AAUW Tennessean







Winter 2012 Volume 77, No. 2

FROM THE PRESIDENT, ANNE LOY:

The recent Economic Summit for Women, held in Nashville, was an event in which AAUW figured large! We were so proud to be members of this awesome AAUW organization! During Lilly Ledbetter's question and answer time, after she told her heart-wrenching story of the fight for equal pay, I asked a question about the law's details, introducing myself as state president of AAUW. Lilly responded, "I love AAUW!" (continued on 2)

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REPORT FROM THE TENNESSEE ECONOMIC SUMMIT FOR WOMEN

Held in Nashville annually, we have had AAUW of Tennessee meetings in conjunction with this Summit, for the past two years to show support for this organization. The gathering was an opportunity for networking and for many "savvy" women to hear about our organization and its importance to women.

Everyone especially appreciated Lilly Ledbetter, who received standing ovations both before she told her story and

afterwards. Her book, <u>Grace and</u> <u>Grit</u>, was available for signing,



and the proceeds were donated to the Economic Women's Council.

We could get "up close and personal" with her during the

reception for the speakers, which we co-sponsored, which was held

on the evening prior to the Summit and after our AAUW Board Meeting.

We also heard from the President of the American Bar Association, and a speaker with tips on public speaking. Pictured: Pat Pierce, Judy Arnold, Sue Byrd, Anne Loy, Ruth Smiley, Lilly Ledbetter, Gail Matson, Taylor Emory, Charlotte Crawford. (missing, Wendy Pitt-Reeves)

President's Message, cont'd

In answer to another woman's query about how can we women find out what is going on in Washington, D.C., in the government, her one word answer was, "AAUW!"

We have good news to share here in the "AAUW Tennessean," and I hope that you will read it all. Items from the "Minutes of the Board" meeting will be sent soon. Plans for the Annual Meeting in Murfreesboro, April 5-6, 2013, are underway, with a theme of "Celebrate." The Murfreesboro Branch will be celebrating its 100 years of existence, Lilly Ledbetter will be featured at an MTSU event then, and AAUW of Tennessee will celebrate all our successes, such as AAUW Martin's doubling its membership!

Branch News: Maryville

14 branch members along with community volunteers hosted the 12th Sister to Sister Summit on November 1 at Maryville College, our C/U partner school. 60 girls from 6 area schools participated in the day-long conversation. They chose their own topics for discussion & created messages for their peers and parents about Peer Pressure, Body Image, and Dating Relationships. Activities led by community volunteers included dancing, crafting, and Mountain Challenge. A full-

b o d i e d d a n c e instructor concluded the S2S afternoon with a wellreceived keynote address



encouraging girls to accept their bodies.

Tennessee Women Project Update: 11/16/2012



Attendees at the Tennessee Women Project meeting in Nashville included Ayne Cantrell, Taylor Emery, and Paula Casey, who each authored a profile for Tennessee Women of Vision and Courage; and Sandra Bennett and Alma Sanford, TWP Advisory Council members.

TWP editors are polishing and fact checking manuscripts for the soon to be published book *Tennessee Women of Vision and Courage*. We are pushing toward a 2013 publication date! An October meeting with authors, readers, and supporters in Nashville was invigorating and inspirational. Promotion of the book will be an important focus in the coming months, starting with a presentation to a joint meeting of Oak Ridge and Maryville branches in March 2013 coordinated with a display at the Oak Ridge Public Library. Thanks to AAUW members for your terrific support and participation in the project! More information is at http://aauw-tn.aauw.net/

and tnwomenproject@gmail.com.

Charlotte Crawford and Ruth Johnson Smiley, Directors

Branch News: Martin chapter doubles membership!



Martin Branch members Lisa LeBleu (left) and Valerie Hatch (right) distribute information to UT Martin students encouraging them to vote.

The Martin Branch of AAUW participated in the first annual UT Martin Women's Symposium in March 2011, sponsored by the UT Martin Women's Center. As a result of their efforts to promote AAUW

at this conference, they were able to add student members, members whose memberships had lapsed, and new members and now have 24 members. This has resulted in the branch doubling its



Martin Branch members join with join UTM Student Group Women Leaders Working Locally Thinking Globally to watch Half the Sky Documentary.

membership. For 2012-13 the group has planned exciting monthly speakers, book discussions, movie previews and discussions, as well as activities to make a difference in the community and the world. This includes "Get Out the Vote", "See the Change" fundraiser for fistula victims, "Dining for Women" fundraiser, and more.

NINE BRANCHES CONTRIBUTE TO AAUW

For my penultimate report, the results look good. As of 9/30/12 nine TN branches and individuals have contributed \$1,895 to AAUW. Of course, many branches, as well as individuals, make contributions during the last quarter of the year; therefore, the annual total will be much higher. At the end of September this is the picture of totals for the five AAUW Funds and the branches contributing:

\$ 910 AAUW Funds (Kingsport, Knoxville, Maryville, Memphis, Murfreesboro, and Oak Ridge)

\$ 100 Eleanor Roosevelt Fund (Jackson)

\$ 220 Educational Opp's Fund (Columbia, Murfreesboro, Oak Ridge)

\$ 100 Leadership Programs (Knoxville, Martin, Oak Ridge)

\$ 565 Legal Advocacy (Knoxville Murfreesboro)

\$1,895 TOTAL

Several branches support local scholarships and educational activities, and AAUW-TN supports NCCWSL participant(s). Individuals, as well as branches and the state, provide much educational assistance in terms of financing and tutoring.

Keep up the good work!

--Mayme Roberson Crowell, Development Ch.

SISTER TO SISTER PROGRAM: Report from Dr. Cheryl Travis

Knoxville's day-long Sister To Sister program on November 12th for about 100 middle school girls in the UTK university center went well--about 20% minority students from four schools focused on the acceptability of "being different" and fostering awareness of and appreciation for individual differences a la Zink the Zebra. (Zink was created by a father whose daughter experienced acceptance problems from peers as she was going through chemotherapy; Zink has spots rather than stripes!)

The day of break-out sessions featured small group discussions, led by high school girls as facilitators, on topics such as bullying, cliques, body image, peer pressure and sex, boys and babies.

The students provide input on the topics but they are usually the same every year. Guidance counselors from each of the four schools seemed to appreciate this opportunity for their students. After each discussion the participants developed an action plan for themselves and for the adults in their lives.

The interactive lunchtime presentation from Women's Studies Graduate Teaching Assistant Christina Hastie, on Why You Need Feminism, included a powerpoint presentation.

Retired middle school principal Donna Hardy, gave a spirited presentation, "If you want a miracle, you must make a motion--Move!"

Dr. Clifford Davis, Director of Secondary Education for Knox County Schools gave an inspirational "you can do it," talk at the end of the day and emphasized the need to prepare for college, since a state scholarship program guarantees high school seniors two years of college, free.

Recent State Board Meeting Suggestions

To the on-going goals from last year will be added: 1- Increase networking with other state women's organizations; 2 -Engage Board and Branch members in leadership development efforts and evaluate results: 3 - contact National Members w/ idea of developing a TN Virtual Branch and encouraging their "liking" our Facebook page: 4 - Promote donations to the AAUW Funds. local scholarships and raising funds to provide at least one TN scholarship to send a student to NCCWSL; **5** - Promote the TN Women Project: publication of a book highlighting various women in TN history.

Gender Pay Gap Persists

The recent research report of AAUW, "Graduating to a Pay Gap," was reported in several media outlets, including *USA Today* and *Washington Post*. You may find the report by going on line to <u>a a u w. o r g/GraduatetoaPayGap/index.cfm</u>. You may download the full report (PDF); and a powerpoint presentation is available.

How Does Your County Rate on the Status of Women?

In Tennessee last year, almost \$8.2 million were lost by women who were being paid less than men! For a county-by-county report of the status of women based on the 2010 census, produced by the Tennessee Council on Women, go to www.tn.gov/sos/ecw/countyreports/index_2012.html. A listing of Tennessee counties will come up, and you can click on your county for a 2-3 page report. Very interesting.

WINTER CALENDAR Reminders

March 2013: Women's History Month

April 9, 2013: Equal Pay Day

April - May: Deadline for payment of DUES is May 30, 2013.

June: Newly elected officers' names due to AAUW (aauw.org, MSD) and State President-Elect

June 9 - 12, 2013: <u>AAUW National</u>
<u>Convention</u>, Sheraton New Orleans Hotel
(registration opens in December)

August 18: anniversary of the date in 1920 when the Tennessee General Assembly became the 36th state needed to ratify the U.S. Constitution, when women won the right to vote

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lilly Ledbetter thanked us AAUW of Tennessee members for sending flowers to her, and a monetary donation to help pay for airport parking, during her legal battles.

The University of Tennessee Chattanooga has featured AAUW's Program In a Box, "Elect Her," which is a workshop to encourage and train young women to run for office in student government.

Two effective ways to market and promote your branch are: using the Sunoco gas station TVs which display local events/causes, as well as local media outlets. Also, design a QU Code--a square bar code to be read by smart phones-- that you can see in many places these days. aauw.org can help in these efforts.

DEADLINES FOR QUARTERLY TENNESSEAN PUBLICATION:

Spring 2013: February 18 (for Feb. 27 publication)

Summer 2013: May 20 (for May 28 publication)

AAUW TENNESSEE OFFICERS

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