



The BayStater

Fall 2004
Volume 29, Number 1

AAUW-MA WELCOMES REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Reception October 15, Conference October 16, 2004

We are pleased and honored to host the biennial New England Regional Conference on October 16, at Wellesley College. Representatives from Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Rhode Island will participate with us in a thought-provoking program planned by Regional Director Marcelline Barron.

If you haven't been able to attend national convention, this is the next best thing, because of the exciting interaction with other leaders and branch members and the opportunity to share ideas.

AAUW-MA is hosting a welcome reception on the evening of October 15. During the conference day we will also conduct a state board meeting with all MA members invited.

See pages 3 and 7 for further details and be sure to register early!

Thoughts from Patricia

Patricia Ho, AAUW-MA President



Patricia Ho

OUR ENDURING MISSION

Has AAUW outlived its purpose? Is its mission still relevant? Perhaps you've heard these questions, or have even asked them yourself. As I joined other leaders at AAUW's National Leadership Conference in Washington D.C., there was no doubt in our minds that indeed we are continuing to fulfill our mission.

The struggle for equity for women and girls is constantly waged on many fronts -- in health care, employment, education, legal rights. Many of AAUW's battles have been in the national and state legislative and judicial arenas, because equity is enacted by law and enforced by the courts. Witness Title IX, civil rights, affirmative action, and equal pay laws.

Within our communities, our branches are also taking action to advance AAUW's public policy positions. Our August Branch Training Day was most productive and energizing as branches worked with partners to plan community action projects. Together they considered issues presented by speaker Lianne Cook, then enthusiastically proposed many possible ways in which they could make a difference in their communities. Ideas will come to fruition early next year, as branch partners implement their action plans. Stay tuned for further excitement ...

Our thanks also to Hollie Bagley for keeping us on track with AAUW through Purpose, Power, Progress and Passion! and to Arline Broberg for her fine summary on effective lobbying.

At Branch Training Day, we also discussed the many changes with Association, Educational Foundation, and Legal Advocacy Fund. Despite the apparent upheavals in organizational structure and the changes in national strategy, our mission remains focused and sure. Our branches are the grassroots of the organization, and AAUW-MA will support and assist you, as together we continue our work -- through advocacy and action, through EF and LAF.

MESSAGE FROM NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Purpose, Empowerment, Progress

Greetings from your Regional Director! As some of you may know, we will be having a New England Regional Conference on October 16th. Over the years AAUW has had a research connection to Wellesley College in Massachusetts. In particular the Foundation has worked with the Center for Research on Women. In the spring I made a contact with the Center to determine how we in New England could strengthen that connection by holding our Regional Conference on their campus.

Many e-mails and telephone conversations later, I was able to speak with Dr. Sumru Erkut who is the Associate Director and Senior Scientist of the Center for Research on Women. She is a member of the Research Advisory Council of our Foundation as well. Dr. Erkut has agreed to be our keynote speaker on October 16th and will speak about her research on the relationship between adolescent girls' participation in a school sport in high school and their lower likelihood of engaging in risky sexual behaviors in young adulthood.

In addition I was able to secure the use of the Wellesley College Club building on campus for the 16th. We will not only be able to have our speaker and some workshops but breakfast and lunch in the same location. Speaking of workshops! At the present moment it looks like we will have three workshops focusing on: Leadership, Educational Foundation, and Membership. Also you can see by the agenda for the day that we have set time aside for a town hall and various state board meetings as needed.

For those who have to travel a significant distance to be at the Conference, members of the committee have located a lovely hotel for us to stay at, Courtyard Marriott Natick. Natick is the next town over from Wellesley and convenient for arriving on the major turnpike and highways. See directions with the registration form.

Please consider bringing a new potential branch leader to this Conference. We have scheduled only one day for the event so that states nearby can minimize their costs and bring more members. We believe that the day will be stimulating, informative, and collegial. A registration form is found on page 3 with the agenda. I hope to receive one soon from you.

Cheers!

Marcelline A. Barron
AAUW New England Regional Director
mbarron@fairfield.k12.ct.us
203-255-8395 (work)
203-255-8273 (fax)
203-259-5919 (home)

Window to the World

Be Seen on the Web: How to Submit Web Site Content, Branch News and Other Articles

Cindy Levin, AAUW-MA Webmaster

Since its inception, the AAUW-MA web site has been an informative resource and a critical means of communication amongst all our members. As such, it is important to provide current and relevant information. If you have an item that you wish to appear on the Web site or if you wish to update existing web site content please send the information in electronic format to: calquest@comcast.net. Please put 'AAUW MA' in the 'subject' line. You may send the content as an e-mail attachment in any one of the following formats: MS WORD, RTF, text, PDF, MS PowerPoint, MS EXCEL. Photos can be either GIF or JPG.

Before sending branch newsletters to be posted you may want to delete home addresses and other private information such as branch budgets. This should be a branch decision.

In the coming months, our website will undergo a "modernization effort", with the goals of improving the usability of the site, and giving it a more modern, fresh feel. You will hear more about this effort so please stay tuned!

Need A Diversity Resource?

During the state leadership in diversity under Florence Baturin and Nancy Moore some resources were generated that are still available for your branch use. You may inquire about help with a diversity program, find some ideas to use in working diversity into a larger program, or borrow videos and material on hand. Just call Nancy Moore at 781-275-1018.

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AAUW NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL CONFERENCE

October 16, 2004

Wellesley College Club, Wellesley, Massachusetts

Theme: Purpose, Empowerment, Progress

- 8:00 - 8:45 **Registration/Continental Breakfast**
- 8:45 - 9:00 **Conference Welcome**—Marcelline Barron, New England Regional Director
- 9:00 - 10:00 **Power Breakfast: “High School Sports and Young Adult Women’s Sexual Behavior”** Keynote Speaker: Dr.Sumru Erkut, Associate Director and Senior Scientist, Center for Research on Women, Wellesley College
- 10:00-10:15 **Break**
- 10:15 - 11:30 Workshops
Leading with Confidence—Making Tough Decisions
 Pam Collins, At Large Association Board Member
Education Foundation—Then and Now
- 11:30 - 1:00 **Lunch with an Educational Foundation Fellow**
- 1:00 - 2:15 **Membership Dialogue**—Jeannette Phillips, Association Membership Committee Chair and Hollie Bagley, Association Membership Committee Member
- 2:15 - 3:00 **Town Meeting**—Pam Collins, Marcelline Barron, Jeannette Phillips and Jackie D’Alessio, AAUW Middle Atlantic Regional Director
- 3:00 **Adjournment of Conference**
- 3:00 - 4:30 **AAUW-MA State Board Meeting**

Conference Registration Information (Please Print)

Name: _____ Address _____

Telephone: Day _____ Evening _____ Email _____

State or Branch Position _____

_____ Friday Night Reception (Hosted by AAUW-MA) _____ Saturday Conference

Registration Fees: Includes Saturday breakfast and lunch

Postmarked by September 24, 2004	\$65.00
Postmarked after September 24, 2004	\$80.00

Send check payable to AAUW New England Region with registration form to:
Marcelline A. Barron, PO Box 320307, Fairfield, CT 06825-0307

Directions to Wellesley College Club and Hotel information are on page 7.

Legal Advocacy Fund: The Mission Continues

Liz Fragola, Vice President, LAF

While it is still unclear what the final structural changes for the Legal Advocacy Fund will be, we know for certain that the mission continues. There will be streamlining of board positions and consolidation of efforts with EF, but LAF will continue. Many aspects of the work of EF and LAF naturally overlap. Through our donations to the Educational Foundation we enable women to continue their education to achieve advanced degrees so that they will in turn contribute to the betterment of others. Many of our EF grant recipients go on to careers in academia where they may encounter pay inequity, sexual harassment or tenure denial. LAF can be there for them should the need arise. If we think of EF and LAF on a continuum of support to women, we can appreciate how closely they are linked and how they naturally enhance each other. The melding of portions of these two entities may in fact increase the effectiveness and recognition of both groups.

Success for Dr. Janet Conney in her lawsuit against UCLA. After only two days of deliberation, Dr. Janet Conney was awarded \$2.95 million in damages by a jury in California. They found that that UCLA violated California state laws by discriminating against Conney on the basis of gender and also found that the university retaliated against her after she protested the treatment she received. This is the twelfth lawsuit against a University of California institution that LAF has supported. A state audit revealed that there are "significant gender disparities" among professors in the UC system in hiring, promotion, and compensation practices. AAUW and LAF support played a vital role in Janet Conney's case. It led to the exposure of inequity throughout the UC structure. When we see what can happen with LAF involvement, we know that the mission continues and that we need to be part of it. (See LAF website for full article on this case.)

What about LAF in Massachusetts? We are part of the mission when we make a financial contribution to LAF. In 2003-2004, our state did an outstanding job of giving to LAF. *We can do it again!* If every person who gave last year gives again, if each person who didn't give, donates even five dollars, and if those who can increase their donation by five dollars, we will surpass our total for last year.

What else can we do? We will present our second Progress in Equity Award this year at our State Convention in April. Through this award we recognize the *positive* efforts of academia to promote gender equity. Please help to identify worthwhile programs deserving of our attention. Applications will go out in October, so pass on your suggestions to me. Good

work needs to be applauded. *Be there when we present the award!* Rally your branch members and show your support for AAUW, LAF, and the directors of programs who are serving the needs of women on our college campuses. **The mission continues ... because equity is still an issue.**

Nominees Sought for Progress in Equity Award

Do you know of a college program that actively supports female students in science and mathematics, recruits and supports minority women, or has promoted equity for faculty and staff? We need to identify these programs so they will receive an application for the 2005 Progress in Equity Award. Please contact LAF vice-president, Liz Fragola, with your nominations or suggestions. *Your help is needed!* (ekf226@comcast.net or 978-887-9799)

Support equity
in higher education.

because
equity
is
still
an
issue™

American Association of University Women
AAUW Educational Foundation
AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund

visit aauw.org

Nominating Committee Appointments

Two members of the Nominating Committee were not listed with the Board in the previous issue.

Pat Bologna, 8 Patriots Way, Hingham, MA 02043
H-781-749-1726, bologna.family@comcast.net
and

Pat Gorton, 19 Brook Street, Georgetown, MA01833
H-978-352-8931, Bgort@aol.com

They are replacing Susan Tatelman and Enid Wilson whose terms have ended.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS***Bonnie Howard, International Relations Chair***

The voter registration campaigns for our US national elections are running parallel to an arduous campaign to register women to vote for the first time in this fall's parliamentary and presidential elections in Afghanistan. In a country where security continues to be a major issue, registering men to vote has been a slow and difficult process that pales in comparison to the effort required to register the sequestered women in the traditional villages. Female members of the registration team must visit each household individually to register women and that is possible only if their husbands agree. The to-them shocking idea of voter photo identification cards had to be abandoned in favor of thumbprint identification for illiterate village women. Once registered, it is not clear how these newly registered women will actually be able to vote if they are not allowed to leave their homes to go to a polling place.

For those of us who still celebrate with friends or in our own minds the anniversary of the right for vote for US women on the 26th of August 1920, the disclosures that young, single women were the largest group of eligible voters who did not participate in the last US presidential election were alarming. I hope we have been alerted us to the challenges we face in advocating for equity for women and girls in this country as well as in countries like Afghanistan if all generations of women are not involved in the democratic process of voting.

The women of Afghanistan deserve our continuing interest and advocacy in their progress toward a life which protects their basic rights and we in the US need to treasure, protect and use the rights we have.

Critical issues—educational equity, health care, civil rights, workplace equity, reproductive choice, and welfare reform—are at stake each time Americans go to the ballot box. AAUW's **Voter Education Campaign** encourages women voters to get involved in the political process and shows the impact congressional action has on their lives and the lives of the people they love.

Visit http://www.aauw.org/issue_advocacy/voter_ed/index.cfm to learn more about the **AAUW Voter Education Campaign** and what you can do to help.

For more information, contact the **AAUW Public Policy Department** at 202/785-7793, 800/608-5286, or votered@aauw.org.

COALITION FOR CHOICE***Lois Pulliam, AAUW representative***

By the time you read this, both political conventions will have taken place, and the platforms of both parties will be open to scrutiny. As of now, however, it is no secret that reproductive choice has few friends in high places in the current Republican administration, and that it still has support among the Democrats on the slate for president.

It may be that no one will or should decide how to vote based on the single issue of reproductive choice. Bear in mind, however, that women (over half of the population) are having their private and personal decisions about childbearing decided on by men. Also you must recall that President Bush's very first official act after stepping into office was to rescind any aid given to countries around the world that might be using contraception to deal with their population problems.

When the Roe v. Wade decision was handed down by the Supreme Court over 20 years ago, the whole idea was that a decision about having an abortion was a personal one arrived at by a woman in consultation with her physician. Since that time, anti-choice legislators and religious conservatives have devoted years to chipping away at that simple and logical decision.

The so-called Partial Birth Abortion ban, an example of that "chipping away", was signed into law last year, but has already been struck down in California and has been challenged in New York and Nebraska. If you are watching the news and the sound bites, you know that misinformation abounds on this so-called procedure (not a medical term, by the way.)

So the message is: listen to the candidates, and read between the lines. When a politician is more interested in the impact of his phraseology than the real lives of pregnant women, we should be concerned.



Living the Mission

AAUW-MA Branches in Action

The **North Shore Branch** of AAUW was honored to again support the annual SMART Girls' Summit last spring. That's 'Science, Math, and Relevant Technology'. For several years, this has been a collaborative community project with Girls, Inc. of Lynn, designed to make a difference in the career choices of middle school girls, helping them to understand that math and science are viable career choices for them.

Several members from the NS Branch met with Girls, Inc. staff to plan the event, and they were joined by more AAUW volunteers on the day of the event to help it run smoothly.

To increase participation by the girls, the outreach was expanded this year beyond members and friends of Girls, Inc., to include teacher-chosen groups brought to the event by school buses during the school day. The experience for the girls included two sessions of experiential classes and workshops offered by volunteers, all women with mathematical, scientific, or technological careers. The hands-on activities included examining genetic differentiation in fruit flies through a microscope, building structures with tinker toys, and designing a dream bedroom.

Following the workshops, there was lunch, a short video about Eureka, a Girls, Inc. summer program, and an inspirational talk about meteorology by a local TV weather forecaster. This program was of great value, and dozens of young girls benefited from AAUW's annual collaborative effort.

Submitted by Lyssa Andersson

The **Hingham Area Branch** adopted The Yellow Brick Road Project after hearing its director and founder Jodi Beldotti as a guest speaker. The Yellow Brick Road Project is a nonprofit organization aimed at helping women who have experienced domestic violence to become financially and emotionally independent. In addition to providing counseling, YBRP provides a job training program that includes computer training, resume writing, interviewing skills, and internships. Our AAUW members have been donating gently used professional clothing and office supplies to assist this organization in its mission.

Submitted by Elaine Cadogan

Editor's note: We would like to have **Living the Mission** become a regular feature of the *BayStater* so send a brief description of your branch's or members' action project to the *BayStater*. We know you do good things. Let's share that information!—Hollie

Membership Matters

Rosemarie Buote, Membership VP

Membership dialogue....

All Branch Membership VP's are to lead discussions on membership requirements and categories. We need to gain opinions, insights and thinking of our membership. This is the result of a resolution passed at the 2003 AAUW National Convention for branches to discuss future membership requirements. I will be mailing information to all of the Branch MVP's, including the questionnaire to be submitted by November 15, 2004. A copy of the survey will also be available on the AAUW-MA website (www.aauw-ma.org) for individual members as well as branches.

Shape the Future Membership Campaign

This program is used to help branches recruit new members by offering reduced membership rates for new or lapsed members to join on the spot during an AAUW Branch sponsored event. Forms can be found on the aauw.org Member Center under "forms." If you need assistance, please contact me: **rosemarie-buote@aol.com** or 508-669-5069.



Reminders

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| October 11 | Branch insurance options due to Patricia Ho |
| October 15 | Reception for New England Regional Conference attendees hosted by AAUW-MA |
| October 16 | New England Regional Conference |
| November 15 | Deadline for submitting Membership Survey to Association Membership Committee and to Rosemarie Buote |
| January 17, 2005 | Martin Luther King Day Breakfast , 6th year for AAUW-MA table. Call Nancy Moore for a place (\$30), 781-275-1018 |
| March 5, 2005 | Save the date for Women At Work: Changes and Challenges , a collaborative branch project |

DIRECTIONS TO WELLESLEY COLLEGE CLUB

DIRECTIONS FROM POINTS NORTH:

Take Route 128/Interstate95 South to Route 16 (exit 22-21B). Follow 21B (left fork of exit ramp) and proceed to Route 16 West. Drive through the town of Wellesley for about 4 miles and 9 traffic lights. Turn right at the entrance of Wellesley College, opposite the golf course (light number 10) and the College Club is the first building on the left.

DIRECTIONS FROM BOSTON:

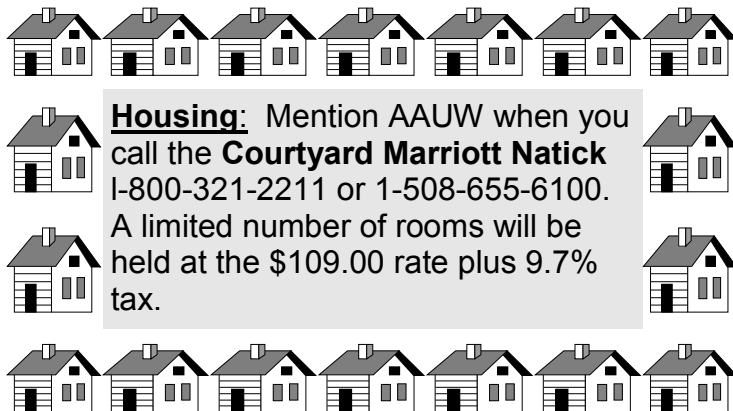
Take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Route 90) to exit 16 (West Newton). Follow Route 16 West. Pass over the intersection with 128 and follow directions above

DIRECTIONS FROM THE WEST:

Take Massachusetts Turnpike (Route 90) to Exit 14 (Weston). Go south on Route 128 (Interstate 95) for ½ mile to Route 16 West (exit 22-21B) and follow directions above

DIRECTIONS FROM THE SOUTH:

Route 128 (Interstate 95) North to Route 16 West (exit 22-21B) and follow directions above.



Housing: Mention AAUW when you call the **Courtyard Marriott Natick** 1-800-321-2211 or 1-508-655-6100. A limited number of rooms will be held at the \$109.00 rate plus 9.7% tax.

DIRECTIONS TO HOTEL (Courtyard Marriott Boston/Natick 342 Speen St.)

From Boston: Take the Mass Pike West. Then take exit 13 (Natick) and after the toll booth, bear a left onto Rte.30. At the first light take a right onto Speen St. The hotel is on your right.

From the West: Take the Mass Pike East. Then take exit 13 (Natick) and after the toll booth, bear a left onto Rte 30. At the first light, take a right onto Speen St. The hotel is on your right.

2004-2005 AAUW-MA Directory Corrections

The 2004-2005 AAUW-MA Directory has been distributed to all Board and Branch presidents. Additional copies will be available at the New England Regional Conference. Please correct your directory to reflect the following:

Page	Change	To
7, bottom	Bromberg	Broberg
9, top	PatriciaHoAAUW-MA	PatriciaHoAAUW-MA@aol.com
10, top	Cindy Levin's email	calquest@comcast.net
17, top	Diane Telford's email	gdebs17@earthlink.net
25, bottom	Ruth Anne Kennedy	Ruthanne Kennedy
25, bottom	Worthern	Worthen
30, top	Concact	Contact
32, middle	Laurie Aranjó's address	173 Highland St., #301 Taunton, MA 02780
9, middle	Linda Britt's numbers	W-617-886-6302, F-617-886-6777

Public Policy

You might be asking yourself...Where is Get the Facts?

According to AAUW's website "after multiple years of making our advocacy more effective, AAUW has decided to retire the Get the Facts service and substitute it with a more sophisticated and up-to-date e-mail action network. **AAUW's Action Network** is free to anyone who has an e-mail address, wants to know what's going on in Washington, D.C., and wants to take action to affect the outcome of important issues."



Join **AAUW Action Network**, a network committed to mobilizing voters on issues affecting women. It's easy. Visit <http://www.aauw.org/>, choose the Issue Advocacy tab from the top of the page, click on the Action Network logo and follow the directions to join the network online. *It is the strict policy of AAUW that they do not share e-mail addresses with third parties.*

You can also access the **AAUW Action Network** from our state website. Be sure to visit the AAUW-MA website (www.aauw-ma.com) Public Policy page. It is updated frequently and now has links to great public policy resources on the Internet as well as information on how to lobby effectively.

Educational Foundation

This year's goal is to focus on fundraising for the **Sema Faigen International Fellowship**. Some fundraising ideas being considered include

- hosting an afternoon featuring wine tasting, cooking demonstration, and student competition in food preparation at the Cambridge School of Culinary Arts (tentative date, March 13, 2005),
- display and sell art pieces in conjunction with the MA Council on Arts,
- and the tried and true raffle of items donated by each branch.

Upcoming *BayStater* articles will include a calendar of EF submission deadlines, EF updates on Fellows, and reports on branch contributions. Branches should let Elizabeth Kenney(elizabeth.kenney@salemstate.edu, 617-497-6956) know if they would like a list of contributions by members.

Support education for women and girls.



because equity is still an issue™

EF chairs should be sure your e-mail address and contact information is accurate in the 2004 AAUW-MA directory as Elizabeth will be sending email messages to you and branch presidents.



AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls. life-long education, and positive societal change.
AAUW Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.
AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.
AAUW is open to all graduates who hold the baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university. 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.

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The BayStater
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Hingham, MA 02043

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