacts

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

1111 Sixteenth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)  
e-mail: [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org)  
800-326-AAUW (2289)