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

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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.

Have you invited a friend to an AAUW meeting lately?
AAUW Maryville will be participating this summer with a new local education project, the New Opportunity School for Women at Maryville College.

NSOW is a 3-week residential program of education and support designed to help low-income, under-educated, middle-aged Appalachian women develop essential tools for advancing education, gaining sustainable employment, and building self-esteem.

For more information about NSOW, visit http://www.maryvillecollege.edu.

AAUW Memphis branch members celebrate their year of success (Photo courtesy of the AAUW-Memphis branch)

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Maryville

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 Start Smart Workshop for MTSU female students. Also in April the branch held its annual used book sale, which netted $2,000 toward funding the Ruth Houston Memorial Scholarship, and in May the 2014-2015 scholarship of $100 per semester was awarded to Kanwal Qureshi, an international student from Pakistan and a junior at MTSU majoring in Nutrition/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: become widely known in Rutherford County for creating opportunities for women and girls; 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

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 Start Smart 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.

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 advance 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.

In the observance of Equal Pay Day, the AAUW-Memphis branch and The Center for Research on Women (CROWN) 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 CROWN). 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 into due 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 Perwell, 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 Cranberry were interviewed by a reporter from WMC-TV, an NBC affiliate.

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 $1,000 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.

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

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

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NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Memphis

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 develop 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 AAUWTPolicy@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.

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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

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

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