

AAUW NEWS OF NOTE

President: Sheila Doherty (781) 848-8122
Membership VPs: Deanne Noiseux (781) 545-5247 and Patricia Laidler (781) 878-6242
Program VP: Carol Sullivan-Hanley (781) 545-9341

Mission Statement: AAUW advances equity for all women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

Vision Statement: AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

HINGHAM AREA BRANCH

OCTOBER 2010

CALENDAR

October 5, Tuesday	6:30 PM	Book Group Pizzeria Uno, Hanover
October 12, Tuesday	7:00 PM	Branch Meeting <i>The Long and Winding Road: Women in Politics</i> Suzanne Bump, Candidate for State Auditor, Speaker Hingham Public Library, Route 228, Hingham, MA
October 14, Thursday	6:30 PM	Dining Out Group Alma Nova at the Hingham Shipyard
October 21, Thursday	7:00PM	Girls Game Night Home of Hollie Bagley
October 21, Thursday	7:30 PM	Writing Group Brewed Awakening, Hingham
October 23, Saturday	1:00PM	State Meeting <i>Mission Not Impossible</i> Holiday Inn, Taunton, MA See <i>BAY STATER</i> for registration
October 26, Tuesday	7:00PM	Board Meeting Home of Sharon Lemoff
October 27, Wednesday	7:00PM	Newcomers' Tea Home of Pat Laidler

BRANCH MEETING

The Hingham Area Branch of AAUW will present the program, *The Long and Winding Road: Women in Politics*, on October 12th at 7:00 PM in the Whiton Room of the Hingham Public Library, 66 Levitt Street, Hingham. Suzanne Bump, candidate for State Auditor, will be the guest speaker. Suzanne will address the role of women in politics through her own personal experience. The meeting is free and open to the public and all are encouraged to attend.

Suzanne Bump was a representative from Braintree for four terms starting in 1991. While in this position, she was House Chairperson of Commerce and Labor. In 2007, she joined and chaired the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce. She is currently the Democratic candidate for State Auditor.



She is a graduate of Boston College and Suffolk Law School. She will be speaking about women's emerging role in politics and leadership. While she lived in Braintree Suzanne was an active member of our branch.

For more information on the program, please contact [Carol Sullivan-Hanley](#), 781 545-9341.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Are you aware, Ladies, the wage gap did not change in the year 2009. Women's wages are still only 77% of men's wages. We need to support the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act in the US Congress again this year. Please contact your elected national representatives to let them know you want them to support this important legislation.

Suzanne Bump, Democratic candidate for Massachusetts State Auditor and former member of our Hingham Area Branch will be speaking to us on Tuesday, October 12th at the Hingham Public Library. We hope to see you at this meeting, and I encourage you to bring your friends. It should be a very interesting evening since Suzanne has been a longtime political figure in Massachusetts.

Another great event scheduled for this month is the State Meeting being held at the Holiday Inn, Taunton, MA on Saturday, October 23rd at 1:00 PM (Registration Form is in the current BayStater). Lisa Maatz will be traveling from Washington, DC to speak to us about how to make things happen within our branches and state organization. As AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations, she is known to be a "Dynamic Speaker." We hope you will join us at the Taunton meeting on October 23rd.

RECOGNITION AWARD

The Pamela J. Lincoln Recognition Award is presented annually by the Hingham Area Branch of the AAUW to a worthy candidate who has been nominated by a current member of the Hingham Area Branch. The

nominee may be a high school or college student, or a woman who is furthering her education. Applications may be obtained from Beatrice Kelly (johnjackkelly@yahoo.com/ 781-925-3310). Applications must be received by March 1. If you know of a deserving student, please be sure to nominate her.

BOOK GROUP

On Tuesday, October 5th the Book Group will meet at Pizzeria Uno in Hanover, at the corner of Routes 53 and 123. We will meet at 6:30 and be discussing *Cutting for Stone*, by Abraham Verghese. It is a (long, but) amazing book. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.....Carol (781) 545-9341 or csulliva@lesley.edu.

PUBLIC POLICY

Wage Gap Unchanged in 2009: The US Census Bureau announced that the real annual wage gap did not change in 2009. Women continue to make 77 percent of men's wages. The statistic reflects the real ratio between the median incomes of full-time, year round workers.

The new figures also revealed that poverty rates for 2009 were the highest they have been since 1994, and the number of people in poverty is the highest on record. (Records began in 1959.) Poverty concerns everyone, but it harms women and children especially. Fully 38.5 percent of families headed by single mothers experienced poverty last year, their highest rate since 1998.

In an op-ed, Senior Advisor and Assistant to the President Valerie Jarrett said, "too many struggling families are still waiting to feel the benefits of economic progress.... For [women] and their families, equal pay is not only a matter of principle; it's a matter of survival. It is for this reason that President Obama applauds the work of the House of Representatives and strongly supports passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act (S182) in the Senate.

Take Action! AAUW is pushing harder than ever for pay equity—starting with getting the Paycheck Fairness Act passed this month. If you haven't already, please urge your senator to bring a real, positive end to the gender pay gap. Visit our Action Network to send an e-mail message, call 1-877-667-6650 and to speak to your senator, or leave a message on her or his Facebook page. Every call, letter, and tweet matters now. We must get the Paycheck Fairness Act passed this month!

Women Earn More Doctorates than Men in U.S.: AAUW Director of Research Catherine Hill was quoted on the front page of the Washington Post, highlighting new statistics showing that, for the first time, women earned more doctorates in 2008-2009 than men. Despite gains across the academic spectrum, women still face systemic disparities in wages. Recent reports of the demise of the gender pay gap have been greatly exaggerated. Those reports, from the likes of NBC and USA Today, were incomplete at best and a real disservice at worst, relying on only one quarter's data. As our economy continues to struggle, and more women assume the role of breadwinner, families need this money more than ever.

Georgia Schools to Require Science as Measure of Success: The State of Georgia, one of nine states and the District of Columbia to win federal Race to the Top funds, announced in its application plans to modify its success indicators to include achievement in science. Georgia's plans include assessment of math and reading, 95 percent participation in state testing, and beginning next year, performance on science exams by elementary and middle school students. The Georgia Department of Education believes the action will help students develop an early interest in science and place a stronger instructional emphasis on the subject. AAUW supports measuring student achievement in science and affirms that the data gathered from such testing programs should always be disaggregated by sex, race and socioeconomic status and cross-tabulated. While testing is an important measure of success, high stakes testing should not be the sole indicator of student competency or a school's progress.

President Delivers Back-to-School Speech: President Barack Obama delivered his second “Back-to-School” speech, telling students, “nothing is beyond your reach.” The president acknowledged many of the difficulties faced by students, including bullying and the effects of the current economy on families. Strong words of encouragement were shared as President Obama urged students to “dream big,” “work hard,” and “stay focused on your education.”

DADT Decision Affects Defense Bill: recently a federal judge in California ruled that the military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy is unconstitutional and issued a national injunction. The decision has placed added pressure on Senate Democrats to pass the National Defense Authorization Act (S. 3454) containing a provision to repeal DADT. Some senators fear that if the bill comes to the floor debate would be contentious, leaving little time for other important actions, and negatively affecting senators up for reelection.

Advisory Panel Offers Proposals on STEM Education: the president’s Council of Advisers on Science and Technology shared highlights of a forthcoming report recommending improvements for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. Among the recommendations, the council called for federal funding for improved technology and stronger collaboration among federal agencies. AAUW supports promoting and strengthening science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, especially for girls and other underrepresented populations. These efforts will help increase America’s competitiveness by reducing gender barriers that deter women from pursuing academic and career goals in these fields.

Department of Education Releases New Loan Default Rates: the Department of Education released new default rates for student loans in FY 2008, which increased from 6.7 percent to 7 percent in one year. For-profit college students are most likely to default on their loans according to the data. Of the nearly 3.4 million borrowers who entered repayment in 2008 more than 238,000 defaulted on their loans. AAUW does not support expanding access to institutions that overburden students with debt and take advantage of taxpayer-supported financial aid, while at the same time failing to prepare students for the workforce.

Paycheck Fairness Act Placed on Senate Calendar: during the week of September 12th, the Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 3772) was re-introduced in the Senate and placed on the legislative calendar by Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) in an attempt to overcome potential procedural roadblocks. This needed update to the Equal Pay Act is common-sense legislation that will give women the tools they need to obtain equal pay for equal work.

AAUW supports efforts to strengthen equality in the workplace and strongly urges you to Visit our Action Network to send an e-mail message, call 1-877-667-6650 and to speak to your senator, or leave a message on her or his Facebook page. Every call, letter, and tweet matters now. We must get the Paycheck Fairness Act passed this month!

Young Women and the Wage Gap: A recent study by Reach Advisors revealed progress for women in the workforce. Using Census data, the study found that educated, *single, childless women between the ages of 22 to 30* earned, on average, 8 percent more than men within this specific age group. While the headlines show that we are making progress, such studies also underscore the ongoing reality of pay discrimination. The *average* American women still earns 23 percent less than the average man, with the biggest gap among older women. Furthermore, much of the improvement in the gender pay gap has not been the result of female pay increases, but of men’s decreasing or stagnating wages in traditional jobs that don’t require a college degree. Additional research finds that to achieve similar earnings, women in predominantly female fields have to complete more formal education than men in male dominated fields. For low-skilled, female-dominated occupations, wages are more likely to be at the poverty threshold than low-skilled, male-dominated occupations.

Too Few Women in Technology: According to a report by the Center for Venture Research at the University of New Hampshire, only 9.4 percent of women-run technology startups were funded in 2009 despite the fact that women represent 21 percent of entrepreneurs seeking venture capital funding. Efforts to increase the number of leading women in technology are diverse and have sparked controversy within the industry.

By 2014, the U.S. will have added more than one million additional information technology jobs to the workforce. In order to close the gap between men and women in the field, AAUW supports efforts that train teachers to encourage girls and other underrepresented groups to pursue careers in these fields.

New Jersey Cuts Financial Aid for Low Income Students: Students in New Jersey will experience an 8 percent cut in their Tuition Aid Grants this school year in addition to sizable tuition increases. The program's funding increased by 18 percent this year, but an unanticipated spike in students qualifying for need-based aid prevented the state from maintaining last year's grant levels. AAUW advocates increased access to higher education especially for women in poverty. It is also critical that people be able to access education and training to improve their marketability in a difficult hiring environment.

Women's Groups Target Sexism in Campaigns: Advocates for women running for office have launched the "Name It, Change It" campaign, an effort to track sexist comments in the media and put pressure on advertisers supporting those media figures. American University's Women in Politics Institute found that women are less likely than men to consider running for office because they perceive an unfair political environment. Currently, the U.S. is 82nd in the world for representation of women in political office. AAUW supports closing the political leadership gender gap. AAUW's Elect Her initiative specifically focuses on increasing the number of women running for public office. Elect Her trains and encourages young women to run for student government and helps women view themselves as political candidates for the future.

Amelia Earhart Statue Returns to the Capitol: Eleven years after its removal for replacement, a statue honoring Amelia Earhart will return to the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall. With the help of Equal Visibility Everywhere, Earhart's hometown of Atchison, Kansas, was able to raise the necessary funds to return the statue. Earhart's statue is one of just ten statues of women in Statuary Hall.

TV News Series on Women in Non-Traditional Fields: CNN recently produced a series, "Making It in a Man's World," focused on women in traditionally male-dominated fields, highlighting the employment disparities in each field. On Wall Street, for example, only 14 percent of executives are women and there has never been a woman chief executive of a major financial institution. The series also recognizes companies and programs making significant strides in closing the employment gap in their field.