

AAUW National Convention will be 'BREAKING through BARRIERS'

AAUW-MO and the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) in St. Louis are hard at work planning the details of hosting the 2009 AAUW National Convention at the Renaissance St. Louis Grand and Suites Hotel, June 26-28, 2009.

This historic convention, themed "BREAKING through BARRIERS," will discuss and vote on issues related to membership requirements, dues payments, public policy issues, and much more. The results will have a momentous impact on who and what AAUW is to be in the coming years. You don't want to miss it! Check out the AAUW website for full details on the issues, the convention, and things to do in St. Louis: www.aauw.org/convention.

Convention registration began on December 1st and you DON'T want to miss out on Best Value Registration!* Hundreds of AAUW members are making plans to head for St. Louis next June to shape the future of our organization. The hotel has ample convention space, lovely rooms, great restaurants and is right in the heart of downtown St. Louis. The Cardinals will be playing ball, the Zoo is free, the Art Museum is world class, as is the Missouri Botanical Garden. Theater, opera and a great children's museum also await you.

At the convention we'll have welcoming activities on Thursday, stimulating workshops on Friday morning, First Timers' briefings, lively business sessions each day, dynamic keynote speakers, an exciting CEO Women Leaders luncheon, bylaws briefings, Meet the Candidates reception, elections for new officers, Taste of Suc-

cess displays, the elegant banquet on Saturday night, and a final business session on Sunday morning. All this surrounded by the popular CyberStop, AAUW merchandise sales, our friendly AAUW Missouri hospitality and much more. We want YOU to have a GREAT time at the convention!

Please join us in St. Louis! Plan now to send branch members and delegates to convention by budgeting for it, appointing delegates early, discussing the issues and bylaws. Treat yourself to a mini-vacation at the historic Renaissance Grand Hotel where spa treatments, great restaurants, and lots of extras await you. Don't forget to invite your AAUW family and friends from across the country to "Meet you in St. Louis" as we continue to 'break through barriers' for women and girls.

For additional information, you may contact the Local Arrangements Committee:

Lynne Roney, chair (lynneroney@sbcglobal.net), Diane Ludwig - local sponsorships (dbludwig22@aol.com), Pat Shores - volunteers/hospitality (apatriciashores@charter.net), and Julie Triplett - volunteers/hospitality (julietrip@charter.net)

****There is a SPECIAL Best Value registration fee of \$375 for those who register between December 1, 2008 and January 15, 2009. This is the same rate as the 2007 convention two years ago! PLAN AHEAD and take advantage of this great deal!***

General Ann Dunwoody breaks the U.S. Military's 'Brass Ceiling'

**AAUW
congratulates
Army General
Ann Dunwoody
on becoming the
U.S. military's
first female
Four-Star General**



AAUW salutes Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody on this historic achievement, as well as all women in uniform who join her in serving this country with courage and distinction."

AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE issued the following statement:

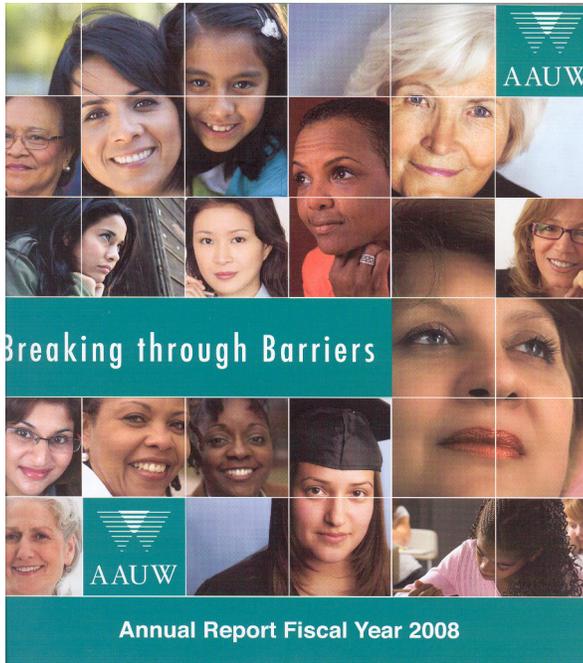
"On behalf of AAUW's 100,000 members around the nation, I extend special congratulations to Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody on becoming the first woman to attain the rank of four-star general. As a veteran myself, I know the discipline, commitment, and drive needed to flourish in the military.

We salute this remarkable woman who has just blazed a new trail for other distinguished women to follow. AAUW has long supported equity for women in the military.

In fact, some may be surprised to learn that many AAUW members favored a national draft for women in the 1940s.

These days, we are focused on another battle. We are fighting to break through the remaining barriers that too often prevent women from achieving their full potential and real economic security.

AAUW's 2008 Annual Report theme 'Breaking through Barriers'



An important AAUW report arrived in your mailboxes recently. Take time to read how AAUW is involved in "Breaking through Barriers" of all sorts.

Many of the short articles can be used as an inspiration for branch meetings, discussion groups, and ideas for advocates and activists throughout AAUW.

For example, it covers pay equity advances, such as the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act that passed the House in July 2007, but fell just a few votes short in the Senate in April 2008.

There are several life-stories that outline how our Legal Advocacy Fund is assisting women.

Such as the article entitled "Standing up for Women on Campus," that tells the story of Lisa Simpson's Title IX lawsuit against the University of Colorado at Boulder.

One story is about Jane Chen, who left her job to work with a non-profit organization that supports orphans left after poor Chinese farmers died of AIDS as the result of selling blood to the Chinese government. Her work then led to the invention of a \$25 non-electric incubator for premature babies.

There are many inspiring AAUW Donor stories scattered throughout.

Another article is entitled, "Let's Read Math!," and another page is full of quotable quotes from women who are the "Faces of Pay Equity."

There are also quotes from some of our elected officials on AAUW issues. That page is entitled, "Views from the Hill."

There's something for all members in this Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2008. Be sure to read it cover to cover.

Leadership Conference Call coming to you in July

By *Celina Torres Fennell, Program Vice President*

The AAUW Board of Directors received a number of comments from branches regarding the summer leadership conference. Those comments included moving the conference to the spring, making it a one-day conference that did not require an overnight stay, and reducing the attendees' expenses because the conference comes on the heels of the Association Convention.

To address these concerns, the board decided to hold a conference call the weekend of July 25-26, 2009 to discuss the important changes from the St. Louis convention and their impact on Texas branches. The day and time of the conference call will be set early this spring and will be paid for by the state. This conference call cannot replace your branch's attendance at the convention, but can help our state communicate and implement the changes consistently.

In addition, the board will be asking conference call participants what training their branches need, especially in light of the changes coming out of the convention.

AAUW Texas Board Meeting Highlights Nov. 7-9, 2008

By *Dusky Wells, AAUW Texas Secretary*

The 2008-2010 AAUW Texas Board of Directors held its second meeting of the biennium in Abilene on November 7-9, 2008. Between meetings, the board conducts business by email.

The Board of Directors voted:

- To host a July conference call in lieu of a face-to-face leadership conference.
- To work with the Interbranch Councils to offer leadership training in May 2009.
- To adopt "AAUW: Opening Opportunities"

as the theme for the 2010 AAUW Texas Convention.

- To modify the state awards for recognizing branches and appointed a committee to develop the new awards.
- To confirm presidential appointments of Mynda Holman McGuire (San Antonio Branch), UWT editor; Mary Edwards (West Harris County Branch), nominating committee chair; and Jeannie Best (Abilene Branch), AAUW Texas Member Showcase representative.

Reminders

The following message is from the Women's Legislative Days meeting, Monday, Dec. 15:

"Due to economic and other circumstances beyond our control, **Women's Legislative Days, 2009** has been cancelled.

"Thanks for your support. Look for the new and improved Women's Legislative Days in 2011"

Don't forget to sign up to receive AAUW Texas e-mail news, timely updates on convention, *University Woman Texas!* and more, all spam and hassle-free.

Just type the following into your browser: www.aauwtexas.org/emailoptin.html and follow the easy directions.