



Fall 2001

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FloriVision

PUBLICATION OF FLORIDA AAUW

Legal Advocacy Fund and Awareness Day

Alex Sterling, Director for Legal Advocacy Fund

Margaret Mead, noted anthropologist, stated, "Because of their age-long training in human relations... women have a special contribution to make to any group enterprise, and I feel it is up to them to contribute this kind of AWARENESS." Florida AAUW members, we need your contribution to make November 10, 2001, Legal Advocacy Fund Awareness Day!

AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund is the nation's largest legal fund focused solely on sex discrimination in higher education. It provides funding and a support system to college and university women fighting sexual harassment, unjustified or unfair denial of tenure or promotion, pay inequity, pregnancy discrimination, and inequality in athletic programs. By focusing throughout Florida, AAUW branches can employ the power of many voices to educate our own members, to perhaps recruit new members, and to make the general public AWARE of the need for a Legal Advocacy Fund.



The Association Legal Advocacy Fund is assisting in our project by offering speakers and videos. All directors-at-large have been given material to aid branches in this endeavor. We need to proclaim November 10, 2001, Legal Advocacy Fund Awareness Day through our branch newsletters and through local news sources.

North East Interbranch has planned a speaker for this evening and is setting up a marketplace to sell items to raise funds. Boca Raton Branch has obtained a speaker who won a sexual harassment case before the Supreme Court. Fort Lauderdale Branch is planning to conduct an auction to raise funds for the Legal Advocacy Fund. Please let me know of your plans and how I can aid you in developing Legal Advocacy Fund Awareness Day on November 10!

You may contact me by e-mail at: alex17@n-jcenter.com, or write to: 335 N. Causeway, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169.

We Need You!

We need a few good women. We need YOU! to run for office for 2002-2004. For the following offices of Florida AAUW: president, director for membership, director for communication, director for Educational Foundation, secretary, and four directors-at-large. If we are to remain a vibrant, effective organization for women and girls, we need leaders who will direct us as we progress into this 21st century.

To be eligible to run for president, you must have

served previously on the Florida AAUW Board of Directors. The president represents Florida AAUW in activities of the Association. She also provides the impetus to inspire our state's programming.

All other offices are open to ANY member of Florida AAUW. The director for membership will, of course, continue efforts to increase our membership. The director for communication produces FloriVision, the Directory, and supervises the website. A big job, but the other officers help

by submitting articles. To the editors of those award-winning branch newsletters — please consider running for director for communications.

The director for Educational Foundation keeps us informed about fellowships, research, and special projects of the Foundation, helps us be creative in our fundraising efforts, and encourages us all to be generous in our donations. The secretary records the business of Florida AAUW in official meetings and keeps the records for the state.

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President's Message

Leslie Henderson, President

Dedicated Members and Creative Strategic Planning — Will Shape Our Future

It never seems to fail that I am on the road when my FloriVision article is due... and once again I am inspired far from Florida AAUW. This time I happened to be playing putt-putt golf in Virginia with my sister-in-law, among a slew of other family

members. It was a very competitive game — women against men, with the women vigilant to the men's penchant for cheating. In a quiet moment, Karen asked me how things are going in AAUW. I spoke enthusiastically about state convention, Association convention, and the Branch Leaders Conference. Now before I continue, let me tell you a little about Karen. She is a single working mother, mid-forties, and a PhD — ergo, a classic candidate for AAUW. She listened attentively, thought a moment, shook her head, and said, "I'm amazed that a volunteer organization like AAUW can attract so many dedicated members in this day and age... with our harried life styles and all... you must be doing something right..."

Bingo! The proverbial light bulb went on, and it hit me that we sometimes get so involved in worrying about membership growth and the future of AAUW that we lose sight of the present: the inimitability of the membership and the vitality and relevance of the organization. Case in point: while at the convention in Austin,

we noticed a young woman sitting in the Florida delegation whom we did not recognize. It turns out that Kathleen Moore, the Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs at the University of South Florida, came to convention to check out what AAUW is doing. She was so impressed with our programming that she returned home to Tampa and asked Ruth Genshaft, the president of USF, to be named the official College/University rep to AAUW. Occasionally we need to look at our organization through the eyes of others to truly appreciate our impact.

So as we begin our program year, I ask all of you to take a minute to congratulate yourselves and to celebrate the mark we are all making on this world. On behalf of Florida AAUW and the Association, I thank you for all that you continue to do for women and girls and for the impact that you make on your communities.

It is that time of the year to start planning. I urge you to think "out of the box" and to do some creative strategic planning and program planning for 2001-02. If we are to make a special impact on our communities and the lives of women and girls — and at the same time attract new and vital members to our branches — we must break out of the mold of monthly speakers. Instead let's look to coalition-building and community projects. Your Directors-at-Large, as well as the Executive Committee, are available to mentor and help in any way they can. Please take advantage of their services as well as the Leader-on-Loan program.

And it goes without saying that I am always at the end of a phone line or e-mail (813-960-7621, FLAAUW@aol.com), if you need me. I also enjoy visiting the branches, especially during a special project or meeting, so keep that in mind for the future.

My best wishes for a fulfilling and fun year.

FLORIDA AAUW

AAUW promotes equity for women, education and self-development over the life span, and positive societal change.

Founded in 1881, AAUW is open to all graduates who hold a BA or higher degree, as well as students.

We are represented by branches in 55 Florida communities, and 4,900 members in 2001.

Leslie Henderson, *President*

Alice T. O'Keefe

Sally Bailey

Shirley G. Haglund

Director for

Co-Directors for Program

Educational Foundation

L. Carol Newnam

Joy Lurken

Director for Finance

Director for Public Policy

Alex Stirling

Carol-Lynn Bevc

Director for Legal Advocacy Fund

Director for Communications

Renee Ramsay

Connie Davis

Director for Membership

Secretary

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Deadline for the Winter issue is December 15, 2001.

AAUW Helpline: 1-800-326-AAUW (2289)

AAUW Home Page: <http://www.aauw.org>

Florida AAUW Web site: <http://www.florida-aauw.org>

We Need You!

Continued from page 1:

The directors-at-large are the liaison between the branches and the Board. Hopefully they are a two-way conduit — bringing information to the branches and delivering suggestions and concerns to the state Board. One caveat — only one director-at-large from the same branch at the same time. We want to spread these good things among all our 50+ branches!

The application form for all these positions was distributed in the *Branch Update* to your branch president. Please inform her that you desire to run for a Florida AAUW position. All applications must be sent by November 15, 2001, to:

Joan Maloney, Nominating Committee Chair
607 Cherry Tree Lane
DeLand, FL 32724.

You may also obtain an application by contacting her at 1-386-738-9756 or jmalo93016@aol.com.

Don't delay — get your application now. Step up and provide the leadership we know all college-educated women are capable of providing. Run for a Florida AAUW office! The election will be held at the 2002 Florida AAUW Convention — April 5-7 at the Embassy Suites on the campus of the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Are You Ready?



Today and Tomorrow

Mark your calendars for April 5-7, 2002, for the 72nd Florida AAUW Convention. Our new location is the Embassy Suites, located on the University of South Florida campus in Tampa. Each suite has two large rooms with many amenities such as refrigerator and microwave and can sleep four. During your stay, enjoy a daily free full breakfast and nightly free reception.

In between you will be inspired by the new AAUW Executive Director Jacqueline Woods and South Atlantic Regional Director Ronnie Williams. Pack your walking shoes because Sally Bailey, Florida Director for Educational Foundation, is planning a Walk/Run fundraiser for Saturday morning.

Bring your family along and plan to visit Busch Gardens, the Florida Aquarium, or Tarpon Springs. We'll keep enticing you with added "highlights," registration forms for the convention and hotel, and program notes. Look for more information in the *Branch Update* each month and through communications from your director-at-large. Think about sponsoring an ad for the 2002 Program Book - a patron, booster, friend, or personal ad. **KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR OUR NEXT COMMUNICATION AND SAVE THE DATES April 5-7, 2002!**

Beverly Kelly and Sally Lewis, Convention Co-Chairs

AAUW Executive Director's October Visit To Florida

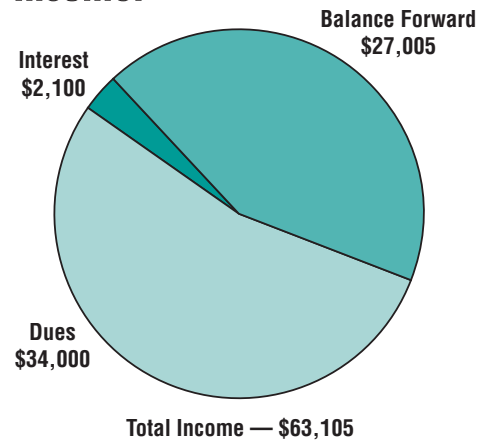
Met our personable, dynamic, Executive Director, Jackie Woods, at a reception and dinner Friday evening October 12th at the Abacoa Golf Club in Jupiter (very close to I-95 and exit 58). Cost is \$40. Husbands and guests most welcome!



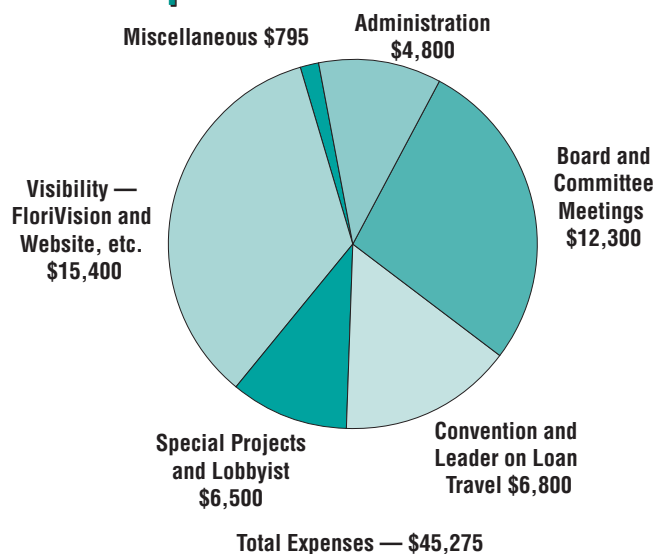
Entrée choices: Prime Rib, Grilled Dolphin, Chicken Marsala, and Vegetarian. Reception is at 6 pm; dinner at 7 pm; Jackie's talk will follow dinner. Reservation deadline: Monday October 1st. Mail check made out to NPBC AAUW with meal choice to Karen Moseley, 369 River Edge Drive, Jupiter 33477. Detailed directions in October's *Branch Update*. Questions? Call Karen at 561-744-6286 or Carolyn at 561-744-9146 (email: sanp2@bellsouth.net)

Florida AAUW Budget for 2001-2002

Income:



Expenses:



Inventing the Wheel

Starting from scratch with each new AAUW branch officer is not necessary. You can learn from others' experience. Check out the Tool Kits prepared by the Association. These publications offer practical advice and are easy to digest.

Six Tool Kits are in circulation. Leader, Membership, Diversity, Finance, President and Educational Foundation. Where can you find these publications? First, ask the person who held the job last year. The Tool Kits should follow the office (passed on). Second, each branch is entitled to one copy of each. If your branch does not have copies, call the Helpline to request a copy for your branch. Lastly, the Tool Kits are available for purchase by any member at a nominal fee. Call the sales office to purchase (800-225-9998, ext. 524).

Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Walk/Run

The four AAUW branches in Palm Beach County, led by the Palm Beach County Branch, are making strides for women and girls by stepping out with Florida's first Walk/Run. It will be held at Palm Beach Community College on Saturday November 10. Sun City Center Branch will walk for the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund in their Walk/Run the next weekend. The third scheduled Walk/Run will be in Tallahassee during Lobby Days on February 24. At our April convention every branch can step out in a Walk/Run and see that hosting a Walk/Run is not a giant step but a set of easy paces!

The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund awards Community Action Grants to individual AAUW members, to branches, and to local non-profit community-based organizations, as well as funding teacher fellowships. These grants provide seed money for innovative projects or non-degree research projects that promote education and equity for women and girls. The number of teacher fellowships and grants awarded each year is totally dependent upon the money raised for the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund. It's time to help our teachers and community organizations by holding Walk/Runs all around Florida!

To help plan your branch's Walk/Run, request your "walk box" by calling 202/728-3306 or e-mailing your request to foundation@aauw.org. If you have questions or want more information, contact Sally Bailey, Florida's AAUW Director for Educational Foundation, at sallyb2@aol.com, or call her at 561/748-9909.



Part of the Planning Committee for the Walk/Run to be held at Palm Beach Community College.

Florida Educator Given AAUW Emerging Scholar Award

Dr. Melissa Gross, an assistant professor of Library and Information Studies at Florida State University, received the AAUW Educational Foundation Emerging Scholar Award during the Educational Foundation banquet at the Association Convention in Austin. The annual award, which includes a \$5,000 honorarium, recognizes the professional achievements of an un-tenured woman scholar who has a record of exceptional early accomplishments and shows promise of future distinction.

Dr. Gross, who came to FSU in 1999, was chosen in recognition of her achievements in the field of library and information studies, her teaching record, and her commitment to women's issues. The members of the Florida convention delegation had the privilege of meeting and talking with Melissa and her husband Josh in Austin. We were thrilled to hear her excellent acceptance speech at the Foundation banquet. We are proud and fortunate to have Dr. Melissa Gross teaching at FSU!

Florida Wins Educational Foundation Contribution Awards

Hooray for Florida AAUW! At the Association Convention's Educational Foundation award night, Florida received eight awards for our contributions to the Educational Foundation in 2000. Northern Palm Beach County Branch was first in total contributions with \$103,433.34 AND first in per capita contributions with \$1,641.80!* Fort Lauderdale was sixth in total contributions with \$24,314.00 and fifth in per capita contributions with \$486.28. Niceville/Valpariso was third in per capita contributions with \$687.50.

Florida was second to California in total contributions with \$243,045, fifth in per capita contributions with \$49.75, and third in contribution growth over 1999. A big thank you to Beverly Fraser, our previous EF chair, and to every one of you for your great support of the Educational Foundation in 2000. Can we top \$250,000 in 2001? Of course we can - if we each do our part!

*This amount included \$100,000 which was a gift that resulted from a local newspaper article, contact phone number, and photo about Northern Palm Beach Branch's annual EF luncheon fundraiser. This generous gift to the Foundation demonstrates once again that publicity does pay!

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall...

Yes, we realize that Florida AAUW is the fairest in the land. Every branch member, surely, wants to magnify that image into a reflection of perfection. We are all working towards reaching the ultimate goal and purpose of AAUW — achieving equity of all women and girls, life-long education and positive societal change.

The Program Development Committee (PDC) shares in that vision with every branch member and assumes the role of facilitator in a concerted attempt to fully realize our purpose and goal. The PDC members' first priority is to be available with resources and assistance to you in the area of program, state and/or Association. We exist to be there for you, no matter which project you choose to consider and whenever you undertake it.

First of all, let us introduce ourselves. Your newly elected Co-Directors are Shirley Haglund, former President of the Central Brevard Branch, and Alice O'Keefe, Program Vice President of the Stuart Area Branch. Shirley is a membership specialist for the Girl Scouts of Citrus Council, while Alice is a consultant with the Martin Council School District. Our mutual desire is to make a difference for women and girls by encouraging relevant programs and new ways of working to achieve our organization's goals. Our first step was to recruit the following seven women to serve as Chairs on the PDC. They are: Snythia Fletcher (Daytona), Diversity; Kay Heimgartner (Melbourne), Creative Writing; Joan Maloney (Deland), Special Projects I; Martha Miller (Tallahassee), Leader-On-Loan; Karen Mosley (Northern Palm Beach County), Special Projects II; Carolyn San Phillip (Northern Palm Beach County), Communications Coordinator; and Rose Webster (Sun City Center), Mini-Grants. Shirley and Alice want to extend their heartfelt appreciation to these dedicated members of FL AAUW for joining us in our commitment to assure that our programs work for all of us.

The PDC and its co-directors want to explain how we plan to put our words into action. Most important is the frequent, regular exchange of information via every tool we have — telephone, e-mail, the postal service and/or meetings. It's called communication and it is a two-way street. We will keep in touch with you and trust you will be contacting us. Our addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed in the FL AAUW Directory or are available upon request at dratok1@aol.com or 561/287-98780. In order to provide efficient and personalized contacts, we have divided our 54 branches alphabetically into two sections. The first section, the 27 branches from Boca Raton through Melbourne, will be the communication network handled by Shirley Haglund. Alice O'Keefe will be responsible for the 27 branches from Miami through West Pasco for communication.

Our newly elected Directors-at-Large will be vital links in maintaining an overall communication network with their assigned branches. The committee wants to educate all AAUW members with a familiarity with "what" each program really is, "how-to" proceed, and "who" might be contacted for detailed information. Keep in mind that there are monies available via our Mini-Grant program for spring 2002. The deadline for the next submission to Rose Webster, Mini-Grant Chair, is December 1, 2001 with the grant money awarded by February 1, 2002. Applications can be

obtained from either your branch president, director-at-large or your co-director for program.

The PDC's motto, one we hope will be put into practice, is "One Branch... One Program."

The concept is to convince every branch to choose one program/ project to undertake during 2001-2002. To assist with the fruition of this idea, we are in the process of developing, providing and encouraging a mentoring/co-mentoring system to facilitate branches to make use of the array of available programs. Branches interested in conducting a specific program could contact branches that have held effective programs. Branches with successful programs completed might publicize that fact and offer their services to branches needing advice and/or encouragement. The PDC and a number of branch members have noted that coalition building by branches with local agencies has been an important factor in achieving outstanding results with our AAUW programs for our members and their communities. In particular, branches have used multi-faceted connections with business, government, social action and university groups to great advantage.

In line with the PDC's plans for expanding the use of AAUW programs, FL AAUW's annual convention in 2002 will be especially pertinent for branches desirous of undertaking programs. It will take place at the Embassy Suites Hotel, located on the campus of the University of South Florida in Tampa April 5-7. The convention, "Shape the Future with AAUW - Today and Tomorrow", will include a number of meaningful, down-to-earth workshops in the area of program. We will be investigating the possibility of using the computer facilities of the University of South Florida for technology workshops and obtaining one or more speakers from their faculty.

Speaking of speakers, it is our pleasure to inform you that the dynamic, charismatic Jacqueline "Jackie" Woods, AAUW's Executive Director, will be featured at Convention 2002. She served as the Director of the Community Colleges Liaison Office of the U.S. Department of Education prior to accepting her position with AAUW. Jackie's experience and expertise with forging partnerships into powerful networks will inspire us all to fulfill the purpose of AAUW. It is also our pleasure to announce the revival of the "Taste of Success" exhibits, a series of displays by individual branches of the materials and methods they used to formulate their successful programs. here will also be a "First Timers" meeting scheduled for those members that are new to convention with information on procedures, schedules, programs and more.

If it is your first, fifth or twentieth attendance at our annual convention, we anticipate getting to know you in April. It's not too soon to mark the dates on your calendar and make it a must. We'll be there... looking forward to seeing you there!



Alice T. O'Keefe, Co-Director for Program

Notes to Florida

Ronnie Williams, South Atlantic Regional Director

Association Convention 2001 was absolutely terrific! The dominant theme was Change and Transition. AAUW members rose to the occasion, approving Bylaws amendments that completely restructured the AAUW Board of Directors, reducing it from 21 members to 12. There is no doubt that AAUW must embrace the changes going on all around us if we are to remain a viable organization, not just in how we do business but in our programming and the image we present to our communities.



Preceding the convention, the Association Board adopted a balanced budget for 2002 that allows for maintenance of current programs. No new major program initiatives can be funded without additional revenue from either increased membership or non-dues funding sources, so fiscal restraint continues at the national level.

Congratulations to the members who were elected or appointed to national leadership positions in Austin, TX! Beth Farokhi (GA) was elected Association Executive Vice President/Secretary, Barbara O'Connor (FL) at-large director on the Foundation Board of Directors, and Leslie Henderson, FL AAUW President, is in her second year on the Program Development Committee. My thanks to all of you for re-electing me as your South Atlantic Regional Director.

I know there are many more of you who would be excellent in Association positions, so please consider yourself a candidate for appointed and elected positions as they roll around. Check the AAUW website (www.aauw.org) for information and apply. The appointments process involves a form that highlights your experience and expertise, not just in AAUW, so you needn't have been a long-time member to have just what AAUW needs.

The South Atlantic Region received many awards at Convention 2001, both for the Legal Advocacy Fund and the Educational Foundation. Congratulations, Florida, for a job well done! Look for the list of awardees in the next issue of Outlook.

I wish every one of you could come to an Association convention; it is incredibly energizing and affirming and fun as well. The Association Convention 2003 will be held in Providence, RI. Mark it on your calendar NOW. Just as important, the South Atlantic Regional Convention will be held next June in Tampa. Definitely mark those calendars for June 7-8-9, 2002, at the Embassy Suites Hotel on the USF campus (the same site as your FL AAUW 2002 Convention!)

In the meantime, thanks as always for all the work you do for AAUW. This organization is worth it!



Branches —

Earn Free Association and FL AAUW Memberships!

Currently, the Association is offering up to THREE FREE MEMBERSHIPS to all branches. A branch can earn one free membership when two new members join at the same event or meeting. Or, if three members at large (MAL's) join, the branch can earn a free membership. However branches recruit, the more members that join together, the greater the potential to earn all three free memberships.

Now an even better offer is coming your way! FL AAUW is going to match those free Association memberships! Yes, your branch can earn one, two or three FL AAUW memberships to be awarded any way the branch chooses. There is no extra work for the state incentive; it comes in conjunction with the association award! This means that up to three select members will only pay for branch dues next year! What a savings!

Check with your branch membership vice-president for details on how you can help your branch be a triple winner in membership this year. Maybe YOU will be one of the lucky recipients of your branch's efforts to recruit new members.

CIVICS 101 – A REVIEW

Joy Lurken, Director for Public Policy

Most of us have forgotten (if we ever knew) exactly how laws come into being in Congress. Let's take a quick refresher course through the process (which isn't as complicated as we remember.)



First the bill is introduced by a legislator who perceives a problem or situation that needs attention - or who has been prodded by constituents - like Florida AAUW! The bill is referred to the appropriate committee which holds hearings on it and usually refers it to an appropriate subcommittee. The subcommittee may change or amend it and if approved refer it back to the committee for consideration. The committee may also change or amend it and then bring it to the floor of the House of Representatives.

Again amendments may be offered. The bill then is presented for a full vote and if passed moves to the Senate and undergoes the same procedure. If the bill passes both the House and the Senate, it goes to the Conference Committee where representatives from both chambers make sure the bill is clear, that it does not violate existing law, that the House and Senate versions are comparable. Only after all differences are resolved does it return to the House and then Senate for a final vote.

If both chambers approve the bill, it goes to the President to sign. If she/he signs the bill, it becomes law. If the President vetoes the bill, both chambers of Congress can try to override the veto — which requires a two-thirds majority vote.

The founders of our government wanted to guarantee a democratic process of establishing laws - a checks and balances system that would produce the most good for the most people. It's still working.

Making AAUW's Voice Heard in Tallahassee and DC

Joy Lurken, Director for Public Policy

It is vital that elected officials know where their constituents stand on the issues. At each step of the legislative process (see "Civics 101"), input from constituents can influence legislators. That means we DO have a voice. Florida AAUW members speaking together as one voice from throughout the state can wield tremendous power.

It is for this reason we are asking each branch's public policy chair to establish a committee of at least three members who will be willing to contact their state and federal representatives. That contact may be by letter, phone call, email, or even personal visit — when your legislator is in her/his local office.

Florida AAUW will have a lobbyist in Tallahassee this year — Charli Summers whom we are sharing as lobbyist with Planned Parenthood. She will contact the director for public policy with important information on bills; that information can then be distributed quickly to a contact in each branch.

Time is a very important factor in effective communication with legislators. If our procedure to respond when bills are introduced is in place, we can make FL AAUW's voice extremely impressive.

Another way we can be influential is to visit our legislators in Tallahassee. And Lobby Days is the perfect time to do this. Mark

February 23-26, 2002, on your calendars for Lobby Days in Tallahassee. Let's turn out en masse to show our Florida legislators that Florida AAUW is a force for serious consideration. Registration forms for Lobby Days will appear in the *Branch Update* sent monthly to all branch presidents. Or for information you may contact Helen Zientek at 561-624-2018 or hzentek@adelphia.net.

A few tips on making your letters to your legislators more effective: be brief and to the point; deal with one subject or issue only; be personal and give your name and address — let them know you're their constituent; write often — especially if your legislator is undecided on an issue.

Let's let Tallahassee know that Florida AAUW speaks with a loud voice. And let's join our AAUW sisters throughout the United States in making sure Washington, DC is very conscious of the issues AAUW supports. Together we're a powerhouse capable of effecting positive change for all women and girls!



Public Policy Program 2001-2002 Florida AAUW

Action Priorities



To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity and diversity, AAUW advocates:

- At K-12 Levels, public funds for public schools only
- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX at all levels, especially sports equity for women and girls
- A focus on the educational needs of all women and girls for career preparation retraining
- Adequate and equitable funding for quality education for all students.



To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW advocates:

- Equity in compensation and benefits
- Welfare reform that provides a sufficient and comprehensive system of support
- Access to quality, affordable health and dependent care
- Vigorous enforcement of employment discrimination and sexual harassment statutes.



To guarantee equality and individual rights for a diverse society, AAUW advocates:

- Freedom from violence in our homes, our schools and our communities
- Vigorous defense and expansion of civil and constitutional rights
- Choice in the determination of one's reproductive life
- Support for United Nations programs that address human rights as well as women's and girls concerns.

Work to ensure sustainability of Florida's unique ecosystem.

American Association of University Women/Florida
 Director for Communications: Carol-Lynn Bevc
 1511 Black Bear Ct.
 Winter Springs, FL 32708

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All addresses are maintained at the Association
 Please send address changes or corrections to:
 AAUW Records Office
 1111 Sixteenth St., N.W.
 Washington, DC 20036

How-Dee! Welcome to Texas

With that greeting the 2001 AAUW Convention opened in Austin, Texas. Austin — home of Lance Armstrong of Tour de France fame, main campus of the University of Texas, state capital, site of the LBJ library, and most importantly the setting for a fabulous AAUW convention.

Texans claim that everything is bigger and better in Texas, and the convention certainly was outstanding. The opening session brought us Mae Jemison, the first African American woman to travel in space when she blasted into orbit on the space shuttle Endeavor. Dynamo doesn't begin to describe this engineer, physician, social scientist, professor at Dartmouth College, director of the Jemison Institute for Advancing Technology in Developing Countries, fantastically energetic woman.

Just as enthusiastic as Ms. Jemison was Sheila Jackson Lee, U.S. Representative from Texas, who spoke to us at our second business session. Wish we could have cloned her and sent that clone to Tallahassee! Boy, we'd get things accomplished!

And the absolute icing on this wonderful dessert of speakers was the woman featured at the Legal Advocacy Fund awards dinner — Sarah Weddington. As a young woman Ms Weddington took on the Supreme Court and successfully argued Roe v. Wade. Thanks to her, all women's lives were changed as we gained control over our own reproductive rights.

In addition to all of the wonderful speakers we had excellent workshops, dozens to choose from. The leadership sessions helped us explore new ways of helping all our members hone their leadership skills. The membership workshops not only addressed avenues for attracting new members but also suggested ways to renew the commitment of current members. Program and advocacy sessions offered strategies on enhancing coalition efforts. The young professionals workshops addressed issues relevant to younger women — and, yes, there were younger women at the convention!

We conducted business, amended bylaws, reduced the Association Board of Directors from 21 to 12 members (learning to work leaner and smarter - like Florida!) We passed a resolution promoting the establishment of meaningful gun violence prevention by encouraging branches to initiate discussions in their communities - something we in



From left around the table: Leslie Henderson — FL AAUW President, Beth Farouki — former Director for SAR, Carol Newnam — FL Director for Finance, Alice O'Keefe - FL Co-Director for Program, Barbara O'Connor — AAUW EF Board Member, Barbara Schwartz — Miami Branch

Florida can endorse wholeheartedly after the killing of a teacher by a 13-year-old student last year.

After exciting campaigns by candidates for office, we elected Nancy Rustad as President of the Association, Mary Ellen Smyth as President of the Foundation, and Sylvia Newman as President of the Legal Advocacy Fund. And a rousing cheer to Florida's own Barbara O'Connor who was elected to the Educational Foundation Board. Congratulations, Barbara! We're proud of you.

Florida received special recognition at the Educational Foundation awards dinner. Florida was honored for having the 2nd highest total contributions to the Foundation in the United States. And Northern Palm Beach County Branch was honored for having the highest per-capita as well as total contributions, thanks to the generous donation of Mrs. Strauss-Kramer which helped pay for Tech Savvy. (Let's give credit again to that publicity which generated the \$100,000 donation!)

At the Legal Advocacy Fund awards dinner Florida was recognized as the 7th state in the U.S. in total contributions.

Our Florida delegation was a close-knit group. We campaigned for Barbara O'Connor, collaborated on important issues, went out to dinner together, and had a great time in Texas. Best of all, we were joined by Linda Tisedale, former FL AAUW president, who now resides in San Antonio. And we're looking forward to the next AAUW Convention in Providence, Rhode Island, June 20-23, 2003.