

Branching Out



Vol. 1 No. 4

Tahlequah (OK) Branch Newsletter

November 13/Fall/2008

President's Message

Thank goodness the election is over! October was "Get out the vote" month and several of our AAUW branch members were very involved in that process.

The AAUW Tour of Homes is coming up soon (December 14). Come to the next branch meeting and sign up to be a hostess or help in other ways. The Tour is our major fundraiser of the year and one at which most of our members can help in some way. It is great to have so many wonderful AAUW members who are willing to give their time and effort to support scholarships, fellowships, research, etc. for the benefit of women and girls.

Please note that the date of the next AAUW branch meeting has been changed to Tuesday, November 18. We will meet at Vidalia's at 5:30 p.m. Our speaker is AAUW/OK Co-President, Rose Unterschuetz. She will be speaking about "The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" (CEDAW). CEDAW was adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly and is often described as an international bill of rights for women. Consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination. Come and meet our State AAUW Co-President. This would also be a great opportunity to bring guests.

Make plans to attend the 2009 AAUW national convention "Breaking Through Barriers" to be held in the St. Louis Renaissance Grand & Suites Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri (June 26-28, 2009). The hotel holds a special place in women's history. Previously known as the Hotel Statler, it was the backdrop for the historic convention of the National American Suffrage Association in March 1919.

Plan your vacation around the convention and learn more about what is happening at the national level. Network with other branches around the country and have your voice heard as a voting member. Meet like-minded women and help further the cause of equity for women.

Jeanna Wing

AAUW Tahlequah Branch President

"Homes For The Holidays"

We have a wonderful tour lined up for this year. Put December 14th on your calendar now so that you will not miss it! This is our major fund raiser for the AAUW Educational Foundation (EF) in Washington, D. C. which is the world's largest source of funding for graduate women. It supports aspiring scholars around the globe, teachers and activities in local communities, women at critical stages of their careers, and those pursuing professions where women are under represented. The Tahlequah Branch and individual members have received several of these grants over the last 20 years.

You will be receiving 10 tickets for the tour. We are asking you to try to sell as many as you can at \$5 before the tour. They will be \$6 at the door. If you cannot sell them all, please try to return them to Kate Miller's Optometry Office by Friday, December 12th so that we can sell them at the door. If you will be working the first shift at one of the houses on the day of the tour, you can bring your extras with you.

Homes for the Holidays, continued

Several members will be delivering tickets to you. If you have not received them by our meeting on Tuesday, call Irene Wickham at 456-5584 or email at wickhami@fullnet.net.

We need all of you to sign up to be a hostess at one of the houses on the day of the tour. Jeanette McQuitty is scheduling members for each house. The shifts will be 1:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. and from 3:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. This gives you time to go on the tour yourself. Jeanette will be at the meeting on Tuesday with the sign up sheet.

This year we are honoring NSU's Centennial so the reception site will be Seminary Hall. We always ask our members to provide a delectable goodie for the reception table so be thinking about what you may be able to contribute. The 2008 AAUW limited-edition ornament will be available here.

The Goodie Shoppe will be at the Betz home. Again we are asking members to contribute something to sell. The Goodie Shoppe proceeds go for our local expenses. More information about where to bring your contributions will be in the next newsletter.

The houses that are on the tour are:
Don and Susanne Betz - 526 Seminary
Peggy Cotten - 701 North Oklahoma
Thea Nietfeld - 550 S. Mission
Bob and Cheryl Parrish - 13976 N. 503 Road
Ken and Margot Purdy - 301 W. Keetoowah

Descriptions of the homes are on the tickets, and more detailed articles about each one will be in the paper. Each house has great unique features that everyone will enjoy.

AAUW Ornament

This year's limited-edition collectible ornament is an old picture of Seminary Hall. The original came from a postcard that Vickie Sheffler has in the NSU Archives. She believes that it was taken between 1909 and 1919 because of some of the features on the building. We will be selling them at the "Homes for the Holidays" tour. Each ornament, produced by RorexBridges Studio in Oktaha, is a round tile with the date and number on the back. This dated, numbered limited edition of 124 comes in a green velvet bag. The price is \$12.50. If you would like to reserve one, or if you want your special number on the ornament, call Irene Wickham - 456-5584 or email - wickhami@fullnet.net.



Post Election Analysis Conference Call

If you weren't able to join AAUW's Public Policy and Government Relations Department on the phone last night for the AAUW Post Election Analysis Conference Call, then you can call in and listen to a recording of the call.

Hundreds of AAUW members joined AAUW's Executive Director Linda Hallman and the Public Policy and Government Relations Department staff on the phone last night to hear about the post-election environment and what it means for AAUW's public policy agenda. The call covered both legislative and grassroots components: a look ahead at AAUW's legislative agenda for the 111th Congress, and the role that you can play in moving our agenda forward.

The call was recorded and will be available for playback until Nov. 17. To listen to a replay of the call, call toll free 1-888-203-1112 and use the passcode 61901065. The call starts approximately two minutes into the recording, so don't worry if you don't hear the program immediately.

If you've listened to the call, we'd like to get your feedback. Please fill out our online survey at the following link: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=gt4AEwQK_2fbSiAtKVzEh_2b7A_3d_3d

AAUW Dialog Briefing #12

This briefing is the twelfth in our AAUW Current Topics Briefing Series issued by Linda Hallman, CAE, Executive Director. Nov. 10, 2008

What is AAUW Dialog? In February 2008, AAUW launched our own blog, AAUW Dialog, a forum for timely commentary and discussion on current news and events that relate to AAUW's mission. AAUW Dialog (AAUW Discussion, Information, and Advocacy Log) is an open, online web log, or blog. It may be accessed from the AAUW website home page, www.aauw.org, or directly through blog-aauw.org, where you can read the blog postings and/or subscribe to receive them by e-mail. AAUW Dialog is a forum for our members and the public to examine issues, share ideas, join discussions, find resources, take action on equity issues, and explore how AAUW — at all levels — works to break through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Why does AAUW have a blog?

Connecting our community. AAUW Dialog provides a new way to share interesting information about AAUW's work at all levels. The format of the blog differs from traditional press releases and AAUW e-newsletters by engaging visitors in a conversation on the topic. The blog gives AAUW members and supporters a new way to connect and reach out to each other, fostering AAUW's online community and creating an intergenerational dialogue. It is a wonderful way for members-at-large and student affiliates to engage with branch-based members on issues of mutual interest and concern.

Advancing our mission.

With the information provided in the blog posts, the discussion that follows, and the actions taken as an outcome, AAUW Dialog plays an integral part in connecting our members with our mission. It also helps us educate the public in a new and compelling way about equity issues and the work AAUW does to break through barriers.

Highlighting AAUW. AAUW Dialog also showcases our branches and partner organizations by linking to their websites and blogs, and our member comments highlight how they are promoting AAUW's mission in

their daily lives. This serves to increase the visibility of AAUW, focus attention on the issues that matter to us, increase traffic to the AAUW and affiliate websites, and keep AAUW technologically current and competitive with other organizations. Since the blog's launch, AAUW Dialog has been viewed more than 55,000 times, with more than 200 postings that have received more than 500 comments.

Giving Women a Voice.

AAUW Dialog brings our members and supporters together and gives us a place to convene online to advance our mission — in our own voices — and a forum for real conversation. The blog posts raise awareness and mobilize supporters around our issues, posing questions for discussion, leading readers to various AAUW resources, and presenting our views in a personal way that inspires readers to take action. Blogging is a great channel for advocacy because of the personal nature of the messaging — and the vast audiences that can be reached.

How can members and branches participate in AAUW Dialog?

Branch blog events.

There are numerous ways that you and your branches can participate in AAUW Dialog. The easiest way is simply by reading the blog posts through the link on the AAUW homepage, or directly through <http://blog-aauw.org/>. Then, take the next step and start or join in the discussion by posting your comments about an entry. If members of your branch are new to the blog, you can introduce them to it by using a blog entry for discussion at your next meeting and demonstrating how easy it is to participate.

Expand the reach.

If your branch or state has a website and/or a blog, you can include a link to AAUW Dialog on your website. You can also drive traffic to the AAUW blog by including a link to it when you comment on other blogs. If you read something interesting, e-mail it to friends, who may want to learn about the issue or even subscribe themselves. AAUW has added many state and branch blogs to our Blogroll: AAUW list, but if yours isn't listed, contact webmaster@aauw.org to have it added. Stay up-to-date with the ever-changing blog. If you haven't already, subscribe to receive new blog posts via e-mail. It really is fun — and educational! You can also subscribe to RSS feeds for new posts and comments in a news aggregator. If you have any questions about these, please contact the blog administrators at webmaster@aauw.org

ELECTION RECAP

Women Give Obama the Win on Election Day

Election Day brought a record number of voters to the polls, and at the end of the day, Sen. Barack Obama was elected the first African-American president of the United States. The Obama/Biden ticket received 364 electoral votes, compared to 163 won by Sen. John McCain and Gov. Sarah Palin. President-Elect Obama has begun to put together his transition team and his White House staff, naming Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D-IL) his new chief of staff.

The Democrats expanded their control of both chambers of Congress. In the House, Democrats improved their majority by at least 19 seats to hold 254 seats, with 174 held by Republicans and 7 seats still undecided. In the Senate, Democrats will hold at least 55 seats, as well as 2 Independents who caucus with the Democrats. The Republicans will maintain at least 40 seats, but races in four states are still in question: Alaska, Georgia, and Minnesota. Democrats picked up one governorship, with the final tally standing at 29 governors' mansions for the Democrats, 21 for the Republicans.

Once again, women made the difference in the outcome – Obama won 56 percent of the women’s vote, versus 49 percent of the men’s vote. Youth voters (ages 18-29) also had an enormous impact on this election, making up 18 percent of the total electorate -- even outpacing the powerful senior block (age 65+), who made up 16 percent of the voting public.

AAUW will soon release our public policy agenda for the 111th Congress. Stay tuned for more details.

Women Candidates Make Gains in Congress and State Legislatures

Women as candidates largely did well on Tuesday, picking up seats in Congress and in state houses across the country. In one extreme but noteworthy example, women won a majority of the state senate seats in New Hampshire, making it the first legislative body to be dominated by women in the history of the United States. Seventeen women (13D, 4R) will serve in the U.S. Senate, besting the record of 16 set by the current Congress. This record includes the four women (3D, 1R) who won Senate elections this year, including two incumbents and two challengers. Kay Hagan (D-NC) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) both beat well known incumbents and will join Susan Collins (R-ME), who was re-elected in a rare bright spot for Republicans. Incumbent Elizabeth Dole (R-NC) lost her race to Hagan.

A total of at least 74 women (57D, 17R) will serve in the 111th Congress, setting a new all-time high. Ten new women (8D, 2R) will join the 64 incumbents (49D, 15R) who were reelected, topping the previous record of 71 women set this Congress. The women newcomers include five challengers (4D, 1R) who defeated incumbents and five winners of open seats (4D, 1R). Two women candidates for House seats are in contests that are too close to call: Darcy Burner (D-WA), who is challenging an incumbent, and Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH), who is seeking an open seat.

Beverly Perdue (D-NC) was the only new woman governor elected in 2008. Perdue joins Christine Greig (D-WA), who was re-elected in a rematch of her close race from four years ago, as the only woman to win gubernatorial races this year. With six women governors already safely in office, the total number of women governors in 2009 is eight (5D, 3R).

Victories Made in State Initiatives across the Country

Among other highlights from the 2008 election was the outcome of state ballot initiatives dotted throughout the country, many of which featured important AAUW issues. An overwhelming majority of Milwaukee voters supported an initiative to require paid sick days to all employees, making them the third city to do so. South Dakota voters helped to stop the undermining of Roe v. Wade by defeating Initiative 11, which would have banned nearly all abortions in the state. In another reproductive rights initiative, Colorado voters defeated an initiative that would have given legal rights to a ‘person’ from the moment of fertilization, threatening access to contraceptives, abortions, stem cell research, and in vitro fertilization. Additionally, California defeated Proposition 4, which would have prohibited abortions for a minor until 48 hours after parental notification. However, in Nebraska, voters passed Initiative 424. This ballot measure would ban affirmative action provisions in the state, notably in public contracting, public employment, and public education. A similar AAUW-opposed initiative was defeated in Colorado.

AAUW members and branches in all of these states were very active getting out the vote on these important ballot measures, and AAUW supported them by mailing information on several of these initiatives to voters in Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Milwaukee.

AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps Preps for New Congress

On Thursday, the AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps hosted an open house to attract and welcome new members and to begin their work of preparing for the new Congress. The agenda covered AAUW’s legislative successes in the 110th Congress, Lobby Corps’ impact on those successes, how the work of Lobby Corps is coordinated with AAUW’s other grassroots work, and opportunities for AAUW and Lobby Corp in the 111th Congress. Every Thursday morning Congress is in session — about 30 Thursdays a year — the volunteer members of Lobby Corps are briefed on that week’s priority and then proceed to targeted congressional offices to educate policy-makers and give AAUW a voice and a face on Capitol Hill. Members make more than 1,800 visits each session, reporting back to AAUW staff helpful information for follow-up and grassroots advocacy. Lobby Corps is an invaluable part of the AAUW government relations team. AAUW members, as well as college students who study in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area, are welcome to join the Lobby Corps. No experience or expertise is necessary—only a commitment to promoting equity and education. To join or learn more, contact Anne Hedgepeth at hedgepetha@aauw.org or at 202/785-7724. Several AAUW states have similar programs targeting their state legislatures.

Calendar

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| <p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>November 20th, 5:30 p.m. Program: “Global Connections - One Shared World” Place: Vidalia’s Café</p> | <p>DECEMBER</p> <p>December 14th, 1:30-5:00 p.m. Program: “Homes for the Holidays” Tour (Fundraiser for Educational Foundation and local needs)</p> | <p>December 18th, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Christmas Party - Bring Treats Place: Home of Jeanna Wing BRING ITEMS FOR HELP-IN-CRISIS</p> |
| <p>JANUARY</p> <p>January 15th, 5:30 p.m. Program: Movie Night: “Iron Jawed Angels” Place: NSU</p> | <p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>February 19th, 5:30 p.m. Bunco - LAF Fundraiser Place: To Be Determined: Potluck Dinner</p> | <p>Date To be announced</p> <p>Legislative Day at the Capitol Place: State Capitol</p> |
| <p>MARCH</p> <p>March 19th, 5:30 p.m. Women’s History</p> | <p>APRIL</p> <p>April 16th, 5:30 p.m. Mentees Presentation Place: Cherokee Heritage Center</p> | <p>MAY</p> <p>May 21st, 5:30 p.m. Tahlequah City Hospital Business: Installation</p> |

American Association of University Women

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| 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.

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