Notes from the President
Louisiana President Sandra Hufstetler

Gender Equity for girls could be eliminated.
As you recall, AAUW celebrated a tremendous victory in the passage of the gender Equity in Education Act just last fall. The legislation, part of a $12 billion federal education funding measure known as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), draws attention to education issues raised in The AAUW Report: How Schools Shortchange Girls, and provides guidance and incentives for state and local education policymakers to initiate positive change in schools.

However, the gender equity provisions do not mandate specific activities in states and schools. The funding under ESEA programs is allowed, but not required, to be spent on projects or components of projects to advance equity. With the current cutbacks being undertaken in Congress, AAUW leaders must step in to help make school and state superintendents, board of education, and administrators aware of how the ESEA can help them improve education for girls.

Active efforts should be made to inform and build partnerships with business, universities, community-based organizations, and diverse organizations. Use AAUW’s name for credibility and be prepared to follow up with calls and letters of support, using as many contacts as you can. And be aware that current and future funding levels for ESEA programs are not guaranteed. If spending restrictions and priorities of the statute are removed and money sent to states in “block grants,” the gender equity provisions would be completely eliminated.

AAUW members now have a critical role in making gender equity a reality for girls. The gender equity provisions can have tremendous leverage and improve the lives of many girls if used to raise awareness of gender bias, generate thinking about positive and fair solutions, and foster institutional change.

On Membership
Louisiana President Sandra Hufstetler

Imagine Louisiana without AAUW?
There is growing concern over the loss of branches, and the continued decline in the Louisiana AAUW membership. At the summer board meeting the issue of declining membership will be addressed. Membership vice presidents from each of the ten branches are asked to come to Baton Rouge to meet separately, with their counterparts to discuss strategies, funding, publicity, etc.

Board members and branch presidents please note the Saturday, July 22 meeting will address:
• state business
• association focus
• set priorities for the coming year
• reminder: chairs needed for state convention, by-laws, Educational Equity, and Legal Advocacy

The meeting will be held at the Bluebonnet Library in Baton Rouge. We will conduct a board meeting, while branch membership vice presidents meet separately to address the decline in our state. Time will be allotted at the board meeting to review ideas and strategies developed by the membership vice presidents. The meetings run from 9:30 a.m. until noon. Dutch treat lunch follows.

Direction: Turn off I-10 onto Bluebonnet Street. Continue for two or three miles until you come to the Bluebonnet Library. It is on the right side of the street.

Program VP Shirley Colomb invites you to contact her with ideas for topics and/or speakers for the coming year. Call evenings. (504) 834-1630.

Get Aboard for Memphis, Tennessee
Friday, July 28 - Sunday, July 30
* Dinner & music on Beale Street
* See the Imperial Tombs of China
* See Dixon Gallery and Gardens
* Two nights at the Peabody Hotel
* Lunch at River Terrace Yacht Club
Deposit $100 by May 31. Details page 3

AAUW Louisiana Branches and Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of Branches</th>
<th>Membership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1979</strong></td>
<td>15 or 16</td>
<td>1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>1987</em></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>792</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>1990</em></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>698</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>1995</em></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>534</td>
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**Recollection of then president, Dr. Pat Barber.**
*Indicates information from the association. Statistics from association go back to 1987.
Ruth Reflects
One Last Time
SEC Regional Director Ruth Jurenko

Women Work Together
For four years I have worked with wonderful women from the region.
Together we have established goals, shared dreams and witnessed growth.
The growth has taken place in each of us, and in our association. AAUW has become

"Women work together: Making quilts and lives and worlds." Gwen Turnbull

nationally respected in making changes in the quality of life for women and girls.
We caught the attention of the media, school boards and legislators. Our work with the Education Initiative and with public policy programs resulted in changes in communities countrywide.
There are new and exciting challenges for us as AAUW women to pursue. Our focus is now Voter Awareness and Education. We are asked to work diligently to elect persons who are aligned with the belief that education and equity should be for all women and girls.
This is our challenge. As women we share our dreams, we respect different points of view, but we work together, listening to each other as we make changes in our lives and our world.
I have grown, I have made lasting friendships and I have seen women working together for change. As AAUW women working together we continue "making quilts and lives and worlds."*

*See last column, bottom.

In memoriam
- Baton Rouge - Ona Smith, honorary life AAUW member passed away in April.
  Camille Jacobs, 82, passed away December 6 after a lengthy illness. Camille was the retired Director of Migrant Education for the state of Delaware and a community leader who served on numerous boards and committees.
  Sympathy extended to three Baton Rouge members whose mothers died. Members are Sarah Erickson, Betty Lou Roundtree and Nancy Knaus.
- Lafayette - Dr. Dichtmann, passed away in February. See mailer page.
- Covington-Mandeville - Sympathy extended to Annette Doskey-Williamson and Marie Porch at the loss of their mothers over the winter.
  Memorials can be made to the Educational Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund through the state treasurer, Carol Venice, 4815 Mithra Street, New Orleans, LA 70126. Branches will be credited.

Louisiana Magnolia
Volume 70 Number 3
The American Association of University Women (AAUW) promotes equity for women, education and self-development over the life span, and positive societal change.

The AAUW Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research and self-development for women and fosters equity and positive societal change.

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

The Louisiana AAUW as the leading advocate of equity for women and girls in the state promotes education, opportunity, diversity and intellectual growth.

AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership.

1994-1995 State Officers
Sandra Hufsetler, President 1-800-345-3221/68
Shirley Colomb, Program V.P. 504-271-3414
Meredith Rials, Membership V.P. 318-477-1652
Gwen Mayo, Secretary 1-800-523-8391
Carol Venice, Treasurer 504-283-6033

The Magnolia is published three times annually in September, March and June. News deadlines are Aug. 1, Feb. 1, and May 1.

State and branch officers are asked to submit news items, and information about activities for publication in the Magnolia. News of branch activities is helpful to other branches. Sharp photos, maps or clip art are welcomed and will be used as space allows.

One copy of branch bulletins should be sent to the Magnolia editor and one to the state president.

Editor: Iona Myers 4701 Chastant Street Metairie, LA 70006
Fax 504-889-0732 B-504-885-1401
Co-Editor: Joan P. Doolittle 1300 Monroe Street
Mandeville, LA 70448
504-626-4253 Fax: 504-624-4830
E-Mail - Dooexpress@aol.com
Opportunities for girls in vocational education in jeopardy

Association Briefing

During the month of May, House and Senate Committees will begin action on revamping the “Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act,” a $1 billion federal program designed to improve our vocational education system.

Action is needed now to ensure the needs of women and girls are met in vocational education. Girls and women must be encouraged to enroll in courses that will help them compete for quality, high-wage, high-tech jobs...jobs that will provide them a living wage, financial independence, and solid opportunities for growth.

Since 1984, the federal government has used the Perkins Act to support local efforts to guide girls toward vocational classes traditionally populated by boys and to help women gain the vocational skills they need to support themselves and their families. The Act requires states to use 10 percent of their Perkins funds to help eliminate sex-stereotyping and help displaced homemakers and single parents gain marketable skills. BUT THIS REQUIREMENT IS NOW IN JEOPARDY.

Conservative committee members in both chambers are planning to eliminate these essential requirements, leaving decisions about whether to fund equity efforts to state governments.

Vocational education is still highly sex-segregated. In 1992, female students comprised just 28 percent of students in trade and industry courses (transportation, mechanics, construction), but 70 percent of those in health and 76 percent in occupational home economics (cooking, child care).

This traditional coursework leads to low-wage jobs, sales and administrative support jobs, in which over half of young women straight out of high school work, pay an average weekly wage of $338, compared with $448 for trade and industry jobs. Cosmetology, an exclusively female occupation, pays $247 per week; car repair, $717 per week....

Get on Board for Memphis, Tennessee and Support the Educational Foundation

The cost of the tour is $330 per person based on 40 paying passengers, staying two to a room. The tour cost includes, round-trip bus transportation and transfers, two nights lodging at the The Peabody, including baggage handling, dinner Friday night, and lunch on Saturday, admission to the Imperial Tombs of China exhibit, and to the Dixon Gallery. Price includes donation to the AAUW Educational Foundation. Contact Jane Crews (318)-261-1438, or $100 deposit required. Deadline date of May 31.

Friday, July 28
- Motorcoach departs New Orleans. Possible pick-up in Baton Rouge.
- Lunch, Dutch treat in Vicksburg
- Arrive Memphis, Tennessee and check into The Peabody, famous for accommodations as well as the procession of ducks.
- Dinner tonight at King’s Palace Cafe on historic Beale Street featuring live blues and Memphis music.
- The rest of the evening is yours.

Saturday, July 29
- Motorcoach to Imperial Tombs of China presented by the Memphis Wonder Series.
- Enjoy lunch today at the River Terrace Yacht Club.
- Visit Dixon Gallery and Gardens to view the collection of French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, British portraits and landscapes and the Stout collection of 18th century German porcelain.
- Catch the ducks at 5 p.m. at The Peabody. Then evening of leisure.

Sunday, July
- Luggage out by 9 a.m. Ready?
- Stops for Dutch treat lunch and dinner we travel the back roads to our final destination.
- Arrive in New Orleans for 8 p.m.

Support the AAUW Educational Foundation
Mary E. Dichmann remembered
Lafayette President Joan Fields

Dr. Mary Dichmann is a personification of AAUW’s dedication to the ideals of equal education and opportunity for all, especially girls and women of all races and all places. She lived her ideas and ideals, not as an intense voice that emotionally persuaded people to think and act as she did, but as a thoughtfully reasoned voice.

Dr. Dichmann’s life was meaningfully filled with her years of teaching English Literature, her service as Department head for English (1956-1974) and as Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Behavioral Sciences (1974-1983) at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette. As an administrator of integrity, she listened with attention to negative as well as positive comments and discussions. Her reasoned responses were often seasoned with dry wit that communicated more effectively than answers alone.

Her participation in the AAUW began early in her career. She was first awarded an AAUW Fellowship for doctoral studies for the year 1952-1953; then, in 1960-1961 she chaired the Program Committee for the AAUW Convention in Washington, D.C. She served as President of the Louisiana Division 1961-1963, and as President of the Lafayette branch in 1964-1965. During those years she selected candidates for the AAUW Faculty Program designed to prepare women for a career in college teaching (1962-1964). She was next on the selection committee for International Fellowships Awards (1964-1970). Mary then served as Vice President of the South Central Region in (1975-1979). In 1978, she was honored with the Mary E. Dichmann Endowment for International Fellowships. Three years later, she was chosen as an alternate for the AAUW Achievement Award in Education.

Mary Dichmann lives in our memories as an influence in the work toward opportunities for women and girls throughout our global village.

Women’s health care: direct access to ob-gyns (House Bill 318)
From “Fact Sheet”

As more and more Louisiana women find themselves in managed health plans, there is a growing need to assure them timely access to obstetricians-gynecologists. Some plans now allow women to choose an obstetrician-gynecologist as their primary care providers. Other plans allow women to choose two primary care providers with one being an ob-gyn. However, some plans restrict women’s access to ob-gyn providers. House Bill 318 is designed to allow insurance companies the maximum flexibility in setting up their plans but to assure that women have reasonable access to ob-gyns.

The bill allows plans to offer ob-gyns on their primary care panel and allows plans to offer women the choice of two primary care physicians. It requires plans to allow women direct access to an ob-gyn for routine gynecological care.

The bill does not change payment structures. It does not require health plans to enroll ob-gyns as primary care providers nor does it require ob-gyns to serve as primary care providers. It does not require access to out-of-network physicians. It does not relieve physicians of their responsibility to coordinate care, discuss follow-up and acute care, and be cost-effective.

The bill does eliminate delays and additional costs experienced when a woman must visit a primary care physician to obtain a referral to an ob-gyn. Women know when they need to see an ob-gyn and this bill provides them direct access to appropriate care for their most intimate health problems. This bill strengthens the efforts to advance managed care in our state by eliminating a significant barrier for women.

Myra Sadker’s contribution
Joan Doolittle

Myra Pollack Sadker, 52, died of breast cancer at Georgetown University Hospital on March 18. She is survived by her husband of 29 years, David, and two daughters, Robin and Jacqueline Sadker. The Sadkers live in Bethesda, Md.

Sadker called attention to the classroom climate for girls.

Dr. Myra Sadker was born in Portland, Maine. She graduated from Boston University, and earned a masters degree in education from Harvard University, and a doctorate in education from the University of Massachusetts. A professor at American University since 1973, Dr. Sadker served as dean of the university’s education school at two different periods. Sadker authored or co-authored six books including “Failing at Fairness: How Our Schools Cheat Girls.” She and David worked together on this research. They coined the phrase “silencing” in reference to girls as they are inadvertently discouraged from participating actively in the classroom. Their research showed that girls tend to be ignored, while boys get the teacher’s attention. They documented that boys who raise their hands are called on most frequently, and asked probing questions. Girls are rarely called, and rarely asked complex questions.

Her work examining sexism in education strives to improve learning for girls, and by doing so raises the educational standards for all children in America.

AAUW’s 1995 Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Research and Development Award was given to Myra and David Sadker.
**Victories**

**Louisiana AAUW action 1994-1995**

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<th>Facilitator</th>
<th>Participants/Date</th>
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<td>20 April '94</td>
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<td>for Childhood Education International</td>
<td>Inequity</td>
<td>Nancy Knaus</td>
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<td>Jefferson Parish</td>
<td>Shortchange...</td>
<td>Metairie</td>
<td>1994</td>
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<td>Jefferson Parish School Board</td>
<td>Reinstall Middle/Elem. Librarians</td>
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<td>USL Sex Equity Project</td>
<td>100+ June '94</td>
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<td>Nancy Knaus</td>
<td>20 Sept '94</td>
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<td>LASIP</td>
<td>AAUW supports NSF Gender Equity grant proposal</td>
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<td>APEL Teachers Organization</td>
<td>Gender Equity</td>
<td>Louise Mitchell</td>
<td>5 Jan. '95</td>
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<td>Career/Women</td>
<td>Lisa Stansbury</td>
<td>250 Jan. '95</td>
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<td>*Middle Schools Girls March '95</td>
<td>Women's Hist.</td>
<td>Shirley Colomb</td>
<td>10 March '95</td>
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<td>East Baton Rouge School Board</td>
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<td>Equity Policy, Materials</td>
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<td>Visions: 2000 Careers</td>
<td>Stacy Brown</td>
<td>Sharon Vercelloti</td>
<td>100 March '95</td>
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* Community Action Grant from the Educational Foundation awarded for project.
** Speakers AAUW’s Alice Ann Liedel, and Professors Myra and David Sadker.

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**5 Star La. branches**

Baton Rouge branch achieved star status by accomplishing the following:

- Raised $1.19 per member for LAF
- Sponsored education equity project with a diversity component. Top 10 industries represented, print, TV radio publicity.
- Worked with Health Care Reform, Campaign for Women’s Health, ESEA. Articles in newsletter, postcards written at board meeting, organized Legislative Day.
- Members attended fall cluster, and state convention, 1 will attend at Orlando convention.

Covington-Mandeville branch achieved 5-Stars the second year in a row by:

- A donation of $1.14/member to Legal Advocacy Fund: $55.86
- Community action project: Visions 2000: A Career Fair for 5th-8th Grade Girls funded by a grant.
- Sustained public policy advocacy: letters to legislators on health, participation in Louisiana Women Legislative Caucus, forums on health, participation in school board election, year round school forums.
- Local visibility: press releases and photographs of all AAUW activities.
- Leadership development: non-board members at cluster meeting/convention.

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**Career Conference for Women of All Ages**

Baton Rouge President Dr. Carolyn Ribes

Relying on others to take care of life-long financial needs is a mistake. Half of the elderly women living alone earn below the poverty level with incomes less than $9500 per year. The Baton Rouge branch held a career conference to promote economic self-sufficiency by emphasizing the link between education and employment. The vehicle used to communicate this relationship was a low-cost, half-day conference that featured one-on-one discussions with representatives of the 10 largest employers in the area, as well as experts in career assessment, skills inventories, work-study programs, etc. The conference was designed for women reentering the work force, and for those considering a job change.

This was a great opportunity ... to provide assistance to women searching for (economic) security.

The publicity chair coordinated member appearances on the two morning television programs in Baton Rouge, and coverage in local newspapers. Two members spent one hour discussing resumes, job interviews, the employment market, and answering caller’s questions on KQXL radio.

Over 200 women attended the conference. Survey results were excellent: over 95% of the questions on the organization and content of the conference received answers of good, or excellent.

The conference was co-sponsored by the YWCA, the Department of Women and Gender Studies at LSU and Southern University. Financial support was provided by American Express and the Baton Rouge American Chemical Society.
Meet the AAUW VIP's at Campus Fest in Strawberry Country

SEC Regional Director Ruth Jurenko, Louisiana President Sandra Hufstetler, and AAUW Legal Advocacy President Sandy Bernard at the Hammond convention.

70th Louisiana Convention

The Covington-Mandeville branch hosted the 70th annual Louisiana convention in Hammond on March 31 to April 1.

Dr. Ronald Zaccari, Provost of SLU, welcomed members to “the fastest growing university in the nation.” He said that SLU is expected to have 20,000 students by the year 2000. Sessions of interest were AAUW’s Changing Focus, School Girls, and Virginia Gildersleeve: at Work in the World. High points were presentations on Dynamic Leadership, and E-Mail. Representative Suzanne Krieger, candidate for Lt. Governor for the state of Louisiana, made a lunch-time presentation.


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