

Support Needed for Legal Advocacy Fund

Lill Van Order
AAUW NC LAF Liaison

So far, 2005 has been a slow year. We all have reasons and rationale for the lack of contributions. This Fall has been extremely difficult for all of us; some, I think, are concerned about LAF now being part of Educational Foundation and some perhaps just haven't gotten to this part of the program yet. Believe me, however, LAF does need your help – LAF is not a one-donation situation.

Cases sometimes take years to settle and the need for money is ongoing. To quote the recent LAF Update, "At its meeting in February 2004, the LAF Board of Directors awarded a total of \$11,500 to plaintiffs in six ongoing cases." Some of these cases have been part of the LAF network for several years.

We have received a Plaintiff Travel Grant from the Association, so a plaintiff will speak at our spring convention. Plan to attend the LAF Breakfast, and be a sponsor, too!

I have received from LAF in Washington, D.C., a printout of branch and state contributions for North Carolina. I am in the midst of reconciling this so that our statement agrees with theirs; 12 branch statements agree with mine and the others need minor reconciliation.

Recently I heard a saying about fund-raising: "Often times the minimum becomes the maximum." This has happened with many of us in regards to LAF. We often say when women donate, they are donating for their branch, as well. Is your branch one that only a few donate and they represent the whole branch? Is your branch one that gives the \$5 minimum and then stops there? These are all thoughts that we need to address in our branches. Of the 14 branches that have contributed for 2005, ten branches have 5 or fewer members contributing for the whole branch. Let us try to change the trend and not have a minimum donation.

I realize that many of you contribute at the end of the year, so remember the deadline is drawing near. Please send yours by December 15, to assure timely processing. Absolute deadline is that it be postmarked December 31. Our total so far in 2005 is only \$4,031, less than half of many past year's contributions. We can do better than that. Encourage your branch members to give and promote awareness of LAF. The brochure below can help.

A Matter of Justice

Brochure summarizes the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund programs—case support, campus outreach, referral network, and the Progress in Equity Award. Set of 50 is free, but you pay shipping and handling. See page ten of the exciting, new *Equity Essentials Catalog*, which was included with the Fall/Winter 2005 *Outlook*.

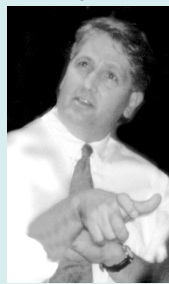
News Flash: All research publications are on sale at 50% off until December 31.

www.aauw.org

Sandhills/Southern Pines Branch Hosts Ruth Pauley Lecture Series Reception

Lois McCarthy, Sandhills/Southern Pines President

WHEN RUTH PAULEY initiated free lectures on current topics and issues in Moore County, before her death more than 20 years ago, she probably had no idea she had begun a movement that would be named for her. A member of Sandhills/Southern Pines Branch, as well as a former AAUW Association board member, she led a distinguished, globally-oriented career. The branch is proud to be part of the popular Ruth Pauley Lecture Series, which is provided free of charge to the general public by the efforts of four sponsoring groups: AAUW, The League of Women Voters, Moore County Public Schools, and Sandhills Community College. One person commented, "[Pauley] held a firm conviction that women could make special contributions in understanding and bring about resolution to social problems."



Kenneth Duckworth, M.D., (above left) assistant professor of psychiatry at Harvard University, spoke at the October meeting. His topic was "Tom Cruise Has It All Wrong: The Real Story of Mental Health."

Other Ruth Pauley Lecture Series Speakers and their Topics

January 19, 2006: Dr. Bart Ehrman, professor and chairman of religious studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, "Truth and Fiction in the DaVinci Code"
February 16, 2006: Charles "Lefty" Dreisell, retired coach, "Managing to Win"
March 6, 2006: Senator George McGovern, "America, The Road Ahead"



Sandhills/Southern Pines Branch hosted the reception following the lecture. Above, from left: Lois McCarthy, Sue Williamson, Sue LeClair, and Claire McConnell. As many as 20 branch members are involved with the series.

Want to know more?

The Ruth Pauley Lecture Series is a good example of "Places to Go and Things To Do Together," featured on page seven.

Lectures are at the Owens Auditorium on the Sandhills Community College campus in Pinehurst. Talks are free and open to the public. No tickets are required. Lectures begin at 7:30 p.m. For additional information call 910.245.3132 or see www.sandhills.cc.nc.us/news/pauley.html.

Northeastern University Program Wins AAUW LAF Progress in Equity Award

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, a program of the AAUW Educational Foundation, has named the Connections program at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, its 2005 Progress in Equity Award winner, noting the program's unique and expansive approach to supporting women and girls in math, science, and engineering fields.

"The Connections program is a great response to a serious issue. They've focused on the areas where women and girls continue to be under-represented and developed a program that addresses the challenges they face at all levels of their education," said Barbara L. O'Connor, president of the AAUW Educational Foundation. "This is a great working model that exemplifies what the Legal Advocacy Fund Progress in Equity Award is all about."

The Progress in Equity Award recognizes a college or university program that promotes equity on campus for women and comes with a cash award. Since 1987, the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund has recognized more than 38 campus programs throughout the United States for their progressive and innovative advancements on behalf of women faculty, staff, administrators, and/or students.

AAUW NC Board Recommends More Specific Training Standards

At the October 29 AAUW NC board meeting, a motion passed to send a message to the NC Board of Education assuring them that AAUW NC supports required diversity training for all school counselors and social workers. The letter sent on October 30 used the language of the AAUW diversity statement and said "School professionals' treatment of students should not be influenced by gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class." This action was prompted by opposition from the NC Family Council to including language referring to sexual orientation, and a discussion that noted that gay adolescents make up a group at high risk for suicide.

According to the *News and Observer*, "On a split vote [on November 3], the board [of education] rejected specific references to causes of discrimination, including race, creed, color, sexual orientation, national origin and disabilities. Instead the board opted for a more general reference: 'human diversity.'" See the November 4 article about the BOE meeting at www.newsobserver.com/928/story/353521.html.

Results of a new statewide poll by the Common Sense foundation was released on October 26. See www.common-sense.org/pdfs/LGBT_report_2005.pdf. The survey showed:

- 73% of North Carolinians "believe that all state residents should have equal rights under the law regardless of sexual orientation"
- 57% "believe that employment discrimination on the basis is unfair"
- 69% "believe housing discrimination on that basis is unfair," and
- 51% of the respondents said "no" when asked "Do you think it is fair to define marriage in such a way that it excludes same-sex couples?"

This information should help "achieve equality for all state residents."

United Nations Observes Anniversary

Shirley Quisenberry
AAUW NC International Relations Chair

THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY of the signing of the United Nations Charter was observed October 24. AAUW was among the 42 NGO's invited to be present in San Francisco in 1945 to help write the Charter. Of special note is that our own Virginia Gildersleeve, Dean of Barnard College and co-founder of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), was the only woman member of the U.S. delegation and chaired the committee to write the preamble. The famous opening words are, "We, the peoples of the United Nations," which were her inspiration from our Constitution.

All AAUW public policy positions over the years have contained support for the U.N., some with different emphases, but always there. I have sent a new pamphlet, *What Every American Should Know about the United Nations*, to all AAUW NC branches, to help them be better informed. I hope some study groups will use this to learn more about the organization which AAUW has always supported and which currently is getting such bad press in the United States. For those of you who have a UNA in your community, partnering with them is a good idea.

Copies of the booklet are available from the Publications Department, UN Association, USA, 801 Second Ave., New York NY 10017. Cost: \$1 each; 50 for \$40; 100 for \$70. Add \$1 S&H to total payment for 10 or less; 10% of total order amount for greater quantities. Delivery takes three to five weeks. www.unausa.org

Must View: The Art of Possibility

This video and book, written by Rosamund Stone Zander and featuring her husband, Benjamin Zander, conductor of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, is a must for everyone in a leadership position. This dynamic bestseller is a key to "transforming professional and personal life." Published by Penquin Books.