



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER - 2009

Attleboro Branch, Inc.

Editor, Ashley Occhino

Letter from the Co-Presidents

*“Advancing Equity for Women and Girls through
Advocacy, Education and Research”*

Dear Fellow Members,

As we begin another year, I realized that we begin our year in the Fall and end in the late Spring, just as we did in our "School Days"! How appropriate for a group so involved with supporting Education of Women and influencing the young women among us! I never think of the year as January to December, but live in the reality of Sept. to June!

I believe we have a rather different approach to our schedule this year. Previously, we tried to bring speakers to make presentations on many subjects that we thought would be of interest to all our members. However, with many of our lives so filled with our busy families, our work schedules and other commitments, often these meetings were difficult to make and attendance has dwindled. So this year, we have tried to have fewer meetings and to make them more of a social gathering of friends with just a few invited speakers to enrich and encourage us in our mission. Hopefully, because there are just four Activities from Oct. to May, you will make every effort to plan accordingly and join us so we can continue the wonderful spirit we have always had in our Attleboro Branch.

There are two changes to our bylaws that effect our branch. We will be asking you to vote on these changes which will be explained at our October meeting and Pot Luck Dinner.

On Sept. 12, 2009, Kris Occhino and I were fortunate enough to be able to attend the Fall State

AAUW Meeting at Massasoit State College in Brockton, MA. The speakers were very inspirational! Barbara Burgo gave us great motivation to be involved in Census 2010. We also heard two young women, one from Brazil and the other from Zimbabwe, who were given scholarships by AAUW to attend the Leadership Conference in Washington DC this past summer. They both have become active members of our Organization and plan to be active in their colleges here in the states and to return to their countries with our message. It was very inspirational to hear the influence AAUW has had on these outstanding young women!

As you will read in your yearbook, we are honored to have the MA State President of AAUW, Beryl Domingo, will be speaking at our Pot Luck to give us an AAUW Update and she is just delightful! She will be joined by Hollie Bagley, our State Administrator, who will be showing us the updated website.

The only other presentations this year will be made by Katherine Honey at our April meeting and by an EF (Education Fellow) at our banquet in May at the Hearth and Kettle. Further information will follow in future newsletters.

So let us begin the new year with enthusiasm for our Association, determination to try to attend our activities and maybe even the chance to bring more members into our group!

Have a lovely Fall/Holiday season and I hope to see you all at the Pot Luck!

Paula Correia and Ashley Occhino

2009 AAUW National Convention

The delegates to the national Convention in St. Louis approved the AAUW Bylaws but struck a proposal that would have opened membership to all who support AAUW's mission. The delegates voted instead to insert passages from the 2007 Association Bylaws that extend membership to individuals on the basis of their educational degrees. The delegates also passed the "one member, one vote" proposal, which provides every member the right and opportunity to have a personal voice in directing the future of AAUW, and approved the bylaws of the AAUW

Action Fund, which supports and advocates for legislation, policies, and procedures related to women's equity and education. The new AAUW Bylaws and the Action Fund Bylaws are available on the [AAUW website](#). One of the newly-elected directors-at-large is former AAUW-MA President Patricia Ho. More than 900 members attended the 2009 AAUW National Convention in St. Louis. Visit the [convention website](#) to view pictures, videos, workshop presentations, press features, and blog postings.

2010 CENSUS –It's in our hands!

By Barbara Burgo

Did you know that the U.S. Census is mandated by the Constitution ...Article 1, Section 2? Did you know that the first Federal Census was taken of the U.S. and its island properties in 1790? Did you know that it is taken every 10 years on the "0" and that the next opportunity we will have to get an "accurate" count for our cities and towns across the country will be in 2020? Did you complete and mail back your questionnaire in Census 2000? Are you a committed member of AAUW? Do you use/share the research products we produce, such as *Hostile Hallways...*, and *Where The Girls Are...* use Census/ Dept. of Labor Statistics?

AAUW-Massachusetts has agreed to establish a Complete Count Committee and serve as a key partner in this historical and important initiative. Please join us in making history by completing the questionnaire when it arrives in the mail next March and mailing it back.

Census Day is April 1, 2010...that's when we take a "snapshot of America." Please help us educate our communities about the importance of the Census, gain valuable knowledge ourselves...while keeping in touch with our AAUW Mission.

AAUW Attleboro Branch is now ONLINE!

I am proud to announce that AAUW Attleboro, Inc. is now online! Our website address is:

<http://www.aauw-ma.org/Attleboro/Attleboro.htm>

This is a great tool that local branches are embracing, and for good reason. Here you can find past newsletters and upcoming programs. Please notify

Ashley of anything you think is missing from our website. We would especially love to add some more photos of our members.

Give a Grad a Gift

AAUW members can now give a recent grad a free AAUW membership. At no cost to you or her! **Send no money! Only members can take advantage of this offer.**

Expand her networking opportunities through career development opportunities and community action projects. She will experience the rewards of working with and learning from successful AAUW mentors. Keep her current on the events and people that affect her life as she receives *Mission and Action*, *AAUW Outlook*, Action Network alerts, and more.

[Complete the online membership application now!](#) or [Download the application \(PDF\)](#)

Your grad will receive a one-year member-at-large membership- a \$49 value. She can join a branch at any time but will be responsible for paying branch and state dues.

October 2009 New LAF Information

Case Support Funding

At their October meeting, the AAUW board approved \$4,000 in funding for each of these LAF-supported cases:

- *Jaureguito v. Feather River Community College*
- *Mansourian, et al. v. Regents of the University of California*
- *Potera-Haskins v. Gamble, Montana State U*
- *Schuster v. Berea College (KY)*
- *Thein v. Feather River Community College (CA)*
- *Wartluft. v. Feather River Community College (CA)*

Case Updates

Claire Schuster, an LAF plaintiff, has won her latest legal battle over her allegations of sex-based pay discrimination at Berea College in Kentucky.

Schuster, a tenured associate professor of nursing, sued the institution for sex discrimination in pay in violation of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act.

The Kentucky Supreme Court issued a ruling August 19 denying Berea College's motion for discretionary review of the court of appeals' decision in Schuster's favor and remanding the case for a new trial. Her next trial date, at which her lawyers can now use important discovery material, has not been set.