



# Indiana Bulletin

Volume 75, Issue 3, Summer 2009

## Indiana Summer Retreat

Sat., Aug. 22nd, 2009

"Party with a Purpose - Celebrate 50!"

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Central Time Zone

Innsbrook Country Club

6701 Taft St.

Merrillville, IN



- 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM Continental breakfast begins
- 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM Registration & continental breakfast
- 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Business Meeting: Public Policy Voting
- 11:00 AM - 11:20 AM National Convention Impressions
- 11:20 AM - 12:30 PM Nuts & Bolts of Convention by Lisa Maatz, AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations
- 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM Luncheon
- 1:15 PM - 2:00 PM Cake Celebration to recognize all 50-year members attending, by South Lake County Branch
- 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM What's the Secret to Success? by Kay Depel and South Lake County Branch
- 2:30 PM - 2:45 PM Tools to Take Home by Lisa Maatz
- 2:45 PM - 3:00 PM Wrap-up by Barb Kanning, State President

Host: South Lake County Branch, celebrating their 50th branch anniversary!

*\*Bring the 50-year (Honorary Life) members from your branch with you!*

Continental breakfast: Fruit, pastries, coffee, tea & juice

Luncheon includes: Baby greens, grilled chicken breast, mandarin oranges, dried cranberries and raspberry vinaigrette dressing.

### Driving directions to Innsbrook Country Club:

From I-65 (north or south): Take exit 253, then left (west) on US 30 for 2.2 miles. Turn right (north) on Taft St. / SR 55. Innsbrook will be 1.8 miles ahead; watch for cemetery on left, then you'll see Innsbrook on the right.

From US 30 westbound: After entering Merrillville and passing the interchange with I-65, continue west on US 30 for 2.2 miles. Turn right (north) on Taft St. / SR 55. Innsbrook will be 1.8 miles ahead; watch for cemetery on left, then you'll see Innsbrook on the right.

### Some hotels in the vicinity (No AAUW group rate):

Courtyard by Marriott; 7850 Rhode Island Ave. - NW side of I-65 & US 30 (219)756-1600; Hilton Garden Inn; 7775 Mississippi St.- E of I-65 (219)769-7100. Rates app. \$108 - \$129.

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### Special Insert:

2009-11 Public Policy Principles  
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## President's Message

Dear AAUW Friends,

As we approach summer, I'm sure you're ready to "rest and rejuvenate" after a very busy AAUW year. What a great day we had in Warsaw with 14 of our 18 Branches represented! Special thanks to the Warsaw Branch for being superb hosts. Every detail showed their love of AAUW and their efforts to provide us with their best! Your Indiana Board of Directors will be meeting July 18th in Anderson to update our Indiana AAUW Public Policy document and set in motion our goals and plans for 2009-10. We ask for and welcome your input. You'll find our present public policy page in the Indiana AAUW Directory and also in the 2009 Convention Book. In addition, please look at national AAUW's proposals in the latest Outlook magazine, pp. C8 & C9 - to be voted on at Convention.

All of us heading to St. Louis for our AAUW Convention feel the tension continuing to build. The issue of "open" AAUW membership to anyone supporting our mission promises to be the main source of dissension in the proposed bylaws changes to be adopted. I want to assure you --- your Indiana AAUW Board has listened intently to your Branch's opinions and will continue to do so. We promise to not lose sight of AAUW's founding strengths; who we are now; and how we can truly continue to concentrate on educating women and girls to improve equity! I have also met with Ruth Brown, our AAUW Regional Director., who has shared the concerns of our neighboring AAUW colleagues.

With all the uncertainties in mind, Indiana AAUW is moving forward with positive plans for 2009-2010. Deb, Andrea, and I have met to discuss our program focal points for the next year.

We unanimously agreed to bring our ideas/suggestions to the Indiana Board in July. Our Indiana Public Policy document will be the basis for our program attention --- as it has always been. We will actively pursue issues important to us as Hoosiers; areas where we can truly make a difference in the lives of Indiana women and girls.

Our Aug. 22nd meeting in Merrillville will be perfect timing and topics. First, a sincere "thank you" to Kay Depel and the South Lake County Branch for inviting us to join their 50th branch anniversary celebration. We want to also honor all attending AAUW 50 year members ( or more!) for their dedication and service. It'll be an opportunity to revisit our past --- reiterating our mission -- where we've been and why we're committed to AAUW. Also, you'll hear Indiana members share their impressions of our National Convention. And, dynamic Lisa Maatz, from Washington, DC, will be our featured keynote, sharing her views on "Where to Next?" Plan now to come. All necessary information is included in this issue. See you and your Branch's 50 year members then!



*Barb Kanning, AAUW  
Indiana President*

*Barb Kanning, Indiana President*

## INDIANA AAUW WEB SITE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS



On July 1, 1999, following a 60-minute training session and a request to host the site at Indiana State University, the Indiana AAUW web site was born. Located at <http://www.indstate.edu/aauw-in/home.html>, it provides Indiana AAUW members with links to information about Indiana Branches and State Officers. It has provided access to Education Foundation sale items, currently offering the great new bags that were introduced at the April State Convention. Also during the State Convention, I videotaped and uploaded Indiana President Barb Kanning's start of the business meeting, and the afternoon awarding of Branch Recognition certificates by Phyllis Thompson. We have also linked to or announced special events by individual branches. Each branch has its own page containing the following basic information: Year formed, amount of dues, and number of members. The branch member numbers were just updated, based upon the February member counts from National. If a branch has its own web site, there is a link, not only on the web site's

main page, but also on the branch page. Currently, Fort Wayne, Valparaiso, and Muncie have their own sites. At the top of each page on the web site, you will see an email link to [aauw.indiana@yahoo.com](mailto:aauw.indiana@yahoo.com). That's me as well, but provides a standard email link that others can access. If you need to submit ANY information related to your branch, or need to make a correction/update or suggestion, use that email address. I do not check it every day but do check it once a week or so. The Events & Announcements link <http://www.indstate.edu/aauw-in/home.html#EVENTS> is a good one to keep in mind. If you have not already done so, on your own computer, you might like to set up an AAUW Favorites folder and then set a bookmark for at least the homepage [above], your branch, and the State Officers page at <http://web.indstate.edu/aauw-in/officerpages.html>. Web site submission guidelines can be found at <http://web.indstate.edu/aauw-in/submit.html>.

*Marsha Miller*

# INDIANA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS IN ATTENDANCE AT NCCWSL, June 4—6, 2009, University of Maryland

The State Board is pleased to announce that two scholarships of \$300 each were awarded to two Franklin College students to attend the recent National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland, College Park. Here is an introduction to each of these outstanding recipients:

**Elizabeth Kuka**—Elizabeth just completed her sophomore year at Franklin College. She is majoring in Spanish with minors in leadership and psychology, and she holds a nearly perfect grade-point-average. She has been on the college's Student Congress for two years, one year as a class representative and this past year as chairwoman of the Academic Affairs Committee. She works in the Office of Admissions on campus and gives prospective students tours, meets with families, and gives group presentations. Elizabeth is currently the secretary for a new organization specifically designed to advocate for high school Latinos. Her career goal is to work with minority populations in the U.S., specifically targeting younger Latino students.

**Megan Mattingly**—Megan, who just completed her sophomore year at Franklin, also has a very high GPA. Her majors

are Spanish and public relations with a minor in leadership. She, too, has served on the Student Congress for two years, first as a class representative and this past year as secretary. She was invited to attend Board of Trustees meetings and to relay information back to the student government. Like Elizabeth, she has been chosen as a mentor for new students on campus. She is also a cheerleader, and she serves on the Student Entertainment Board. Megan's career goal is to be a public relations professional for a sports team or player. She would also like to do publicity for a Hispanic nonprofit organization.

Both of these young women have agreed to speak about their experiences at NCCWSL if asked by AAUW

branches. Also, I want you know that Professor Kathy Carlson, C/U representative for Franklin College, was very helpful in identifying Elizabeth and Megan as potential scholarship recipients. This shows one of the important ways that we can interact with colleges and universities. Please look for such opportunities in the institutions of higher education in your area of the state.

*Jean Amman, College/University Representative*



## Legal Advocacy Fund

### A Matter of Justice

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund is alive and well. It still needs all of its members to contribute and to communicate its objectives and programs.

To be more specific, AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund provides financial and moral support for those fighting sex discrimination in the workplace and on campus; develops and supports proactive Campus Outreach Programs, produces comprehensive online legal resources, sustains a network of attorneys, advocates for equitable policies and practices for campuses and workplaces. In other words the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund breaks through barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

### New Initiatives

LAF is crafting a manual and Program in a Box focused on campus sexual assault policies in collaboration with the AAUW Research Department, Harvard University Law Professor and Title IX expert Diane Rosenfeld, her students

and Students Active for Ending Rape. These materials will educate individuals about Title IX sexual assault compliance requirements, provide them with tools to help ensure sexual assault policy enforcement, and give them programming ideas on prevention and enforcement. The materials will be released in September 2009.

In collaboration with the AAUW research Department and Legal Aid Society of San Francisco, LAF plans to release a new tool kit and Program in a Box in the fall on Title IX enforcement in high school athletics. These materials will focus on the rights of girl athletes and how schools can and should be approached to ensure title IX implementation and enforcement.

### Reminders

Case support: If you would like to make a case recommendation, please contact [laf@aauw.org](mailto:laf@aauw.org). Forms are accepted on a rolling basis.

Campus outreach: If you would like to

receive funding for an LAF Campus Outreach Program in your community, please fill out the form in the second paragraph on the campus outreach page and send it to [laf@aauw.org](mailto:laf@aauw.org).

Online: For the latest LAF news, visit the website. The LAF landing page is updated several times a week to include links to news articles on relevant LAF issues. The LAF staff also regularly contributes to AAUW Dialog.

REMEMBER AAUW LEGAL ADOVACY FUND NEEDS YOUR HELP.

For further help, questions, comments or if I might come to your branch and speak, do not hesitate to contact me.

*Phyllis S. Thompson,*



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## E-STUDENT AFFILIATES

AAUW has attempted various programs to involve undergraduate students. The latest attempt was announced in October, 2008: the E-STUDENT AFFILIATE. ANY undergraduate student at a college/university that is an institutional member of AAUW can receive a FREE membership to AAUW that lasts until they graduate. Then, in addition, they receive 1 free year of membership under the "Give a Grad a Gift" membership. Every College/University institutional member of AAUW has a person designated as a representative. Some of these representatives are AAUW members and are actively involved in AAUW; some are not. Therefore, it is unclear how much information has been shared on each campus. Currently, these institutions are College/University members:

Butler University  
Franklin College  
Indiana State University-Terre Haute  
Indiana Univ South Bend  
Indiana Univ-Bloomington  
Indiana University Northwest  
Indiana University Southeast  
Indiana University-Purdue University-Ft. Wayne  
Purdue University  
Saint Mary's College  
Taylor University  
University of Southern Indiana

As the C/U representative for ISU, I contacted our Women's Studies faculty and asked them to recommend the names of students they felt would be interested in this membership. The process then required that I enter those names into a special Member database at National. Then, National sent those students an invitation. To date, only one person out of the 15 names I submitted has officially joined. You'll recognize her, Analyssa Noe, if you look at the YouTube video we did, promoting this membership! That video, located at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mau2MpYeHyI> has been viewed 111 times.

## Books...the Other Channel

### Turn off the TV and read!!



Summer reading isn't just for kids. Indiana AAUW's Lending Library contains contemporary fiction and nonfiction titles for your next read. These noteworthy books explore fascinating

and diverse topics. The long hot days of summer provide lots of time to read for fun as well as for enriching experiences. Did you know that just six minutes of reading can reduce stress levels by more than two-thirds? That's better than sipping a cup of tea, taking a long walk or listening to music! The pursuit of knowledge through lifelong learning

has wonderful benefits for adults, especially those over the age of 50! Check with your branch president for a list of available books to "spice up" your summer. Take advantage of this "free reading" opportunity.

*Agnes George, Indiana AAUW Lending*

In late April, I followed up on the other students whose names had been submitted back in November. I asked them if they remembered getting an invitation and if they would like to receive it again. Several emailed back that they would. I asked Ms. Noe for a copy of the email message that National sent her, and, quite frankly, was a bit disappointed. First of all, the Subject line was a bit indirect. And the information could have been put together a bit better. I think I would like to suggest to National C/U, that they give each person, such as myself, a copy of their template, with the links needed to reply/join, but then allow us to tailor the message, with the idea that a local student, getting a message from a local contact, might respond more readily. I am not aware of how the program is working elsewhere, but I think, overall, it is the best attempt to get the undergraduate students to join, and to stay joined, with AAUW. But it is something that each College/University representative needs to be very proactive in pursuing. It is also important that ANY AAUW member who knows a person currently in an Indiana AAUW member institution or any other state's AAUW institutional members, get in touch 1) with that student and 2) with the C/U representative, to get the student included in the process. You can find out which colleges & universities are members by going to [https://svc.aauw.org/join/value/aauw\\_cu.cfm](https://svc.aauw.org/join/value/aauw_cu.cfm). If you are associated with a college or university that is NOT an institutional member, you can also contact AAUW to see how to go about lobbying for that institution to become a member. Information on the benefits of membership for a College/University member can be found at <http://www.aauw.org/About/join/value/colleges.cfm>.

New student members of AAUW have a special page, the Campus Connection at [http://www.aauw.org/About/campus\\_connection/](http://www.aauw.org/About/campus_connection/), that includes links to information, conferences, etc. that they will find particularly useful. There is even a Facebook page, **AAUW Younger Members and Student Affiliate Group** that they can join! To learn more about the e-student affiliate initiative contact AAUW at 800/326-AAUW (2289) or email [coll-univ@aauw.org](mailto:coll-univ@aauw.org).

*Marsha Miller*

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## Public Policy Report

Hello fellow AAUW members! I was pleased to be installed as the Director of Public Policy on the Indiana AAUW Board of Directors at the April state meeting in Warsaw and am really looking forward to this coming year. I first became involved with AAUW several years ago when I was the Director of the Indiana Commission for Women. Mitzi Witchger and Coy Halpern literally reeled me in and I was hooked! I belong to several other groups but at my first meeting at AAUW, when I heard women discussing books, plays, current events – and even politics! – I knew I was in the right place with the right group of women!

I am a graduate of Indiana University and have spent most of my career in public service with state government. I am currently with the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute which is the state's planning agency for criminal justice, juvenile justice, traffic safety, and victim services. I work in the area of domestic violence and sexual assault and am working on a project to develop a professional certification standards program for victim advocates.

Prior to coming to ICJI, I served as the Executive Director of the Indiana Commission for Women for three years and prior to that spent a number of years working with displaced workers as the Director of the Indiana Workforce Development's Workforce Transition Unit. I find that the chapters in my career have all fallen nicely into place, from workforce development (jobs and job loss) to issues impacting all women which then led to a focus on the area of violence against women.

On a personal note, I have been married many years to a wonderful man (Lee) and we have two daughters, ages 22 and 27. In my speaker's bio I always include the statement "*during the girl's teen years Sharon gained valuable skills in crisis management, high drama, and fiscal disbursement that could make a corporate controller weak in the knees*". I am sure most of you can relate to that!

As you all know the national convention is coming up June 26 – 28 in St. Louis. Delegates will be voting on some major changes in the bylaws and Public Policy program. A detailed listing of both is contained in the *Outlook* magazine in the Special Convention Pullout Section, or you can access it online at <http://www.aauw.org/publications/outlook/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=32094> (membership number may be required) or through the Member Services section.

A quick briefing on the proposed 2009-11 AAUW Public Policy Principles and Biennial Action Priorities is included on the following page.

Indiana AAUW Board of Directors will be voting at the summer meeting on new state public policy. Your Board of Directors is very interested in hearing what you have to say. Please email your comments to President Barbara Kanning at [kanning4@aol.com](mailto:kanning4@aol.com) or to me at [slanglotz@cji.in.gov](mailto:slanglotz@cji.in.gov).

*Sharon Langlotz, Director of Public Policy*

### Reminder: Summer Board Meeting

**Sat., July 18th, 2009**

**10:00 AM - 3:00 PM (EST)**

**Anderson University**

**Anderson, IN**



Driving directions to Anderson University:

From I-69 northbound: Take exit 26, then left on SR 9 / Scatterfield Rd. Left on University Blvd. to campus.

From I-69 southbound: Take exit 34, then right on SR 32 / University Blvd. Follow straight in to campus.

Bring money for lunch; a light breakfast / snacks will be served as well.

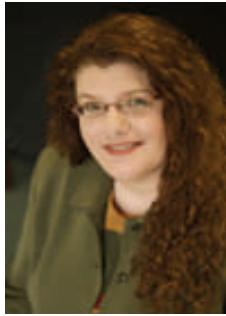
**Officers: Bring your current directory with you to the meeting so you can note updates.**

# MAATZ TO SPEAK AT SUMMER RETREAT

**Lisa Maatz,**

**AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations**

As AAUW's top policy adviser, Lisa Maatz works to advance AAUW's priority issues on Capitol Hill, through the executive branch, and in coalition with other organizations. Maatz was a legislative aide to U.S. Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY). Her grassroots advocacy career



began when she was the Executive Director of Turning Point, a battered women's program recognized for excellence by the Ohio Supreme Court. Maatz's areas of expertise include gender equity in education, Title IX, retirement security, pay equity, and other civil rights issues related to women and girls.

Maatz is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Ohio University, has two Master's degrees from Ohio State, and holds an adjunct appointment with the Women and Politics Institute at American University.

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## Indiana AAUW Summer Retreat

### Registration Form AAUW Indiana Summer Retreat "Party with a Purpose - Celebrate 50!" Sat., Aug. 22, 2009 Merrillville, IN

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary needs: Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_ Diabetic \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Credentials: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch delegate \_\_\_\_\_ Branch delegate chair

\_\_\_\_\_ State delegate \_\_\_\_\_ Non-voting attendee

Cost: \$35.00 (Checks payable to AAUW-IN) Mail to: Pauline Burelli  
5825 Grant Pl.  
Merrillville, IN 46410  
(219)980-2428

**Registrations due Sat., Aug. 8, 2009**

## Time Line 2009

June 26-28      AAUW Convention, Renaissance St. Louis  
Grand Suites Hotel, St. Louis, MO

July 1            Branch Dues Reports DUE

July 11          Indiana Board Meeting, Anderson

Aug. 22         Summer Retreat, Merrillville

Save this Date - April 24, 2010  
Indiana State Convention, Indianapolis, In.  
Details to follow.

### STATE DIRECTORY INFORMATION NEEDED!!

Send your branch officer information — including position/office, name, mailing address, telephone number and email address — to Jane Allerton. Jane has set a goal of July 10 to have the State Directory complete and ready to go for the State Board meeting. Please help her get this complete information. Thanks in advance!

*Jane Allerton, 600 N. Cherry Wood, Muncie, IN 47304, janebaskets@gmail.com*



Janet Brewer, *Bulletin* Editor  
813 Westgate Dr.  
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## 2009-11 AAUW Public Policy Principles and Biennial Action Priorities

<b>Proposed Public Policy Principles</b>	<b>Biennial Action Priorities</b>
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination and supports constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals.</p> <p>AAUW believes that quality public education is the foundation of a democratic society.</p> <p>We advocate equitable and harassment-free climates, academic freedom, protection from censorship, bias-free education and responsible funding for all levels of education including early childhood education.</p> <p>We advocate increased access to higher education, especially for women in poverty.</p> <p>We promote equitable efforts to close the persistent achievement gap that disproportionately affects low-income children and students from minority communities.</p> <p>AAUW promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons. Essential to that well-being are an economy that provides equitable employment opportunities, a livable wage, reduction of poverty, quality affordable dependent care, paid family and medical leave, decent and affordable housing, and quality affordable health care; freedom from violence; and a clean and healthful environment.</p> <p>We support a Social Security system that provides inflation-protected, guaranteed lifetime benefits with a progressive benefit formula, spousal and widow benefits, and disability and survivor benefits.</p> <p>AAUW believes in the right to privacy and choice in the determination of one's reproductive life.</p> <p>We firmly believe in the separation of church and state.</p> <p>We support a fair, balanced, and independent judiciary. We support public budgets that balance individual rights and responsibility to the community.</p> <p>AAUW supports affirmative action to improve racial, ethnic, and gender diversity and affirms our commitment to passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.</p> <p>We support meaningful campaign finance reform and voter education efforts that will promote equitable political participation and representation.</p> <p>AAUW values and is committed to the arts and humanities, which develop and enhance our pluralistic cultural heritage.</p> <p>AAUW believes that global interdependence requires national and international policies that promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development, and mutual security for all people.</p> <p>We support a strengthened United Nations and its affiliated agencies.</p> <p>We advocate implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action from the 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women and subsequent declarations.</p> <p>We affirm our commitment to the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).</p> <p>We support international family planning programs that are consistent with AAUW policy.</p>	<p><i>Biennial priorities for federal action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, strong member support and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution or leadership.</i></p> <p><b>To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity, AAUW advocates</b></p> <p>Adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students</p> <p>Opposition to the use of public funds for non-public elementary and secondary education</p> <p>Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls in elementary and secondary education, including vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education</p> <p>Increased support for and access to higher education for women and other disadvantaged populations</p> <p>Increased support for programs that break through barriers for women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields</p> <p><b>To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW advocates</b></p> <p>Pay equity and fairness in compensation</p> <p>Equitable access and advancement in employment, including vigorous enforcement of employment antidiscrimination statutes</p> <p>Greater availability of and access to benefits and policies that promote work-life balance</p> <p>Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the workforce, including nontraditional occupations and women's entrepreneurship Strengthening programs, including welfare and vocational education, to improve postsecondary education access, career development, and earning potential</p> <p>Strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pension improvements and protecting Social Security from privatization</p> <p><b>To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society, AAUW advocates</b></p> <p>Vigorous protection of and full access to civil and constitutional rights</p> <p>Choice in the determination of one's reproductive life</p> <p>Freedom from violence and fear of violence in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities</p> <p>Increased access to quality, affordable health care and family planning services, including expansion of patients' rights</p> <p>Support for U.N. programs that address human rights and women's and girls' concerns</p>

## Support the Paycheck Fairness Act

### AAUW Marks 46th Anniversary of Equal Pay Act with an Appeal to Senators Urges Lawmakers to Move the Paycheck Fairness Act Forward

WASHINGTON – On the 46th anniversary of the signing of the Equal Pay Act, AAUW urges lawmakers to make real progress on closing the wage gap between men and women by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 182).

Signed into law by President John F. Kennedy on June 10, 1963, the Equal Pay Act prohibits gender-based pay discrimination, but the wage gap remains stubbornly in place. The Paycheck Fairness Act would strengthen the Equal Pay Act by taking meaningful steps to empower women to negotiate for equal pay, to create strong incentives for employers to follow the law, and to strengthen federal outreach and enforcement efforts.

"It's time the Equal Pay Act lives up to its promise to provide equal pay for equal work," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "In 1963, women made just 59 cents on the dollar compared to their male counterparts. Nearly 50 years later, that figure has climbed at a painfully slow pace to just 78 cents on the dollar. Women should not have to face pay discrimination at work, especially during these tough times."

As the recession continues, women are increasingly becoming the sole breadwinners in their families — making pay equity not just a matter of fairness but the key to a family's ability to make ends meet.

"The Paycheck Fairness Act closes serious loopholes that have developed in the Equal Pay Act over the years," said Lisa Maatz, AAUW director of public policy and government relations. "With a strong bipartisan vote in the House in January and 31 cosponsors in the Senate, AAUW members across the nation are working hard to put this bill on the president's desk."

Thanks to the hard work of AAUW and our coalition partners, President Barack Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law in January, sending a strong message that economic issues and pay equity are a top priority. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act restores basic protections that allow workers to challenge wage discrimination, but it's only the first step to fair pay. The Paycheck Fairness Act, along with the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, will help create a climate in which pay discrimination is not tolerated.

Ledbetter herself is a strong supporter of the Paycheck Fairness Act. Although she spent years of her life on a case that will never yield her a dime, she often says that helping working women is her reward. She will speak at the AAUW National Convention in St. Louis, June 26–28, where members will have the opportunity to attend a variety of workshops, including several focused on public policy and advocacy.

