



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

Branching Out

Vol. 1 No. 8

Tahlequah (OK) Branch Newsletter

March/Winter/2009

Woman To Woman Conference

Plans are ongoing for the Woman to Woman Conference to be held on Saturday, April 4th at the Indian Capital Vo-Tech. Please make plans to attend. We need your support! There will be several fabulous women speakers and panelists. You may win a door prize, and lunch is free!

MARCH MEEETING:

In keeping with March 8 being International Women's Day we are having a program on 15 Famous Women. We will dramatize their lives and contributions. I will have one to two page information packets on each woman for us to share with the group. Please bring a hat and your acting abilities to the meeting and we will learn about some very exciting women of history.



AAUW Applauds Formation of White House Council on Women and Girls

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama will sign an executive order creating a White House Council on Women and Girls at an East Room ceremony this afternoon. The new office was a high-priority recommendation from AAUW to the presidential transition team.

"AAUW is delighted that President Obama has decided to formally give women and girls a seat at the White House table," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE, who will attend the White House signing ceremony.

"The council will help ensure that the unique issues and challenges facing women and girls continue to be at the forefront of the administration's policies and priorities."

The formation of the White House Council on Women and Girls was

President's Message

We had a great time at the February "Bunco" meeting. Lela Stowers is so much appreciated for hosting the meeting in her home. Our thanks go to all who brought snacks and to Norma Stopp for leading our effort to collect donations for the Legal Advocacy Fund.

Norma Stopp and I had a wonderful experience at Legislative Day at the Capitol. We attended a Press Conference with Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins, Oklahoma Women's Coalition Chair, Dr. Jean Warner, and Corporation Commissioner Dana Murphy. We listened as Attorney General Drew Edmondson spoke about key issues affecting women, girls and families in Oklahoma. Senators Glenn Coffee (President Pro Tempe) and Charlie Laster (Democratic Leader) and Representatives Chris Benghe (Speaker of the House) and Danny Morgan (Minority Leader) informed us of hot topics in the 2009 legislative session. After a delicious lunch, we learned about the most effective ways to make our voices heard regarding legislative issues that affect women and girls. Congresswoman Mary Fallin gave us a great send off at the end of the day by challenging us to action! Norma and I were able to visit with Representative Mike Brown after the end of the Legislative Day activities.

I hope to see all of you at the March meeting where we will be able to showcase our acting talents while portraying famous women from the past. Thanks so much for your support of AAUW.

Jeanna Wing
AAUW Tahlequah Branch President

spurred on by AAUW's leadership to reestablish critical women's programs in the executive branch. In December, AAUW spearheaded a letter to the Obama transition team requesting that the new administration restore and strengthen all offices that in past administrations have played a fundamental role in protecting and advancing women's issues and opportunities.

"The creation of the White House Council on Women and Girls is the first and most critical step in fulfilling the recommendations made in the AAUW letter, which was signed by more than 40 organizations committed to women's rights," Hallman said.

"Today's executive order is a victory not only for AAUW but for the millions of women and girls who once again have a pipeline directly into the White House," said Lisa M. Maatz, AAUW director of public policy and government relations. "President Obama has demonstrated that he shares our commitment to women and girls through such actions as signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law and repealing the global gag rule. The action today builds on those early successes and will pave the way for further opportunities to advance AAUW's mission for women and girls."

AAUW Membership Pilot Program (MPP) *(A new way to pay dues)*

AAUW is pleased to announce that 31 states have opted in so that branches in their states can participate in a voluntary pilot program. Oklahoma is one of those states. The branch Membership Pilot Program opt-in process will begin February 23, 2009.

There are several branch options for dues payment in the **MPP**. Branches may collect the dues payments of their members and send the national office a lump sum check written on the branch bank account or send the lump sum payment by branch credit card (if the branch has a business credit card).

Alternatively, the branch finance office may collect the individual checks of members and mail them all in an envelope to the national office. Whichever method is selected, the finance officer or president must enter into the MPP screen the names of those whose dues payments are being sent. As soon as the data is submitted, the screen reflects the information, and the screen should be printed out. One copy is kept by the officer, and another is enclosed with the payment and mailed to the national office. Once the payment is received at the national office, the screen

will automatically be updated to reflect the receipt of payments, and a confirmation of receipt is sent by email to four individuals – the branch finance officer, the branch president, the state finance officer, and the state president.

The convenience of using a personal credit card to pay dues is also available to all members of branches participating in the MPP, but it is necessary for these members to pay all three levels of dues at once (branch, state, and national).

Tahlequah AAUW members will be asked to vote on whether our branch will participate in the AAUW Membership Pilot Program. **Please become informed and be ready to vote.**

Israel/Palestine Connection

My friend Sara from Tahlequah, OK, has friends around the world and wants her friends to know each other: Her initiative and support bring me to you seeking a financial contribution toward a trip to Israel/Palestine May 23 to June 5 with an Interfaith Peace-Builders and National Peace- Foundation delegation.

I want to visit Israeli and Palestinian peacemakers in their home lands to support and encourage them and to be inspired by their effort. At this moment of openness for US foreign policy, I want to

be a witness of and for the people and land being harmed by this conflict. As a student of Jewish and Islamic history as well as Christian, I will recognize the limits and potential of the traditions. As a Midwesterner, I notice land and am conscious of ecological sustainability.

In 2005, I was part of an international delegation that walked the Commemorative Salt March in India. The 3 –week experience and new Gandhian friends focused my purpose. Speaking about the trip allowed me to engage a range of nonviolence applications which continues to influence my direction.

I expect to identify assumptions and misperceptions that I was unaware of as I/we collect pieces of truth. Beginning with neutrality and an open heart, this experience will deepen my practice of empathy. When I speak with groups back home, I'll share my shifting understandings and invite reflection on the complexities of reconciliation.

Special Envoy to the Middle East George Mitchell said "Conflicts are created, conducted, and sustained by human beings. They can be ended by human beings." Mitchell's experience and intention demonstrate realistic hope for all of us who want to do what we can toward peace in personal and political life.

In my new work in Manhattan, KS, I'm developing a community ministry focused on peacemaking.

I am connecting with individuals and groups who affirm and promote theologies, analyses, activities and processes that engage across borders, reconcile brokenness, prevent conflict from becoming violent, and create sustainable alternatives. One of my peacemaking activities this year will be to visit the land and peacemakers of the Middle East and return home to share stories and reflections. It will be good to make new friends in the Middle East and to share these friends with you.

The trip will cost about \$3500; I would appreciate your contribution of \$50 or what you can afford. Your check may be made to Interfaith Peace-Builders with my name noted and sent to me. If you need a prepared envelope, let me know. I'm pleased to send you a card from the Middle East and to speak to your group. Thank you for what you do to promote peace. Warm wishes for a lovely spring,

Thea Nietfeld
2275 Buckingham #6,
Manhattan, KS 66503

Calendar

MARCH

March 19th, 5:30 p.m.
Women's History
Reader's Theatre
NSU Education Bldg. Rm.
110

APRIL

April 4th
Woman to Woman
Conference
Indian Capital Vo-Tech

April 16th, 5:30 p.m.
Mentee Information
Presented
Place: Vidalia's
Business: Election of
Officers

April 23rd, 2:00 p.m.
Mentees Presentation
Place: Marietta School

April 28
Equal Pay Day

MAY

May 28th, 5:30 p.m.
Tahlequah City Hospital
Business: Installation

JUNE

June 18th, 5:30 p.m.
Potluck Picnic
Place: Sara Dunlap Cabin

June 26-28
AAUW National Convention
St. Louis, Missouri

American Association of University Women

1111 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

| | |
|--|---|
| AAUW website | http://www.aauw.org |
| AAUW phone numbers | 800-326-AAUW or (202) 785-7700 |
| Helpline email address | helpline@aauw.org |
| Fax number | 202-872-1425 |
| TDD number-hearing impaired | 202-785-7777 |
| AAUW Education Foundation | foundation@aauw.org |
| Fellowships and Grants (for applicants only) | aauw@act.org |
| AAUW Oklahoma Division | http://www.aauwoklahoma.org |
| AAUW Tahlequah Branch | http://arapaho.nsuok.edu/~aauw/ |

The American Association of University Women promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership.

The AAUW Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

Email inquiries to: AAUWTahlequah@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: Debra Lack



AAUW Tahlequah Branch
1002 Callie Avenue
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Breaking Through Barriers

Promoting education and equity for all women and girls.

If you wish to receive an email copy only please email
aauwahlequah@yahoo.com