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Vol. 69, No. 2 *The Newsletter of the American Association of University Women - Pennsylvania* SPRING 2003

AAUW-PA 75 Year Anniversary



Logo designed by Kate Collins

In celebration of the 75th anniversary of AAUW-PA, we raise and then donate \$75,000 to sponsor a joint EF and LAF national study on the status and experiences of women in higher education. The report will be a synthesis of multiple efforts by both corporations, including the Foundation's current research projects on women in higher education and the Legal Advocacy Fund's *On Track* empowerment training initiative.

AAUW-PA members can achieve **Diamond Donor** status by contributing \$1,000*. A Diamond Donor will receive national recognition, a certificate of achievement, and a letter of appreciation from the Presidents of EF and LAF.

Additional levels of recognition will be offered and no contribution will be turned down!

Diamond Donor	\$1,000
Ruby Donor	\$ 250
Emerald Donor	\$ 500
Sapphire Donor	\$ 100

*Semi-annual or monthly payment options are available. Contact Karen Rowe (717-767-6654) or Kathy Lepovetsky (814-781-7762) for more information.

To see the complete Diamond Donor Proposal, contact Karen or Kathy or visit www.aauwpa.org.

When a call went out to the art classes at York College of Pennsylvania to create a logo for our 75th Anniversary Campaign, Angela Michelle Valente and Kate Collins were quick to volunteer. Both young ladies are 19 years old and sophomores majoring in graphic design.



Angela Michelle Valente

Angela is from Palisades Park, New Jersey and has future dreams of a career in advertising or perhaps, education. When asked why she volunteered to design our logo, Angela was intrigued about the request and so she pursued the task.



Kate Collins

Kate hails from Philadelphia and dreams of designing billboards and urban advertisements utilizing her degree in commercial graphic design and marketing minor. When asked why she chose to help us, Kate said she wanted to challenge herself to design a logo for an organization that deals with the real world, not just in the classroom setting.

AAUW – Why I Belong

By Linda Haigh Tozier, AAUW-PA President

The world as we know it continues to get smaller and smaller. Instantly we provide and receive information. Most of the time we consider this to be a good thing. But sometimes we need a little time to think before we move on. And at some point in every day each of us seeks out a wee bit of quiet, individual time to reflect of those things which really matter.

AAUW really matters to me. Just as AAUW was an important part of my mother's life, today I value this organization for many reasons. My mother was president of the Stroudsburg (now Pocono) branch when I was born. She continued to be an active AAUW member for the next twenty-five years. Because she lived only to middle age, I never was afforded to privilege or the pleasure of belonging to the same branch with her. But I do remember my mother's passion for the AAUW mission and her devotion to the efforts which her branch extended in the Poconos on behalf of women and girls.

I did not join AAUW until I had been out of college thirteen years. I was a mother before I joined. And I do not have a daughter. BUT I do have the same passion for the mission and devotion to the efforts of my branch, my state and the Association. Equity, education and positive change are important for everyone. I want the same wonderful things for our daughters and our sons. As an early childhood educator, I have spent over thirty years helping teachers and families provide the necessary tools to preschool children so that they can develop into caring individuals who will effect positive change. And I want to pass on this spirit to my soon-to-arrive granddaughter!

I joined AAUW to honor my mother. But why do I continue to belong? And why do I continue to take leadership positions? AAUW is the one organization which gives me my identity. AAUW branches are places where members can voice their opinions freely and often (sometimes into the middle of the night.) AAUW personifies parliamentary procedure in action. AAUW often becomes a training ground for women to hone their leadership skills. AAUW continues to provide opportunities to make the world a better place. There are real issues which AAUW continues to address. I attend district and state AAUW meetings because this is where these issues are presented and strategies for change are conceived. And finally, AAUW has become my support system both on the branch and state level. It is the AAUW people who have



come through for me when life has thrown me some pretty bad curves. My friends in AAUW continue to help me grow as a person. And for this I am extremely thankful.

And now I ask, "Why do you belong to AAUW? What do you really care about? And what changes do you think we should make at the state level? AAUW-PA board members are conducting our annual "Conversations" in January. Each branch has a great opportunity to share their successes and their concerns, ask questions, and tell the state board what direction you want AAUW-PA to take in 2003.

AAUW has been active in Pennsylvania since 1886 when the Philadelphia branch was chartered. Pittsburgh followed in 1895 with Erie in 1902. Between 1902 and 1929 fifteen more branches were chartered across Pennsylvania. AAUW-PA (or the Pennsylvania Division as it was originally called) held its first convention in 1929. This April in State College, AAUW-PA will gather for the 74th time to address some more real issues. You belong with us. Come and find out all you can about our three corporations - the Association, the Education Foundation, and the Legal Advocacy Fund. And consider taking part in our Diamond Donor campaign as a way to honor your reasons for belonging to AAUW and helping us celebrate our 75th anniversary.

Linda Tozier

Women in Charge: The Conversation Continues

By Jacqueline D'Alessio, MAR Director

On the weekend of October 12-13, fifty members of the Middle Atlantic Region met for the regional Conference at the Best Value Inn in Salisbury, Maryland. Several participants also attended Maryland's Women 2 Women Summit on Saturday, the keynote speaker Susan Nenstiel, Development Vice President of the Educational Foundation, addressed issues raised by an environmental scan completed by all three AAUW Boards to help the members of the Board in setting the direction for AAUW in the twenty-first century. In addition to workshops on EF, presented by Susan Nenstiel, and LAF, presented by Shellie Solomon, there was a workshop presented by Eileen Menton on the lesser-known Virginia Gildersleeve Fund, a fund



Members of the Salisbury MD branch being thanked for organizing the Woman to Woman Summit. Photo by Patty Hankins, copyright 2002.

organized by AAUW and IFUW members to help people in the developing nations of Africa. The Membership Workshop, presented by Patty

Hankins, Association Membership VP, and Linda Tozier, PA State President, was well received by the attendees as well as the NYS Peace Workshop, led by Carol Stull, which may also be presented at the Association Convention.

The evaluations indicated a need for a change in the

format of the conference. After July 1, your Regional Director will be looking for members of a MAR 2004 Conference Planning committee. If you are interested in making MAR more relevant to members and potential members, plan to become part of this committee.

Congratulations to the following grant winning branches:

Program Grants:

Beaver Valley
Erie
Lansdale
Lock Haven

Membership Grants:

Butler
Lake Wallenpaupack
Lansdale
Makefield Area
State College



MAR participants attending workshops. Photo by Patty Hankins, copyright 2002.

A Closer Look at Branch Activities in District III

By Louise Tanner,
District III Coordinator

Murrysville reports their most successful book sale ever. Proceeds from the sale beat the prior year by \$1,000. They sell most books for one dollar per inch. Bags sell for \$6.00 on the last afternoon of the two-day sale.

Beaver Valley branch has two projects for the Christmas season. They are providing gifts for the Mental Health Association and the Women's Crisis Center. During the year members collect small prizes for Bingo games that are held by the Mental Health Association. Some branch members recently joined the Coraopolis/Sewickley branch for their dinner meeting. They refer to these meetings as "Chat and Chew."

Coraopolis/Sewickley branch held a fundraiser related to the recent election. Polling information was gathered for the Voter News Service. Members wear an identification number, which enables entrance into a polling precinct. Immediate results from voting machines and absentee ballots are phoned in to the agency.

Fayette County branch also participated the collection of voting results for the Voter News Service. This information is shared with major news groups such as the Associated Press and major television stations. This information provides for the quick reading of election results for the top races. Both branches reported that they enjoyed watching the way the election results play out. This is a fundraiser that a small branch can easily participate in.

Fox Chapel Area branch kicked off the program year in grand style with a visit from Amy Barry Houghton, the Director of Programs for the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund and Interim Director of LAF. She flew in from Washington, D.C. to speak at the September branch meeting. LAF is not as familiar to the members of this branch as is EF, so this information was well received. Later this



A portion of the exhibit case dedicated to Bertha Lamme at the George Westinghouse Museum.



Bertha Lamme at a drafting table at Ohio State University in what is thought to be her senior year.

Pittsburgh branch held a gala event at the George Westinghouse Museum on September 26, 2002 in honor of Bertha Lamme, America's first electrical engineer. The event was attended by over 70 guests, including Lamme's grandchildren Dorothy and John Boyer. University of Pittsburgh engineering student Charlotte Scholze portrayed Lamme and a narrated slide show presented Lamme's life.

Winnie Carr, Pittsburgh branch Community Outreach Chair, approached the director of the Westinghouse museum about a permanent display on Bertha Lamme over two years ago. When the direc-

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spring, you're invited to attend the Ivy Scholarship Luncheon, our biennial fundraiser for EF and our local scholarships to high school senior girls. Plan ahead for Saturday, March 8th! This event features a Tea Cup Auction, boutique shopping, Grand Raffle, an elegant luncheon and a musical performance by the Dorseyville Middle School Girls' Chamber Chorus. Ticket price is \$40.00. Make your reservations by contacting Caroline Blackmore, 105 Stoney Camp Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15238, 412-963-0586.

The Butler branch of participated in the November election in several ways. They distributed "The Power of One Vote Pins" at the Butler Ethnic Festival in Septem-

ber. In October, the branch wrote questions for a "Candidates' Night" sponsored by Leadership Butler County. This event was a videotaped session with candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Pennsylvania House and Senate. The program was broadcast on the local public service station several times preceding the election.

They also wrote and sponsored three different public service announcements urging people to vote. These spots were broadcast several times a day the week before the election. The branch would like to think these efforts contributed to the 51% voter turnout that Butler County experienced this election.

District V Active and Creative in AAUW Projects

by Kate Sweeney, District V Coordinator

Thanks to Jennifer Polo for encouraging District Coordinators' reports in two *Keystoner* issues. Thanks too to Martha Czop for recommending this District V Coordinator job. She was right. It is exhilarating to talk with branch leaders who recount projects and programs prospering in their branches. As noted in many branches, good ideas are worth copying. Everyone welcomes inquiries and delights in being replicated. Contact persons are noted for that purpose.

Doylestown branch won the coveted Platinum Award given by Association in 2001-02 and it's no wonder. In 1995 they initiated the Community Program, designed to introduce a variety of themes and speakers to the public while also increasing AAUW visibility. Topics included, *When Women Negotiate* (1995), *American Women in the Media: A conversation with Marty Moss-Coane* (1997), *Women and the Justice System* (1998), *Women in Politics* (1999), and *Women and the Arts* with Kay Steele Renninger and Mira Nakashima-Yarnall (2002). These programs are self-sustaining and are not profit makers. Advertising is extensive and sufficient to doubling audience size with community visitors. New members join at these events even as the branch is made visible and topics are covered that interest everyone. Contact: Lilla Smerkanich, Diversity Chair, lmsmer@pil.net, 215-345-5311.

Eastern Delaware County branch is 70 years strong in Pennsylvania. Their biggest fundraiser is an annual Author's Tea, scheduled this year for April 12. Preceding that, during Women's History Month, the branch will honor high school juniors, chosen by school counselors in 15 public school districts. These girls study hard and do well in school but they are not the stars that receive all the high honors. These girls shine for their involvement in community service which Eastern Delaware County members seek to acknowledge with framed certificates and Borders' gift cards. Contact: Peggy Hill, President, 610-356-7853.

Levittown-Lower Bucks branch swaps project ideas with its neighbor, Makefield Area. The latter copied Levittown's Write-Read-Write "quick and easy" program with special ed. kids, and then shared their Girls' Recognition Dinner plan and materials. Levittown-Lower Bucks then made an event of their own without reinventing all the pieces. It became the Girls' Recognition Reception, held at the local technical school, and it honored 7th grade girls for their excellence in math and science from two local middle schools. The event went so well it will be expanded this spring to include the culturally and economically diverse Bensalem School District. Also, Levittown-Lower Bucks has created a unique approach to LAF giving. Contributions are up via their "Legal Brief for LAF" which welcomes paper dollars and encourages the joy of giving. Contact: Ruth Parnes, President, RAParnes@aol.com, 215-638-7651.

Branch news continued on page 6



Above: Levittown Lower Bucks EF/LAF chair, Lyn Stephan-Jackson and new member collect dollars using their "Legal Brief for LAF."

Left: The "Legal Brief for LAF" displayed with the certificate honoring Levittown Lower-Bucks' contributions to LAF.



District V Branch News, continued from page 5

Lansdale branch counts 160+ members and multiple projects. Leaders looked at their menu of programs geared to children, girls, and themselves and decided to focus on women in their community who could use support. Thus began The Women's Project, initiated to help disadvantaged women in area shelters and housing centers. Agencies serving this diverse group of women help communicate what is needed and act as conduits for the branch and each community of women. AAUW-PA recognized The Women's Project with a program grant this year. Other ongoing projects include Write-Read-Write, an idea taken from York branch, the Gold Program, a spin-off from Allegheny branch, providing an overnight leadership development training for 8th grade girls, and Touch the Future, a day of hands-on workshops with/by women in math and science fields. EF research findings were the inspiration of the Gold Program and Touch the Future. Lansdale leaders take pride in their breadth of membership, with charter members serving as resources to officers and younger members. Contact: Wendy Weirman, President, wlweirman@aol.com, 215-699-3254.

Southampton Area branch bears the distinction of almost every branch member taking charge of something and nearly everyone coming to meetings. For the past several years members have concentrated their efforts on scholarships to adult women lacking college degrees who were studying to become part of the work force. Because of the current shortage of nurses, members decided to concentrate their scholarship effort on helping nursing students. Southampton's goal is to assist women one at a time and based on feedback they've received from numerous scholarship recipients they are, indeed, making a difference. Contact: Ann Gavin, President, ann_b_gavin@icpphil.navy.mil, 215-934-5834.



The NEMCO Young Women's Interest Group on a hike at the Pennypack Watershed.

NorthEastern Montgomery County (NEMCO) branch: The Young Women's Interest Group started in 1999 with a group of about 6 women in their 20's and 30's, and now has 12 active members. The group meets monthly, with the focus of activities around learning, community service and just plain fun. Each member is responsible for planning one event a year at a

location of her choosing. They are all professional women, some single, some married and some mothers. They live in a very wide geographical area, and welcome any young college educated women to the group and to AAUW. For information, please contact Bonnie Neiderer at 215-947-9065 or bonniesaunders@erols.com

Bertha Lamme exhibit, continued from page 5

tor needed items and descriptions, Carr began her research. The work paid off and the display now features portraits, Lamme's college diploma, and some of her engineering drawings. It was Carr's perseverance that enabled her to track down Lamme's grandchildren.

Bertha Lamme graduated from Ohio State University in 1893 with a degree in mechanical engineering. She was the university's first woman engineering graduate and subsequently the first woman engineer to be hired by Westinghouse. She worked for Westinghouse for 12 years. She resigned when she got married as was the practice of the time.

The display is the first part in the Pittsburgh branch's three-pronged project whose goals are to: 1) interest young girls in technical careers and assist them

financially in their studies., 2) to spread awareness of AAUW and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) efforts and 3) to spread awareness of the networking support available for women in their professions through organizations like AAUW and SWE.

School field trips to the museum will acquaint young girls with the technical career possibilities open to them and the success of women in technical work. Fundraising efforts with AAUW, SWE and the museum will take place for an endowed Bertha Lamme annual scholarship. Additionally, outreach and education of the public about Bertha Lamme will occur via the museum, its weekly lectures and local publications.

For more information, please contact Winnie Carr at 412-824-3456.

News From the Middle Atlantic Regional Director

By Jacqueline D'Alessio, MAR Director

At the Association Board of Directors Meeting on November 7-11 in Washington, DC, the agenda focused on the following key issues.

The Association has established a Leadership Training Institute (LTI), a 501(c)3, as a vehicle for applying for and receiving grants to promote projects for the Association. AAUW members' donations to the LTI are now tax-deductible, as they have always been for EF and LAF. The new Cross Corporate Business Development Department is focusing its fundraising on planned giving.

After the November 5th election, the Voter Education Campaign is even more important; the Board reaffirmed support of the Voter Education Campaign. There will be challenges for AAUW, especially regarding judicial appointments and reproductive choice. The Association Board adopted a revised public policy program for presentation at the convention. The Board added campaign finance as one of its public policy priorities.

At the AAUW headquarters in Washington, the many new staff members are all very competent and energetic and support AAUW priorities. AAUW received a clean audit report from our outside auditors. The Association is also working to streamline the committee appointments calendar. The Board voted to increase MAL dues to \$42, effective July 1, 2003. The notecards are gone! The Association has discontinued its relationship with Barton Cotton. Expanding on the success on the Student Leadership Conference in June in Washington, the Association staff will provide resource material to States who might want to do a Student Leaders Conference.

Come to the Association Convention in Providence, Rhode Island, on June 20-23, 2003 and let your voice be heard. The location is convenient for the members of the MAR. Among the issues to be discussed and voted on at the convention are the following: a proposed dues structure increase and a resolution on membership categories. The new convention format will allow State and Branch exhibits of Best Practices, and members will be able to register on line for convention.

I'm looking forward to speaking with many of you at the coming winter board meetings and spring conventions.

**Please remember all dues are
to be
submitted to:**

**Doris Cohen
AAUW-PA Finance Officer
835 Glenwood Drive
York, PA 17403**

AAUW-PA Convention 2003

By Dianne Taylor Gregg, AAUW-PA Program VP

Convention 2003 is shaping up as 44 hours that cover the range of AAUW issues. We hope you can come to State College, April 4-6, for the variety of the Association Convention experience, with less travel and cost.

Four outstanding women at the top of AAUW will speak at meals, so that all members attending convention can hear them. We open with Mary Purcell at dinner Friday night. Saturday lunch features LAF. Saturday night is devoted to Association issues. Sunday brunch spotlights EF.

Our workshop sessions on Saturday morning range through a variety of AAUW subjects. That afternoon, workshops focus on branch management issues. Friday night, after dinner, we will have a Town Hall to discuss matters coming before the Association Convention, including the proposed dues increase. The business meeting and district caucuses follow lunch on Saturday. The EF/LAF Walk/Run comes Sunday morning, before brunch.

Those able to come Friday afternoon can go on a tour of the award winning Mt. Nittany winery. Both evenings before dinner we'll have cocktail hours for socializing.

The next issue of the *Keystoner* will be devoted entirely to convention. In it, the events above will be laid out in full detail. We hope every branch can be represented!

Legal Advocacy Fund

February brings thoughts of Valentine's Day and of those we love. But what if someone we love was facing sexual harassment, denial of tenure, pay inequity, or other forms of sexual discrimination; wouldn't we be angry and do everything we could to help them?

Hopefully, a dear one of yours is not. But for the many women on college and university campuses who are facing and wrestling the leviathans of bigotry ~ get incensed and do everything you can for them ~ **support LAF.**

Since its founding in 1981, the LAF has adopted 75 cases and contributed more than \$800,000 in direct financial support. Yet, some institutions, Stanford University, the State University of New York-Buffalo, University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth..., still have long-standing gender equity problems.

The sad reality is, that for every incident that makes it into the public arena and receives LAF support, there are hundreds that don't. Institutions have deep pockets. They can drag out costly litigation and drain an individual's finances and resolve. Many women lack the courage or resources to fight and others fear retribution and condemnation.

This Valentine's Day, give love to those dear to your heart and to our sisters fighting for their dignity and equal rights, give a generous donation to the LAF. Forward your checks made payable to LAF to Karen Rowe, AAUW-PA LAF Liaison, 2498 Seneca Dr. York PA 17404 or call 717-767-6654 or e-mail at krowe@I-lead.org.

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Weekdays 10 AM - 5 PM EST or, e-mail helpline@mail.aauw.org

Send change of Address to: AAUW Member Records, 1111 16th St, NW, Washington, DC 20036

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

AAUW promotes equity for women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.

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