

## From Your President...

Dear Branch Presidents and Board Members:

In lieu of a letter this month, I have decided to just list some important reminders.

- 1) If you haven't done so already, please be sure to make your hotel reservations (813-977-7066) and send in your convention registrations! We are looking forward to a super convention this year!
- 2) Branch presidents, if you haven't RSVP'd to me about your attendance at Sunday morning's Branch Presidents Breakfast, please do so ASAP! We need a head count. Thank you.
- 3) Credentials: well, we tried hard to bring credentials into conformity with Association's method, but it was getting so confusing, we are back to doing it the old way. That means you need to send in your delegate lists to Joan Maloney. By now you should have received a form from Joan. Please fill it in and return to her immediately. I have been asked to chair Credentials at the 2003 Association convention in Providence, so I'll have a much better idea of how to streamline this process by next year. My apologies for all the confusion.
- 4) Please encourage at least one member of your branch to participate in the EF Walk/Run on Saturday morning of convention. If some of you are shuddering at the thought of intense physical exercise at 7:15 in the morning, join me in a leisurely stroll. I don't have the opportunity to talk to many of you during the year – this would be a great time to get to know each other. Strollers can meet me in the hotel parking lot. And don't forget to send your walk/run registration to Sally Bailey. There will also be registration on-site, but it simplifies Sally's life enormously if you pre-register.
- 5) Please encourage your branch officers (and in-coming and potential branch leaders) to attend the counterpart sessions on Sunday morning of convention. Your state directors are planning very "meaty", hands-on sessions that shouldn't be missed!
- 6) Lobby Days was a great success! FL AAUW was well represented. The legislative session isn't over, however, and we must remain vigilant. If you, or any member of your branch, would like to be included in the Florida AAUW Get Florida Facts e-mail alert system, please e-mail [FLAAUW2@aol.com](mailto:FLAAUW2@aol.com). Our goal is to have every branch represented.
- 7) Your Board has worked diligently to "clean up" our bylaws, and bring them into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Please read carefully the proposed bylaws changes that will be discussed at Saturday's business meeting at convention. In addition, be sure to pass these on to your branches, and discuss with them and with your branch delegates.
- 8) For those branches already planning activities for next year, FL AAUW Convention 2003 will be held on April 25-27, at the Renaissance Orlando Hotel – Airport, off of the Beeline Highway.
- 9) Florida is hosting the South Atlantic Regional Conference on June 7-9, 2002 at Tampa's Embassy Suites (same hotel as state convention). Donna Shalala has been invited as the keynote speaker, and the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor is putting on one of the workshops. This should be an empowering conference, and I encourage you all to put it on your calendars and encourage your branch members to attend.
- 10) Mea culpa: for those of you who have asked me about a Leadership Conference this year, I had indicated that, because of the SAR Conference, we would eschew the Leadership Conference. Many of you have expressed disappointment at that decision. Therefore, put Saturday, September 28, 2002 on your calendars. We are in the process of putting together a knock-your-socks-off program. Keep a look out on the web page for more information.
- 11) And, finally, speaking of the web page, don't forget that as of July 1, 2002, all the monthly Update news will be found on our web site at [www.florida-aauw.org](http://www.florida-aauw.org). If you haven't visited the site, I urge you to do so. Susan Bailey, our web manager, will be available at the computer workshops to walk you through the site. If you are interested in attending the Saturday morning or afternoon computer workshops, we ask that you register on Friday when you arrive.

Best wishes, and see you in Tampa!

*Leslie*

# LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND LUNCHEON AT CONVENTION

Submitted by Alex Sterling, Director for LAF

Not One but Two outstanding speakers for LAF Luncheon at the Florida State convention April 5-7!

## I. Lynn Ilon, Ph.D. - (plaintiff) vs. University of New York (Buffalo).

Ms. Ilon will speak about her ongoing sex discrimination, retaliation, and pay inequity lawsuit. A faculty member at Florida International University in the College of Education, Lynn Ilon is an educational economist with expertise in the emerging field of the global knowledge economy. She is a theorist in the development of new concepts and their underlying principles in the growing field of knowledge creation working with advanced Ph.D. candidates from around the world and professionals in education and economic development. Her position as an expert in education economics, international development and global education has created demand for her services, and has led to consulting engagements with the World Bank, Harvard University, and the United Nations.

Ms Ilon received her Ph.D. from Florida State University's renowned program in International Development Education. She holds advanced degrees in Economic and Statistics.

## II. Shellie Solomon – Member of AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Development Committee

As a liaison between national LAF staff, LAF Board and the State LAF Liaisons, Ms. Solomon is the contact person for Florida, Missouri, Puerto Rico, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Illinois. Ms. Solomon will speak on the aims of this Committee. Professionally, Ms. Solomon is Director of the South Florida Office of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Solutions, Inc., a crime and public policy consulting firm. Ms. Solomon conducts studies of domestic violence homicides, community policing and implementation of 3-1-1 as a non-emergency number for police. Prior to this she served as Deputy Director of Budget at the Census Bureau and as a Senior Policy Analyst at the Dept. of Justice.

Ms. Solomon holds a M.S. in Public Policy Analysis from the Univ. of Rochester and a B.A. in Economics from the Univ. of Oklahoma.

Celebrate 20 years of Legal advocacy Fund. Wear the LAF lapel pin as a symbol of your commitment to end sex discrimination in higher education. The LAF 2001 pin is yours for a gift of \$100 or more to the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund.

March 15, 2002 is the application deadline for the Progress in Equity Award of up to \$10,000. This award recognizes a college or university program that results in significant progress toward equity for female students, faculty, or staff; addresses the needs of diverse groups of women; is innovative and exemplary; and can be replicated at other institutions. For example: Recruiting women into nontraditional fields or advancing tenure and promotion opportunities for women faculty.

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## SHAPE THE FUTURE WITH MEMBERSHIP

Submitted by Reneé Ramsey, Director for Membership

**Thank you, thank you, thank you,** to all branches, and directors at large that completed the fragile branches survey. The information was tabulated and forwarded to the association committee chair. The final report will be shared in the near future, and will include both the results from within the state and that from association. The information obtained was so informative there will be a session at convention on fragile branches.

**Convention News:** Please check you membership records to identify those members that will become 50-year members this year. These members are recognized at the luncheon during convention so names, addresses, and phone numbers are needed no later than March 1, 2002 to ensure invitations are send in a timely fashion. Mail or email me that information so your branch and members receive proper recognition during convention.

Membership vice-presidents please make every effort to attend convention, and encourage members that have not attended a convention to come as well. A first time to convention session will be offered on Friday evening. You are more than welcome to participate in the first timer's session with the first timers from your branch.

Membership vice-president's that are in the last months of their term, encourage your successor to attend convention or better yet, bring them with you. It is a great time to meet your counterpart, share ideas, and gleam new ideas to try in your branch.

**General information:** Each month random calls are made to several branches throughout the state. I am finding more and more membership vice-president's do not have the new Membership Tool Kit mailed out last fall from Washington nor do they see this article on a monthly basis. These are both important sources that will help make your job easier. Contact your Director at Large, one of the state membership committee members or myself if you are in need of help obtaining information from either the state or association. Remember, *Update* is now available on the state web site.

**Looking forward to seeing many of you at convention!!**

# **PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE**

## **Submitted by Joy Bove Lurken, Director for Public Policy**

### **Charitable Choice**

On July 19, 2001, the U.S. House of Representatives passed (233-198) the Community Solutions Act (HR 7), which contains President Bush's charitable choice proposals. Sponsored by Reps. J.S. Watts, (R-OK) and Tony Hall (D-OH), HR7 would allow religious entities to receive federal funds to deliver government-funded services and programs without requiring those entities to abide by federal anti-discrimination laws and state/local health and safety regulations. Currently, a religiously affiliated organization can receive government funding to provide social services so long as it adheres to all relevant federal laws. AAUW believes that all religious and secular entities receiving federal funds must comply with federal, state, and local anti-discrimination laws.

### **Discrimination**

AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination and is particularly troubled by policies that rightfully allow religious institutions to prefer hiring those within the religion for their privately funded programs. Women could also be subjected to discrimination in the delivery of services.

### **State and Local Laws**

HR7 would allow religious organizations receiving federal funds to deliver social services and be exempt from state local health and safety codes, employment laws, and anti-discrimination laws.

### **Vouchers**

HR7 contains a provision that allows a cabinet secretary to unilaterally convert any grant or direct funding program to a voucher program, even if the underlying authorization does not permit vouchers. AAUW opposes vouchers because they lack the civil rights protections currently required under federal grants and direct federal funding.

### **Secular Alternatives**

HR7 does not require that secular alternatives be made available to individuals seeking social services. AAUW believes if charitable choice legislation is enacted, secular alternatives must be available, viable, and appropriate for every person seeking assistance.

### **Religious Organizations Oppose Charitable Choice**

Many faith-based groups including the Baptist Joint Committee, the Religious Action Center of Reformed Judaism, and Interfaith Alliance and other organizations oppose charitable choice.

For more information call 800/608-5286 or e-mail [votered@aauw.org](mailto:votered@aauw.org). To join the Get Florida Facts Network, contact FLAAUW2@aol.com

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## **CONVENTION – ELEANOR ROOSEVELT FUND WALK/RUN**

### **Submitted by Sally Bailey, Director for EF**

We're counting on Florida to have a super successful Walk/Run for the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund at Convention! Let's show everyone how convention delegates can exercise, have fun, and raise money before workshops and general sessions begin! We have our first registrants already—Leslie and me. We need the rest of you to join us by registering and finding sponsors! How many non-AAUW sponsors can you sign up?

Information about the walk/run was sent to all branch Educational Foundation Chairs and is posted on the Florida AAUW web page ([www.florida--aauw.org](http://www.florida--aauw.org)) both on the home page and on the Educational Foundation page. Prizes are listed on the Educational Foundation page. The registration and sponsor forms are in the Leaders Corner and listed on the bottom of the home page. You can print them without using Adobe Acrobat.

We'd like to have every branch have at least one walker or runner, and at least two non-AAUW sponsors! Remember we're trying to promote the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund in our respective communities, and especially to our public school teachers! What's given to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund one year is spent on teacher fellowships and grants the next, so annual contributions to the fund are critical! All funds (AAUW or not) raised by a branch will be credited to that branch!

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“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile,  
a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment,  
or the smallest act of caring,  
all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

*Leo Buscaglia*

# PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

From the State Board of Directors

## PLEASE READ AND DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR BRANCH MEMBERS

These are the proposed changes to Florida AAUW Bylaws to add a president-elect position, modify the nominating committee requirements and the requirements of a board of directors' ballot between meetings. Additions are italicized. Deleted portions are stricken through.

### ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

Section 1. Elected Officers: The elected officers of Florida AAUW shall include the president, *president-elect*, director for program, director for membership, director for finance, director for Educational Foundation, director for public policy, director for Legal Advocacy Fund, director for communications, ~~recording~~ secretary, and eight (8) directors-at-large.

Section 4. Terms of Office. The term of office shall be two (2) years *with the exception of the president-elect whose term shall be one year* and begin on July 1 of the odd year. No member shall serve more than two (2) terms consecutively as an elected officer except the president *and president-elect*. The president *and president-elect* shall have served previously on the Florida AAUW board of directors and may have served two (2) terms as an elected officer.

#### Section 5. Vacancies.

- a. A vacancy in the office of president shall be filled for the unexpired term by *the president-elect, or the director for program acting as the presiding officer until the executive committee can fill the vacancy.*
- b. A vacancy in any office other than the president, *which is covered in Section 5a,* shall be filled for the unexpired term by the executive committee.
- c. *If a president-elect leaves office before becoming president, the nominating committee shall, in preparing a slate in the even numbered year, include the office of president.*

### ARTICLE VIII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

#### Section 1. Duties of Elected Officers.

##### b. President-elect. *The president elect shall*

- (1) *serve as a voting member of the board*
- (2) *perform such duties as may be assigned by the president and the board of directors.*
- (3) *act as presiding officer in the absence of the president*
- (4) *perform the duties of president in all cases in which the president is unable to serve*
- (5) *automatically becomes president without an election when the office of president becomes open.*

##### c. Directors.

- (1) Director for Program. The director for program shall:
  - (a) assume the responsibility for implementing the program of FLAAUW.
  - (b) ~~Perform the duties of president in all cases in which the president is unable to serve.~~
  - (b) *act as presiding officer in the absence of both the president and president-elect.*
- (c) assume to office of president in the event of a vacancy in that office.
- (2) Director for Membership: The director for membership shall:
  - (a) assume responsibility for developing and maintaining membership;
  - (b) act as presiding officer in the absence of both the president, *president-elect*, and director for program.

### ARTICLE IX. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

#### Section 1. Nominating Committee.

- a. There shall be a nominating committee of five (5) members elected by the following procedure:
  - (1) two (2) members elected by the board of directors at the board meeting prior to the state convention; two (2) alternates may be elected also;
  - (2) three (3) members elected by the voting body at the state convention.
- b. The president shall appoint a temporary chair from among the committee members who then shall appoint a permanent chair.
- c. No branch shall be represented on the nominating committee ~~more than once in five~~ **years** in two consecutive years.

Section 2. Elections.

b. the president, director for membership, director for communications, director for the Educational Foundation, and the secretary shall be elected in even-numbered years. The *president-elect*, director for program, director for finance, director for ~~college/university relations~~–Legal Advocacy Fund, and director for public policy shall be elected in the odd-numbered years.

ARTICLE X. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 4. Mail Ballot In the interim between meetings of the board of directors, a ~~mailed~~ ballot may be taken at the request of the president on any question submitted in writing.

ARTICLE XI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Composition. The executive committee shall be composed of the president, *president-elect*, director for program, director for membership, director for finance, director for the Educational Foundation, director for public policy, director for Legal Advocacy Fund, director for communications, and the secretary.

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## RATIONALE FOR BYLAW CHANGES

### Why Does Florida AAUW Need a President-elect?

1. A president-elect to the board will smooth the transition from one president to the next and provide continuity of leadership.
2. If the incoming president has been off the board for a year or more it will provide time to learn and understand any policy, programming, bylaws changes, etc that have taken place during this period of time.
3. It will provide an opportunity to learn about all aspects of the position before assuming the responsibility of leading the organization for two years instead of learning and leading simultaneously.
4. It will provide an opportunity to work with the board members who will continue on during her first year of the presidency. This will provide more continuity.
5. Succession requirements are changed because in the year without a president-elect there could be a new director for program who has never served on the board before.

### Why Change the Nominating Committee Requirements?

1. Reducing the requirement that a branch may be represented on the nominating committee from once every five years to once every two years will reduce the amount of record keeping required to satisfy this requirement.
2. Tracking branch representation on the committee became extremely difficult when alternates were substituted for regular members of the committee and the records were not changed.
3. The election process will allow representation on the committee to be spread out among the branches on an informal basis. Some states have no rule regarding how often a branch may be represented on the nominating committee.

### Why Change the Board of Directors Between Meetings Balloting?

1. If the word mail is eliminated from this section an email vote may be used in place of mailing out ballots to all board members.
2. Utilizing email ballots for everyone with an email address will save postage, copying, envelopes and time for all concerned.

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“Nobody makes a greater mistake  
than he who does nothing  
because he could only do so little.”

*Edmund Burke*

## FROM THE PROGRAM PERCH

Submitted by Alice O'Keefe, Co-Director for Program

Plans for the Convention "how-to" workshops are proceeding on schedule. Several branches have signed up to be on one or more of the panels. Since there are two sessions, one on Saturday morning and one on Saturday afternoon, we are seeking additional panelists to provide as much exposure to successful AAUW programs as possible. Moreover, if your branch has conducted an effective program/project other than the six named AAUW programs, we invite you to join the panelists. Since we are focusing on community coalition building, it may be that your project will provide insight into the role coalitions play in producing successful projects. Contact either of your Co-Directors, Alice O'Keefe at: (561/287-9878, [dratok1@aol.com](mailto:dratok1@aol.com)) or Shirley Haglund at (321/773-7912, [sh7788@aol.com](mailto:sh7788@aol.com)) or your Director-At-Large to sign up.

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### March

5 Hotel reservations due for convention  
1-31 **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**  
1 Recognition (ex-5 Star Program) Applications due – Association  
20 Deadline for April *Branch Update* – Florida

#### APRIL

1 Finance and Membership VPs check Branch Dues Report Package for accuracy – Florida  
5-7 **72<sup>nd</sup> Florida AAUW Convention, Tampa – Florida**  
7 **Deadline for Summer issue – FLORIVISION – state newsletter**  
19 Deadline for May *Branch Update* - Florida

#### MAY

15 Deadline for June *Branch Update* – Florida

#### JUNE

1 **Officer forms due – Florida and Association**  
7-8 **South Atlantic Regional Conference, Tampa**  
14 Deadline for July *Branch Update* – Florida  
21-23 AAUW Leadership Conference, Washington, DC  
30 Fiscal year ends – Association