



Murfreesboro-AAUW Summer/Fall 2009 Newsletter

www.mtsu.edu/~aauw

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

President's Message. Greetings, everyone. I thought it best to use my space this time around to report on the 2009 National AAUW Convention in St. Louis, which I attended as a delegate in June. As a first – time convention attendee (at my age I am surprised that I am doing anything for the first time), I was very much impressed with the AAUW leadership, overall convention organization (although there was no time to relax), and speakers Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and especially Lilly Ledbetter for whom the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (the first legislation that President Obama signed) is named. On the down side, I was taken aback by the cost of registration and hotel (about \$1,000) and the parliamentary finagling around the vote on the bylaws, which brings me to the real point of this message—major changes in the organization.

First, let me point out that the most hotly contested proposed bylaw change, open membership, was not approved. Delegates voted instead to keep membership to individuals with college degrees, including associate's degrees. You may recall that in an earlier newsletter message, I was leaning toward voting against open membership; however, after much consideration, I voted for open membership. I know that many of you don't agree with my vote and believe that AAUW might lose its "character" if open membership is allowed, but now I believe that we can open membership to non-degree holding individuals without harm to the organization and, in fact, we may be losing potential strong members who share our mission but don't have degrees (like Lilly Ledbetter herself!). I am sure that the question of open membership will be raised again in coming years.

In terms of change, new policies that affect us most directly are (1) "one member, one vote"—soon you will have the opportunity to vote on AAUW issues yourself either on-line or by mail, and (2) flexibility in choosing an organizational structure for states and branches—we can keep things as they are or change our structure. These options make for an exciting time to be members of AAUW-Murfreesboro. Over the next year, we will need to decide if we want to keep our branch administration intact or make changes in the number and types of our branch officers. AAUW of Tennessee will also ask for our input regarding the state organization, including the required number of state conventions. We will have some important decisions to make over the next few months. I hope to see you at our meetings. --*Ayne Cantrell, President Murfreesboro-AAUW*

Fundraiser Set for September 17. Fundraising this year for the AAUW Educational Foundation (EF) and the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) takes on a new format. Instead of auctioning women's arts and crafts at our kick-off September meeting, our branch will host a silent auction featuring books by and about women that are donated by branch members. The books for the auction should be new or like new. Donors should attach a brief statement to the book about why they like and/or recommend the book they bring, and we will take time to share some of these statements orally for those who want to speak about their book(s). *YES! You may bring more than one book.* The books will be placed on the bidding tables with a bid sheet for each book. Bids, in whole dollar increments, will conclude at the evening's end, and the highest bidders win the books of their choice. This should be a fun event as we decide on what books to donate and why we recommend them. It gives us a great opportunity to share insight into the lives **of** women **with** women. The diversity of the group of women within our branch should prove to make this a most-interesting event. PLEASE HELP US MAKE THIS ONE OF OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISERS EVER AND DONATE BOOKS BY OR ABOUT WOMEN! –*Melanie Price, EF Branch Chair*



Branch Fall Meetings and Programs Announced. Murfreesboro-AAUW meets each month, September through May (excluding January), and always at 5-7 PM. Fall meetings are as follows:

- **SEPTEMBER 17** (Forest Oaks I Clubhouse, 1002 East Northfield Blvd.)—*Please note this is the third Thursday of the month.* Potluck Dinner and “**Shape the Future: Books by or About Women Silent Auction**” to benefit the AAUW Educational Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund. / New members may join at the meeting for \$39.00, about one-half price of the usual dues. / Domestic Violence Program Donation: Big & tall trash bags.
- **OCTOBER 8** (Farm Bureau)—“Financial Planning for Women.” Guest Speakers: Jennifer A. Sexton and Elaine K. Lytle of Sexton and Associates / Domestic Violence Program Donation: Toilet paper and paper towels.
- **NOVEMBER 12** (Farm Bureau)—“Planning for Retirement in Two Years or Twenty.” Guest Speakers: Jennifer A. Sexton and Elaine K. Lytle of Sexton and Associates / Domestic Violence Program Donation: Bath towels.
- **DECEMBER 3** (Forest Oaks I Clubhouse)—Potluck Holiday Dinner and Buffalo Auction / Domestic Violence Program Donation: Cash.

AAUW Programs 2009-2010. The programs for this calendar year for the Murfreesboro Chapter of AAUW are a combination of the practical and the intellectually stimulating. We shall begin the year in September with a new event, Book Night. Each member who wishes to participate should bring a book, new or in readable condition, that has had an important influence on her life. At the meeting each person who brought the book will have the opportunity to explain how and/or why it has had an important impact on her. At the end of the meeting there will be a silent auction on all of the donated books. The proceeds will go to the AAUW Education Foundation & Legal Advocacy Fund. The next two meetings will be of a practical nature Jennifer A. Sexton and Elaine K. Lytle of Sexton and Associates (a financial advisory firm and financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. with offices in Murfreesboro and Nashville) will present two programs. The first in October will be a general discussion of financial planning for women and the second in November will be on financial preparation for retirement. We will finish the old year in December with our usual ham and pot luck holiday dinner followed by our popular Buffalo Auction. We will begin 2010 in February with a program that discusses serious problems facing disadvantaged women today in China and in the United States presented by branch member Yuan-ling Chao (Associate Professor of History, MTSU) and Gloria Hamilton (Professor of Psychology, MTSU). Our National Women's History Month meeting in March at MTSU will feature a presentation by Jan Leone (branch member and professor of History, MTSU) on Women in America during World War II. We hope to be funded by NWHM for a reception following her program. In April branch member and Assistant Professor of Geosciences at MTSU, Melissa Lobegeier will explain her EPA grant proposal for a water quality study of the Clinch and Powell Rivers in southwestern Virginia. Finally, the year will end in May with our spring Pot Luck and Buffalo Auction.—*Nancy Rupprecht, Program VP*

From Your Treasurer. We are still accepting 2009-2010 dues (National \$49, State \$8, and Branch \$13). As most of you already know, our branch is participating in the AAUW Membership Pilot Program, which gives us the option of renewing online via credit card while preserving the option of paying dues directly to our branch via check. Paying online is a relatively simple procedure. You can access the "Member Services Database" under the "Member Center" tab at aauw.org. In order to log in, you'll need your member number. Please feel free to call me if you need help with this process (494-8751). If you prefer to renew by check, you can send it to me at this address: **Samantha E. Cantrell, Treasurer, AAUW Murfreesboro, Box 124, MTSU, 1301 E. Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132.** Another helpful feature of the pilot program is the way dues are processed. The national office now takes responsibility for distributing the dues to the proper accounts—its own account, the Tennessee AAUW account, and our branch's account. I have been very pleased with the way the program has streamlined my job. —*Samantha Cantrell, Branch Treasurer*



Ruth Houston Memorial Scholar Named. MTSU sophomore Kamryn Danielle Warren has been selected to receive the AAUW-Murfreesboro Ruth Houston Memorial Scholarship for 2009-2010. She will receive \$1,000 per semester to attend MTSU. The branch has also awarded her an AAUW student affiliate membership. Applauded for her "great work ethic" and "leadership skills," Ms. Warren is majoring in Social Work with a minor in Women's Studies. She has a 4.0 GPA. Her long term educational goal is to earn a Ph.D. in Social Policy and then go on to establish programs to benefit children and women. Aspiring to be "an effective advocate for social change," Ms. Warren says, "One goal that ties into my Women's Studies education is exposing young girls to the importance of getting an education and instilling a desire in young women to gain a higher education. I think it is important to educate young women so that they may be effective leaders for the future." In her application, she wrote that if awarded the AAUW scholarship, it would be an honor to be recognized by an organization that "has been supporting the education of women for over a hundred years." Ms. Warren plans to attend the September 17 branch meeting where she can meet and thank AAUW members for the scholarship.

New Branch Officers—At the April 2009 meeting of the Murfreesboro-AAUW, Melissa Lobegeier was elected Branch Vice President for Membership and Maria Clayton was elected Branch Recording Secretary. They will serve two years in these positions. Melissa is an assistant professor of Geosciences at MTSU, and Maria is associate professor of English at MTSU. Maria has served as a branch officer in the past, as Program VP and Treasurer. "I find AAUW's work on behalf of women an extremely important cause," Maria says, "and feel that serving as an office for my local branch allows me to contribute to the effort, even if in a small way." Pictured here Melissa and Maria are at work at the Equal Pay Day Booth, MTSU, on April 28. They are dressed in red because women are "in the red" when it comes to pay equality.





Gilbert Speaks on Equal Pay Day, 2009. On April 28 Dr. Jacqueline Gilbert, Full Professor in the Department of Management and Marketing, gave a presentation as part of Equal Pay Day activities, which AAUW-Murfreesboro co-sponsored with the June Anderson Women's Center, MTSU Women's Studies, the MTSU President's Commission on the Status of Women, and the Murfreesboro Business and Professional Women. Dr. Gilbert has served as a consultant on diversity for a variety of companies and has been an invited speaker on this topic and also on the issues that women face in the workplace. Her research interests include diversity management, cross-cultural comparisons, multicultural education, business spirituality, white collar crime, travel stress, and emotional labor. She has also studied selective incivility as a form of covert harassment in the workplace. This form of harassment is particularly insidious because it is so hard to document. In her presentation, "Equal Pay, the Individual, and the Institution," she documented the pervasiveness of discrimination against women in hiring practices and stressed the need to change the underlying structures that perpetuate the discrimination.

Why I Joined AAUW



(Melissa K. Lobegeier captured as she wins her fifth Buffalo Auction prize in one evening!)

I first joined AAUW in 2007 after being invited to an AAUW dinner by a friend. I was relatively new to the area at the time and hoped that at AAUW I would be able to meet new people who might become friends. I have found those friends in the AAUW community as I have met many amazing women through the association. Plus AAUW has become so much more in my life than a place to meet new friends. I've learned about public policy issues, such as pay equity, that affect women. Before I joined AAUW, I was aware of the pay equity issue but not of the scale of this issue. I did not know that women earned only 78 cents for every dollar earned by men. Many women and men are unaware that pay equity continues to be an issue for women in this country. As a committed feminist, I no longer feel like I simply know about these issues and am powerless to do anything but that I can contribute to educating people about the issues and perhaps solving these problems.

Also I've learned a lot about the community I live in through AAUW meetings. I've learned about the large Kurdish community here in the Middle Tennessee region and some of the problems that Kurdish women face in their lives here, about the suffragette movement at MTSU, and about reading literacy programs in the region. However, meetings are not just about education although that is important as AAUW's mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. In addition to the educational programs offered at meetings, we get to meet and socialize with great people and enjoy a fantastic meal provided by volunteer hostesses, and we have fun fundraising events both in meetings and outside. We raise money for the Ruth Houston Memorial Fund that supports students attending MTSU and to benefit the AAUW Educational Foundation and the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. The event I enjoy most is our semi-annual buffalo auction. Members contribute something they have made or bought, and then we raffle off the items. It is a fun way to raise money combined with an element of suspense, and as a formerly unlucky person, I was overjoyed to win five prizes in one night.

I have enjoyed being a member of the AAUW and plan to remain a member and attend monthly meetings as long as is possible. However, if I were not able to attend meetings, I would continue to be an AAUW member as I support the mission of the association. It is my hope that our branch will continue to expand, and we will welcome many new members to join our community over the next few years.—*Melissa Lobegeier, AAUW of Murfreesboro Membership V P*

Don't Miss These Fall Events!

Tennessee Women's Economic Summit—October 19. The 6th Annual Economic Summit for Women will be held on Monday, October 19, 2009, at the Franklin Marriott Hotel in Franklin, Tennessee. Gloria Steinem will be the luncheon speaker. AAUW of Tennessee will host a "Shape the Future" event with the theme "Taking Action on Women's Issues." AAUW of TN members will be on hand to educate participants about the work AAUW does on women's issues and to encourage them to take action on congressional proposals affecting women by signing up for the AAUW ACTION NETWORK.. As an AAUW "Shape the Future" event, first-time members may join AAUW at half-priced dues. For more information about the summit, contact Ayne Cantrell acantrell@comcast.net or go online at <http://www.womenseconomicfoundation.org/>.

The 9th Biennial MTSU International Holocaust Studies Conference—October 22-14. Conference Director Nancy Rupprecht reports, "The theme of the 9th MTSU Holocaust Studies Conference is 'The Holocaust and World War II,' a topic we believe will be attractive to many members of the middle Tennessee community. Three and possibly four of our AAUW members will participate in it. We have fabulous featured speakers lined up for this conference. Gerhard Weinberg, who just won the prestigious \$100,000 Pulitzer Prize, will speak at the conference on 'Roosevelt, Truman and the Holocaust.' He also will deliver another public lecture at 3:00 on October 21st at the St. Clair Center on 'Pope Pius XII in World War II.' Raffael Scheck will speak on 'Racial Hatred: Black African Victims of Nazism' and 2009 MTSU distinguished alumni award winner Linda Hooper will screen the feature film about her famous 'Paper Clip' project and answer questions from the audience. Another important featured presentation is the moving 'Survivors and Liberators' session that brings together Holocaust Survivors and American Liberators, primarily from Tennessee, to share their memories with the audience. All of our featured sessions are free and open to the public. For more information about the conference, including the tentative schedule and the featured sessions, can be found on our website at http://www.mtsu.edu/holocaust_studies / Click on the Conference Information tab on the left side of the screen. You also may email me at holostu@mtsu.edu with questions or for further information. I hope to see ALL of you there. I believe that this will be our best conference ever."

EYH Conference—October 31. Please mark October 31, 2009, on your calendars for the 13th Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics Conference, a day-long event for middle and high school girls at MTSU. Murfreesboro-AAUW has co-sponsored this conference since its beginning in 1997 at MTSU. Founder of the MTSU Conference, Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross reports, "We have heard from graduates of the MTSU EYH who are now studying mathematics, chemical engineering, physics, medicine and nursing and science teaching! EYH does make a difference for girls in Tennessee." (*GRITS Newsletter*, August 2009). We are expecting over 300 girls and will again need branch members to work registration.

Branch Officers, 2009-2010—Thanks to these 2009-10 officers who have agreed to provide leadership to the branch:

Ayne Cantrell, President & Web site Contact // 893-1786 (acantrell@comcast.net)
Nancy Rupprecht, Vice President for Programs // (rupprec@mtsu.edu)
Melissa Lobegeier, Vice President for Membership // 898-2403 (mlobeg@mtsu.edu)
Samantha Cantrell, Treasurer // 494-8751 (scantrell@mtsu.edu)
Maria Clayton, Recording Secretary // 849-8369 (mclayton@mtsu.edu)
Kris Pruitt, Corresponding Secretary // 985-2519 (cwdurham@msn.com)
Jan Leone, College and University Relations // 898-1718 (jmleone@mtsu.edu)
Mary Hoffschwelle, Legal Advocacy Fund // 896-5074 (hoffsch@mtsu.edu)
Melanie Price, Educational Foundation // 418-5878 (meliscrrfree@gmail.com)
Yuan-ling Chao, Diversity // 893-2711 (ycho@mtsu.edu)
Karen Claud, Public Policy // karenclaud@hotmail.com
Myra Norman, EYH/GRITS Representative // 896-7303 (mnorman@mtsu.edu)
Mattie Butler, Telephone Caller (893-2419)

2008-2009 Branch Reaches Fifty-Six Members: Snapshot Memories



Expectant mother Tanya Peres chats with Jan Leone at a branch meeting.



Branch members Jerry Dement, Margaret Scott, Mattie Butler, Leola Fouts, and Yuan-ling Chao watch a documentary on Title IX at a branch meeting on February 12, 2009.



Ayne Cantrell and Terri Johnson wear red on Equal Pay Day because women are "in the red" when it comes to pay equity.



Branch treasurer Samantha Cantrell welcomes new member Deborah Johnson at the May 2009 meeting.



*Goodies, goodies, goodies!
All for the May 2009 Buffalo Auction.*



Yuan-ling Chao helps Melanie Price prepare for the Buffalo Auction at the May meeting.



Outstanding Volunteer. Retiring Branch Recording Secretary, Ann Funkhouser was singled out at the annual meeting in May by Branch President Ayne Cantrell as being the "Branch Volunteer of the Year for 2008-2009." Ayne said, "This year our members had the opportunity to serve the branch on many special occasions, including hosting a branch dinner, working at the EYH Conference, serving on the Book Sale Committee, attending the special joint meeting with the League of Women Voters, serving on the Scholarship Selection Committee, working at Equal Pay Day, representing the branch at MTSU's Political Unity Party—and no one in the branch has participated in more of these activities than Ann Funkhouser. Particularly noteworthy is Ann's contribution to our Ruth Houston Memorial Scholarship Book Sale. She got permission for books to be collected for the first time at the MTSU Walker Library and then made a tremendous contribution toward organizing and pricing the books. Ann is an outstanding branch volunteer." Pictured here is Ann holding the organizer bag she received in recognition of the honor of being "Volunteer of the Year."



In principle and in 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.