



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

Branching Out

Breaking through Barriers

Vol. 1 No. 10

Tahlequah (OK) Branch Newsletter

May/Spring/2009

AAUW MAY MEETING

TAHLEQUAH CITY
HOSPITAL WOMEN'S
CENTER

5:30 P.M.

DINNER AND MYSTERY
GUEST SPEAKER

&

Installation of Officers



Boost the Economic Security of Women and Our Nation

In the current economic downturn, an unprecedented number of women are now the family breadwinners. However, many do not have the skills and opportunities necessary to obtain the high-wage jobs needed to adequately support themselves and their families.

[Urge your representative to support the Pathways Advancing Career Training Act \(H.R. 2074\)](#) to help women train for and thrive in jobs that will boost the economic security of women and our nation.

This important legislation would fund programs that provide outreach, education, training, support, and job placement assistance to encourage and prepare women for careers in high-wage, high-skill nontraditional fields where they are underrepresented, filling the void left when similar programs were eliminated from the Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act in 1998. It would also break through barriers to employment faced by single mothers, displaced homemakers, women re-entering the workforce, and victims of domestic violence.

Even as unemployment rates rise, America faces a skilled-labor shortage. Providing comprehensive, high-skill job training to a relatively untapped section of the current workforce benefits American businesses by matching employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in a global marketplace. It will also serve to diversify the workplace.

AAUW believes that career and technical education is increasingly important for women and girls working towards economic self-sufficiency for themselves and their families. It is in these fields traditionally dominated by

men that women workers can begin to close the persistent wage gap between women and men.

Take Action!

To urge your representative to cosponsor the **Pathways Advancing Career Training Act**, just copy and paste the following URL into your Internet browser. Then follow the instructions to compose and send your message.

<http://capwiz.com/aauw/issues/alert/?alertid=13386601>

President's Message

Patsy Morton has done a wonderful job with the Mentoring Program again this year. The Mentoring Program served 85 girls at Watts, Maryetta, Bell and Sequoyah. We very much appreciate Patsy and others who helped with the program. I wasn't able to attend the program at Maryetta, but I did get to enjoy the reception at NSU for the girls from Sequoyah High School. They seemed to enjoy themselves.

I hope to see everyone at the Tahlequah City Hospital Women's Center on May 28.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE

Membership dues for next year are due. Linda West will need to submit our dues before July 1. You can mail your dues to Linda or bring a check to the May or June meeting. Dues will remain at \$64 for the coming year.

Leadership Corps FAQ

Why is AAUW creating the Leadership Corps?

The Leadership Corps is a new member involvement opportunity being created to support AAUW's grassroots. It is based in community-organizing principles and tactics and will provide a corps of trained member leaders, serving as grassroots liaisons to help us identify and address current needs, encourage branch leadership development, foster effective multi-way communication, increase sharing of resources and strategies, and assist membership growth. More specifically, these Leadership Corps grassroots liaisons will work to maximize member awareness and engagement, develop new branches, identify and mentor leaders, revitalize existing branches, increase overall branch membership, expand branch implementation of AAUW programs, develop new means of engaging members at large, and improve communication and collaboration among all levels of AAUW — individual members, branches, states, and national.

While regional directors fulfilled these tasks with committed dedication,

disparities among the regions in geographic distances and number of members imposed heavy responsibilities. The Leadership Corps is an expansion of the regional director model adapted to our 21st-century organization. It will include many more members serving as grassroots liaisons to facilitate a much larger program than we were able to accommodate with 10 regional directors and, therefore, will be capable of greater reach and more individual attention. Unlike the RDs, Leadership Corps grassroots liaisons will not be responsible for organizing regional conventions, freeing up their time to focus on outreach and support for AAUW members. The Leadership Corps will also have specifically dedicated staff support — a field operations director and a field operations coordinator — who will provide relational organizing training for grassroots liaisons and coordinate and support their activities with and among state, branch, and national leaders, as well as other national staff. (Leadership Corps grassroots liaisons will have personal budgets to cover their mileage and phone calls so that they can meet with and keep in touch with potential leaders.)

What is the primary goal of the Leadership Corps?

A critical need in our 21st-century organization is to galvanize our sense of ourselves, of AAUW, as a nationwide "community" of members that brings together the energies, creativity, intelligence, diversity, and friendship of members within and across branches, states, positions/offices, job skills, interests, etc., to advance equity for women and girls. So, a

central focus of the Leadership Corps is to leverage the power and influence of the AAUW community to achieve our shared commitment of breaking though barriers for women and girls.

How will the Leadership Corps benefit AAUW and its members?

Leadership Corps will support members, branches, states, and their leaders at the grassroots level through sharing of resources, facilitating multi-way communication, expanding membership, and identifying and mentoring leaders for AAUW throughout the organization, especially branches. Close collaboration with state organizations will be one of the keys to success for the Leadership Corps, as these grassroots liaisons work to identify leadership potential and branches that are especially amenable to development opportunities. This talent pool of leaders, with varied expertise and experiences, will power AAUW's equity work into the future.

Why should an AAUW member apply to be a Leadership Corps grassroots liaison?

Any AAUW member with a passion for the mission, a vision for AAUW's future, and a talent for seeing and inspiring leadership in others will want to be a part of the Leadership Corps. The Leadership Corps presents an opportunity for AAUW members to apply their insights and skills to assisting branch development, encouraging membership growth, and nurturing leadership to advance AAUW's mission and future. Leadership Corps grassroots liaisons will receive training in identifying

and mentoring leadership talent in others, membership recruitment, effective communications strategies, and other community/relational organizing skills.

Leadership Corps grassroots liaisons will have the opportunity to connect with members and leaders at the grassroots level and learn more about local needs, issues, resources, etc. This will provide Leadership Corps grassroots liaisons greater insight into branch, state, and member interests and priorities and help them provide guidance in local planning and implementation of AAUW's mission-based programming and membership development. It will also help to convey specific interest areas, concerns, and/or geographic needs to national leadership and staff, facilitating quicker, clearer, and more effective responsiveness. In addition to the skills training and experience this offers Leadership Corps grassroots liaisons, it also provides them the satisfaction of supporting member leaders as they initiate programs and form collaborative partnerships within their communities.

What skills should a prospective Leadership Corps have?

Applicants need not be current officers, but they should be individuals who

- have a strong commitment to [AAUW's mission and Value Promise](#);
- have the ability to articulate the relevance of AAUW's work to members and the general community;

- exhibit strong leadership qualities;
- have the ability to motivate, inspire, and include others in commitment to the mission;
- are dedicated to expanding AAUW's membership and program outreach;
- have good multi-way communication skills;
- have the time and commitment to devote to the Leadership Corps role and the ability to make a two-year commitment to it;
- are able to travel when necessary;
- are adept at modern tools of communication (e-mailing essential); and
- are comfortable with and effective in social networking.

All AAUW members are [eligible to apply](#) to serve as members of the Leadership Corps. Leadership Corps grassroots liaisons will be asked initially for a two-year commitment. Their activities will be coordinated by AAUW staff at the direction of the AAUW board.

►► [Applications are now being accepted.](#)

AAUW STATE NEWSLETTER

Check out the AAUW State Newsletter at www.aauwoklahoma.org

Read about the AAUW OK Branch Leadership Workshop to be held on July 18, 2009 at the Nigh Center in Edmond, OK.

Also be sure to become familiar with the bylaw changes that will be voted on at the 2009 AAUW Convention in St. Louis, MO.

Calendar

May 28th, 5:30 p.m.
Program: Women's Health Issues
Place: Tahlequah City Hospital
Business: Installation of officers

JUNE

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

June 26-28
AAUW Association Convention
The Renaissance St. Louis Grand and Suites Hotel
St. Louis, Missouri

JULY

July 18
AAUW OK Branch Leadership Workshop, Nigh Center, Edmond, OK (9:00-4:00)

REASOR COUPON BOOKS

If you have any Reasor Coupon Books left, please sell them and turn the money in to Linda West or turn the books back in.

The coupon on the back of the book is for \$5 with a \$50 purchase from Reasor's. Other coupons in the book are generally for \$1 each for the product listed.

Remember, you pay only \$5 for the book so you can easily get your money back and it really helps AAUW with expenses.

American Association of University Women

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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.

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Promoting education and equity for all women and girls.

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