



AAUW Names New Executive Director

AAUW’s Search Committee is excited to announce Linda D. Hallman as AAUW Executive Director effective January 7, 2008. Linda has a long history of Washington DC area association and foundation executive leadership experiences. She served as Vice President of Policy and Government Strategy, External and Member Relations, with National Alliance for Health Information Technology in their Washington DC office. Highlights of Linda’s prior non-profit experience include service as Executive Director of the American Medical Women’s Association and Foundation, as well as President and CEO of the American Horticultural Society.

Linda was honorably discharged from the United States Army and the U.S. Army Band and Chorus. She earned her master’s degree in organizational management from George Washington University and a bachelor’s degree in music education from Indiana University. And most importantly, Linda is an AAUW member.

Invitation to the 87th Annual Convention

What is The Mission of AAUW?

By Donna Erickson
AAUW CA Program VP

What is the mission of AAUW? Asking different people gets different responses.

In autumn 2006, the report, “Leading Together: A Roadmap for the Future,” was circulated by AAUW. It contained the following message: “[T]he core mission of education and equity has taken a backseat to other broad, general topics of member interest. . . . [T]his approach undermines and distracts the membership from elevating the mission of education and equity. This laissez-faire relationship with mission is at the very heart of the difficulty of recruiting and retaining members.”

It is this report and our new mission statement that prompts our focus on MISSION for this, the 87th annual convention of AAUW California.

The excitement begins Friday evening as we are welcomed by Association President Ruth Sweetser. President Sweetser has much to share involving the strategic process, the mission, and the role we play.

Saturday morning is all about public policy and women in the

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March 2008
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Public Policy Review

by Rita Wustner

AAUW California

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CONVENTION SNAPSHOTS

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The 2007 legislative year was bumpy for all Californians. As this article is being written, the “Year of Health-care Reform” has resulted in very little. The governor and leaders of the legislature are struggling with a newly recognized budget emergency just as they were negotiating on a real proposal for health-care reform. We may see a health-care measure on the November 2008 ballot. If so, the AAUW California public policy committee will analyze it and alert our members whether or not a position is taken.

Meanwhile, Senator Kuehl’s universal health-care bill SB840 (supported by AAUW CA for the last three years) is still alive and will be in the mix come 2008 for the second year of this legislative term. Many Democrats think SB840 is the most realistic plan proposed to date. Senator Kuehl has pledged to carry this bill through the end of her term, 2008. AAUW California will continue to follow this bill.

At the 2008 convention, we will continue our tradition of hosting a public policy breakfast to introduce the 2008 bill package. Below is a review of what happened to the bills in our 2007 package.

The 2007 bill package contains 31 bills. In August the 2008 public policy committee added support for one additional bill, AB437 by Dave Jones. The bill deals with pay discrimination. AB437 mirrors the bill in Washington DC that AAUW supports entitled the “Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.” Specifically, the bill establishes that a cause of action for discriminatory wages accrues when (1) the discriminatory pay decision was made, or (2) the plaintiff became subject to the discriminatory pay decision, or (3) the plaintiff is affected by the discriminatory pay decision, including each payment of a discriminatory wage. The purpose of this act is to restore the law to how it was applied prior to the decision in Ledbetter v. Goodyear by the Supreme Court.

Including AB437, AAUW CA supported 17 bills. Of these, seven went to the Governor, who vetoed only two of them--a successful year.

Signed: AB14, AB668, AB76, AB629, AB28.

Vetoed: AB435, SB549

Ten support bills are still alive and have become two-year bills: AB1059, AB1236, SB227, SB675, SB164, SB840, AB437, AB589, SB129 and SB524. The 2008 public policy committee will again analyze these bills and vote to confirm support or not.

AAUW CA opposed 15 bills. Thirteen of the opposed bills are dead, but two are still alive. SB471 is alive but most likely will die in January 2008. SB850 is alive but substantially amended and moved to watch.

The bill descriptions are available on the state website at www.aauw-ca.org. For more detailed information about legislation, go to www.leginfo.ca.gov.

If She Can Do It, I Can Do It

by Donna Lilly and Rita Wustner, Presidents

At the October California Women's Conference in Long Beach, First Lady Maria Shriver Schwarzenegger asked the attendees to take a pledge "to serve my community at least once a year in a way that will benefit others" and to ask myself "what do I believe in and what do I want my life to stand for?"

AAUW members have lived these pledges for over 126 years by being mentors to women and girls as they strive to create an equitable reality through education, advocacy, research, philanthropy and lifelong learning. Association continues to train college

women to become leaders in their communities through the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Washington DC. The Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund have created role models through the fellowships and grants given to women who understand the

essence of "if she can do it, I can do it."

Admiral Grace Hopper, pioneering computer programmer, and Barbara McClintock, Nobel Prize Laureate geneticist, both received support and recognition from AAUW. If these role models were here today they would join with us again because Equity is still an Issue. AAUW members and role models Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg understand the value of our mission.

The April 2008 AAUW California convention will celebrate women who are role models and women who will become role models with our support. Attend convention to help celebrate the tremendous success of Tech Trek Science Camps for Girls. Watch the second annual Speech Trek winners present their analysis of what

is "Behind the Pay Gap."

Make a new year's resolution to attend convention and meet AAUW members who are engaged in solving community issues where they live and work. Join our community of individuals who know that in a democracy, it is not only the right but also the obligation of the people to voice their concerns and influence policy decisions.

And come to convention to elect the 2008-2010 board of directors who will lead AAUW California into fantastic new realities. Go home determined to be a woman who "can do it."



Donna Lilly



Rita Wustner

AAUW Mission (Continued from Page 1)

Golden State – where we are, where we want to go and how to get there.

Next, a special wine-tasting luncheon and celebration of success for the Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund is bracketed by 10 workshops, each an area of interest per your suggestions.

The fun continues. In the afternoon, AAUW Director of Research Catherine Hill, Ph.D., reviews the unfairness AAUW research has exposed and offers ways to use AAUW research in community programs.

Saturday night we recognize outstanding individuals and branches of AAUW California - from philanthropy to mission and program to membership. The celebration closes with leadership guru and AAUW member Leigh Henderson.

Sunday morning brings us an update on the status of public education in California, then on to Global Connections. This panel of widely acclaimed activists talks about their work in different parts of the world empowering women to better lives.

New this year, each delegate will take home a binder instead of a program. Inside the binder you'll find program notes and contact information on our workshop leaders and keynote speakers -- your personal resource for AAUW CALIFORNIA MISSION.

Please accept this invitation, to have a grand time amongst a wonderful group of women who share your dreams for the future.