



# Indiana Bulletin

Winter 2006

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## From the President

Dear Indiana AAUW members,

It's been a long time since you have heard from me, and so I am glad to have this opportunity to "talk" with you again. At the May State Convention, we recognized and thanked Barb Wellnitz for her ten years as State Newsletter Editor. Barb had decided that she needed to spend time on some other things in her life, and we understood but regretted her resignation.

Unfortunately, it took a while to find another editor, and that's why you did not receive a Fall Edition. However, I am happy to report that we have another fine Newsletter Editor, Janice Greene from the Evansville branch, and you can expect winter, spring, and summer newsletters before the end of the AAUW year.

Allow me to tell you about Janice. She is the Supervisor of Graphic Design for the Evansville Public Library System, and recently she held a one-woman exhibit of her artwork. She also has several of her mixed media displayed in a bank, the VNA Hospice, the Bristol Myers Pharmaceutical Company, and other business establishments. Janice is the Bulletin Editor for the Evansville AAUW branch and has had winning newsletters in the State contest for at least two years. Please refer to the listing for the Indiana Board of Directors in this issue for her contact information and send her lots of items about the good things your branch is doing. Welcome aboard, Janice—and thank you!

Elsewhere in this Bulletin, you will read of upcoming state AAUW activities. However, I wish to call attention to several other opportunities

to strengthen our organization. First, as most of you know, AAUW voted at its Association Convention in June to expand membership to include graduates who hold an "associate or equivalent" degree. The bylaws change to membership eligibility became effective immediately. Now—what have you done to recruit newly qualified persons in your community for membership in your branch? Please let me know how your branch is doing, and send your success stories to Janice.

We have an excellent opportunity in creative programming also. You probably have your programming in place for this year, but I hope that you will plan programs for next year around AAUW's new theme: "**Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security.**" You can find a valuable two-page explanation of it (along with some good links) on the AAUW web site. States and branches have begun to swap information. As an example, the state of Washington reports that its branches hope to combine the theme with financial literacy issues related to financial planning, end-of-life and disability planning, and charitable giving. Also, they are looking for opportunities to work with the Girl Scouts on financial literacy issues. Let Barb Kanning, our Program Director, know your ideas for theme-based programming as well.

So let's keep in touch and support each other in every way we can in 2006. Enjoy the rest of winter, stay warm, and resist the urge to hibernate—because **Equity Is Still An Issue!**

My best wishes,  
*E. Jean Amman, Indiana President*

### In this Issue

Indiana Board of Directors 05-06	2	On Becoming...Pam Thiel	4	LAF	8
Indiana State Convention Agenda	3	Indiana Public Policy	5-6	Indiana Ingenious Ideas	8
		Torchbearer Award & New Office	7		

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**AGENDA for AAUW-IN STATE CONVENTION**

Theme - EDUCATION is the GATEWAY to ECONOMIC SECURITY

**APRIL 22, 2006** at Quality Hotel - **Fort Wayne**

Mark your 2006 calendar NOW - This will be a great day with ideas for our branches!

- 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast, registration, viewing displays  
 9:00 a.m. Business Meeting  
 10:00 a.m. Break  
 10:15 a.m. Introduction and Keynote Address on our theme - Deb Romary of Romary Financial Services and Carol Lindquist, Chief Academic Officer of Fort Wayne Community Schools (Education and financial literacy)  
 11:15 a.m. Break and Viewing Displays  
 11:30 a.m. Session 2 - Workplace Equity - Joy DenHouter, owner of Source One Insurance, an attorney, and a mother of two daughters  
 12:30 p.m. Lunch - Sharing time with other branches  
 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Panel - Equity on Campus - Representatives of Indiana/Purdue-Fort Wayne, IVY Tech State College, Taylor University, and U. of St. Francis  
 2:15 p.m. Great Lakes AAUW Regional Director - Pam Thiel - Summary of our theme - Association info. available to us, and Information on the Regional Conference June 9-11, 2006 Lisle/Naperville, IL  
 2:45 p.m. Wrap-Up -- Information for Branches on implementing this new theme.

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**REGISTRATION FORM - AAUW-IN STATE CONVENTION**  
**QUALITY HOTEL - 3330 W. Coliseum Blvd., Fort Wayne**  
 [Exit 109B - Interstate 69] - Turn RIGHT at light .  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2006 -- 8:00 a.m.**

Please **PRINT**:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone\_( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_  
 Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Meal? \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Credentials: (Circle ONE)

Branch Delegate    Branch Delegate CHAIR    State Delegate    Non-Voting Participant

COST: **\$30.00** when postmarked by April 1st. Postmarked from April 2nd to April 15th will be **\$35.00**. Register Early!

Includes all convention materials, lunch, tax and gratuity.

Checks payable to **AAUW** - sent *with this form* to: Kathleen Richardson,  
 2939 Meadowgate Court  
 Evansville, IN 47711

**There are no refunds.**

Would you like to come on Friday and enjoy Fort Wayne?

Quality Hotel - special AAUW rate: **\$69.00** per room. Contact the hotel directly at 260-484-7711 referencing AAUW Convention before March 29,2006.

# On Becoming... by Pam Thiel, Great Lakes Regional Director



On becoming the best that we can be as individuals, branches, states, and a national Association. Since that first meeting in 1881, AAUW has maintained a rich tradition of leadership, scholarship,

advocacy, and action. I invite you to learn more about and be awed by our past at the **AAUW History Online Museum in the Member Center at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)**. As we look back on this remarkable legacy that has made us what we are today, we need to explore where we want to go in the future.

We could strategically decide to become the preeminent women's organization of the 21st century. If not us, then whom? Today we have more than 100,000 members in 1300 branches, and 500 college and university partners located across the nation. By coming together and building an even stronger voice, we are poised to make a larger difference for women, girls, and families in the future. If we take on this challenge and succeed, AAUW will be the group your great, great grandchildren will read about in history books as being the leader and advocate on gender equity in the 21st century. How can we make this happen? The first step is to visualize and believe that we can make this a reality. The next steps are to take actions that will make our numbers grow. We must work on Membership Programming—no this is not a typo, membership and programming are

inextricably linked and must be developed in tandem. Mission-driven programming coupled with personal contacts for recruitment are keys to increasing our membership. We now have the additional pool of associate degree holders to help swell our numbers. With the vision and will to make it happen, we can become the premier women's organization of the 21st century! To move forward, we must have leaders. Each of you is a leader in your own way because you have influence in your family, with friends and colleagues, and in associations with your community. This is the time of year when nominating committees are looking for members to serve in leadership roles, both large and small. AAUW is a wonderful and safe environment to develop and test your leadership skills that can help you in life, as well as professionally. There are members willing to assist you with that new position, and there are written materials like job descriptions and policies that can guide you on the pathway to leadership. Please consider sharing your time and talents. You will gain satisfaction in knowing that you have helped your state or branch and the community of women and girls.

Another way to enhance our future is to gather together at state, regional, and national events to learn from each other, our partners, and outside speakers. The Regional Conference on June 9-11 in Naperville, Illinois is one of these events. Block out the dates on your calendar. The conference theme is the Power Of Women (POW) and is designed to let you learn from speakers, as well as each other at the Taste of Great Lakes Success, and to allow time for fun and networking. The conference can be a stimulating treat for yourself, a chance to go with branch friends, or an opportunity to get away with your family to the Chicago area.

By building on our past and redefining our future, we can become the best that we can be!

# Indiana Public Policy Agenda

## Indiana Public Policy Agenda

*Agnes George, Director*

The purpose of AAUW's Public Policy Program is to "establish the federal action priorities on which AAUW members across the country will focus their advocacy efforts and guide the work of the national staff... Basic to all of AAUW's public policy efforts is the understanding that true equity requires a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the community (<http://www.aauw.org>)." On a national level, AAUW has provided online resources and tools that empower members to make their voices heard on a number of levels and in different ways. In order to be effective as an organization, we must first be informed, then analyze and articulate positions on public issues in a coherent fashion. This is true of the Indiana AAUW agenda (below) as well as Association policy (online). We are all urged to:

### Get Educated

#### •Join the AAUW Action Network

#### •How do your members of Congress vote?

#### •Check out AAUW issue pages

#### •Sign up for AAUW's *Action Alert* newsletter

#### Get Active

#### •Send a letter to your Member of Congress

#### •Become an AAUW member (for non-members)

#### •Join the AAUW Lobby Corps

#### Get Others

#### •Launch a Voter Education Campaign

#### •Tell your friends and family about AAUW's Action Network

#### •Build a phone tree network in your community



### Indiana AAUW Public Policy Agenda 2005-07

*AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.*

**Indiana American Association of University Women affirms AAUW's long-standing commitment to the passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.** We support:

- Efforts to preserve and protect civil rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights
- Public budgets that balance individual rights and responsibility to community
- Equalization of marital property rights
- Equal access to the political process regardless of race, gender or financial status

#### Pay equity

**Indiana AAUW believes that public education is the foundation of a democratic society.**

We support:

- Academic freedom, educational equity, and gender fairness
- Affordable educational opportunities
- Full funding for mandated public education programs: pre-kindergarten through college
- Mandatory kindergarten
- Vigorous Enforcement of Title IX, including gender equity in sports

*(cont' on page 6)*

*(Indiana Public Policy Agenda cont' from page 5)*

**Indiana AAUW promotes the social and economic vitality of all.** We support:

- Continued legislative funding of the Indiana Commission for Women
- Education and enforceable legislation and intervention for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence
- An equitable and fiscally responsible Social Security program
- A diverse society
- Educating Indiana citizens about sexual and racial harassment
- Enforceable legislation against intimidation and hate crimes
- Acknowledging the legal rights of victims
- Consumer protection under the law

**Indiana AAUW promotes the health and well being of all.** We support:

- Right to safe, affordable and accessible physical and mental health care
- Responsibility and choice in the determination of one's reproductive life
- Measures that ensure equity in health care including research and insurance coverage for the particular needs of all women and girls
- Affordable prescriptions
- Licensed, adequate, and affordable dependent care
- Health promotion and disease prevention programs

**Indiana AAUW believes that global interdependence requires national and international policies that promote peace, social justice, human rights, sustainable development, and mutual security for all people.**

We support:

- A strengthened United Nations and its affiliated agencies
- International programs that address human rights and the concerns of women and girls

**Indiana AAUW recognizes the importance of protecting the environment.** We support:

- Energy conservation, pollution control, and aggressive recycling
- Comprehensive legislation regulating landfill expansion and developing alternatives
- Preservation of natural resources

**Indiana AAUW advocates** for the recognition of women's worth. We support:

- Increasing the number of women in elective and appointed offices and policy-making positions
- Recognition of the value and efforts of volunteerism and care-giving

**Indiana AAUW realizes** the importance of the arts and humanities. We support:

- Public and private funding of the arts
- Expansion and maintenance of library and media services
- Establishment and maintenance of Hoosier historic sites

*Proposed May 21, 2005*

*Revised and accepted May 21, 2005, Indiana State Convention*

*Mitzi Witchger, Director IN AAUW Public Policy, 2001-05*

## 2005 Torchbearer Award for Sports & Fitness

Mitzi Witchger of the Indianapolis branch and former Indiana Public Policy Director won the 2005 Torchbearer Award for Sports & Fitness. The awards dinner was held November 17 at the Indiana Roof Ballroom in Indianapolis. Twenty-one women were honored in various fields for their efforts and accomplishments.



Barb Wellnitz, Mitzi Witchger, Coy Halpern, Georgia Stevens, at the 2005 Torchbearer Award for Sports & Fitness

Mitzi is nationally known for her support of Title IX in her work as a gender equity consultant advocating for equitable sports opportunity for both girls and boys.

The Torchbearer Awards are presented by the State of Indiana to women who have served as torchbearers for us all. The event is sponsored and hosted by the Indiana Commission for Women with the assistance of the Indiana Women's History Association.



Mitzi Witchger, Indianapolis Branch and former Indiana Public Policy Director; E. Jean Amman, Indiana State President

## New Office on State Board

There is a new Office on the State Board. It is **Historian/Parliamentarian**. I, Treva May, am that person. I will need a great deal of help from every branch, in fact every member in the state. The need is for any material that would be suitable to scrapbook. The need is for newspaper articles, information of special programs (programs and pictures), pictures of activities you are involved in. Thank you in advance for the help I am sure I will get. Items may be sent in whatever way is convenient for you.

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## Legal Advocacy Fund

The Legal Advocacy Fund has reached two milestones in 2005. First LAF adopted its 100th case. Secondly, LAF officially became a program of the AAUW Educational Foundation.

As of December 1, the following report was sent to me from the Legal Advocacy Fund regarding Branch contributions:

- Anderson - \$300.00 •Fort Wayne - \$410.00 •Goshen - \$50.00 •Indianapolis - \$270.00 •LaPorte - \$15.00
- Muncie - \$75.00 •South Bend - \$25.00 •South Lake County - \$15.00 •Valparaiso - \$500.00
- Indiana's Total so far for 2005 - \$1660.

I know many of you are sending more. I will make another report in our next bulletin and also in my report for State Convention.

*Phyllis S. Thompson, Legal Advocacy Fund Liaison*

## Indiana's Ingenious Ideas

It is time, once again for all Indiana Branches to begin thinking of their brightest and best ideas to share with all other Branches at State Convention. Forms for submission will be in your hands by January 15, 2006. All forms must be returned by March 15, 2006.

I know all Branches of Indiana have programs that can be shared. Now is the time to share your best.

*Phyllis S. Thompson, 21st Recognition Program Coordinator*