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Arrow

**Meeting Saturday April 23
11:30-1:30
Fairview Park Library
Conference Room C
21255 Lorain Road
440-333-4700**

We will have an update of our Ohio Convention and our speaker will be Meryl Johnson, candidate for the State Board of Education for Ohio District 11. Meryl will present her rationale for running for the Ohio Board of Education. Meryl attended Cleveland Schools and also taught for 40 years in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. She will also answer questions. Meryl also has a radio program on WRUW on Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. Due to Meryl's tight schedule, we will need to begin promptly at 11:30.

Light refreshments will be served. Please email Diane at dianeahl@yahoo.com, text or call 440-364-3465 21 by Thursday April 21 so we can prepare adequately.

The presentation and reception for the Marcene Busch Scholarships will be Friday May 6 from 3 – 4 p.m. at the Mareyjoyce Green Women's Center, Room 142, at Cleveland State University, 2121 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland.

Three scholarships will be given to women in STEMM graduate programs. The reception is planned at this time with consideration for the graduate school women who work to defray college costs. Also, public transportation is a factor for students attending CSU.

State News (aauwoh.org)

Public Policy News: March April 2016

tags: public policy

by admin

By Karen Rainey

AAUW of Ohio Public Policy Chair

Here's the "Issue of the Month" plus other news to share with your branches. Please make time on your September meeting agendas to include an update on AAUW concerns.



Karen Rainey

In this issue:

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- Issue of the Month: Violence Against Women
- Congressional Redistricting Proposal
- Reaction to School Report Cards
- Human Trafficking Coalitions: New Map
- Key Dates: April 8-9, April 12, April 20

Issue of the Month: Violence Against Women

You may wonder how violence against women ties into our program year theme of economic security, but the reality is that violence prevents many women from achieving the

security they need and results in high social and economic costs. Violence is a public health threat; injuries may keep women off the job or unable to care for themselves and their families. The federal Violence Against Women Act, first enacted in 1994, was most recently reauthorized in 2013. (Vice President Joe Biden, the original sponsor in 1994, made a moving appeal at the Feb. 28 Oscars ceremony for ending violence, followed by Lady Gaga's performance of "Til it Happens to You.")

While VAWA has provided a comprehensive approach to this issue, there is much work still to be done. Often the results of violence are fatal or result in severe injuries or unintended pregnancies. We've learned that many of the women and girls who are trafficked or engage in prostitution were first sexually abused. In addition to intimate partner (domestic) violence, there are the areas of military violence and campus sexual harassment and sexual violence.

Three bills pending in the Ohio legislature will be highlighted at the **Women United for Change** legislative event on April 20. They are **House Bill 359**, which would enable victims to conceal their residential addresses and decrease the likelihood of their abuser finding them; **House Bill 362**, which would recognize strangulation as a highly lethal criminal act and provide a felony level penalty when it has occurred; and **Senate Bill 76**, which would allow for the prosecution of a violation of a protection order, even though the order may not have been personally served (abusers find ways to avoid personal service).

AAUW's Quick Facts on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence in School describes the problem in schools and on college campuses, and lists resources for branches, including the Ending Campus Sexual Assault Tool Kit, www.aauw.org/resource/campus-sexual-assault-tool-kit. Branches located in college towns are encouraged to take advantage of these resources.

Violence in the military was addressed at our last convention, when the survivor featured in the 2012 documentary, **The Invisible War**, spoke movingly about her experiences. This film is available through

Amazon and other sources, and brings home the reality of a too-common situation.

Last, another stirring program featured at a recent state convention, the **Silent Witness Project**, honors murder victims of domestic violence. In Ohio, you can find more information through the Women's Center at Bowling Green State University, email womencenter@bgsu.edu.

Congressional Redistricting Proposal Stalled

Efforts have stalled to place a constitutional amendment on the November ballot to change Ohio's congressional redistricting to a process similar to the revised process adopted for state legislative redistricting this past November. By now, we all understand that fair districts equal fair elections, and appreciate the need to move forward. Please call Ohio Speaker Cliff Rosenberger at **614-466-3506** and ask him to expedite placing the amendment on the fall ballot. More information is available at www.fairdistrictsohio.org.

School Report Cards Confusing

The long-awaited school report cards, the first to include new Common Core Standards and based on the PARCC tests, were released in late February. The data had been expected to be confusing and were in fact confusing; the definition of student proficiency had changed from its original meaning; most schools' performance index scores were expected to be lower than the previous year's.

It's been reported that 607 of Ohio's 609 school districts had lower performance index scores from the previous year (2013-14); it's also reported that the Department of Education rated students as proficient that would not be in other states. Nevertheless, the districts are exempted by the legislature

from penalties for poor scores in this year and next, during the transition phase to the new standards and tests.

PARCC was fired by the General Assembly after complaints about the testing process last year. The new test provider is the American Institutes for Research, which had been the provider of the Ohio Graduation Tests. The entire issue is still controversial, and there is still concern about students opting out of the tests. AAUW had been supportive of the PARCC tests as a civil rights issue to determine equality of opportunity. We will be watching to see how this issue develops.

New Map of Human Trafficking Coalitions

Many of our branches have been concerned with human trafficking issues and continue to be supportive of efforts on behalf of survivors. This new map shows that most of Ohio is now covered by anti-trafficking coalitions. Go to www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/ht/coalitions to see the service areas and the names of the coalitions.

Key Dates

April 8-9: Annual state convention, Columbus/Worthington. Public policy sessions will feature Innovation Ohio speakers on the Women's Public Policy Network and Public Policy Agenda, and the president of Restart, a work-release advocacy program for first-time female offenders.

April 12: Equal Pay Day. Check out the branch resources at www.aauw.org.

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Tech Savvy at Stark State May 14

2016 MARCH 2

LEAVE A COMMENT

tags: [AAUW](#), [Alcoa Foundation](#), [Medina County Branch](#), [STEM](#), [Tech Savvy](#)

by admin

Medina County Branch is assisting with the 2nd annual Tech Savvy day sponsored by Alcoa Foundation and Stark State Technical College. It will be held 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m on May

TechSavvy

A program of AAUW

Save the Date!

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016

8:30 a.m. -- 3:30 p.m.



Girls in Grades 6 through 9 (and parents):

**Join us for a day of hands-on fun
with science, technology,
engineering and mathematics!**



On the campus of Stark State College
6200 Frank Ave. NW, North Canton, OH

Registration information at: [http://
medinacounty-oh.aauw.net/tech-savvy](http://medinacounty-oh.aauw.net/tech-savvy)
Deadline: April 30

Cost:
\$5 per student; \$5 per parent/guardian
Breakfast and Lunch are included with
registration

Freebies/ T-shirts/ Handouts
Questions? E-mail us at:
tswohio@gmail.com



Tech Savvy is a daylong science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) career conference designed to attract girls in sixth through ninth grade to these fields and to inform families about STEM education and careers. A grant from ALCOA Foundation has helped to provide funding for this program.

Sponsored by:





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- EQUITY DAY & CONVENTION 2016

April 8-9 in Columbus. [Register Today!](#)

- STATEWIDE EVENTS
 - Northeast Branch meets for program on college affordability [more](#) » on Apr 05 2016
 - AAUW Ohio Equity Day & Convention 2016 [more](#) » on Apr 08 2016

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Please note: Due to Good Friday on April 25, there was no Update for that week. This is the most recent as of compiling the Arrow. If you would like the April 8 Update, please email, text or call me and I will forward a copy to you.

National News (aauw.org)

[AAUW Washington Update](#) <advocacy@aauw.org>

To

dianeahl@yahoo.com

Mar 25 at 4:16 PM



March 25, 2016

Dear Diane,

I'm very excited to join the AAUW team as the Associate Director of Field Services in the Public Policy

department. I took on this role in early February, and have been inspired and excited as I learn more about the incredible work that AAUW members have done in the field, currently and throughout AAUW's history. From supporting women's suffrage and the fight for equal pay, to advocating for more women in STEM, it is a privilege to sit on the shoulders of such giants.

Public service and advocacy have always been central to my life. My parents met on a presidential campaign, and instilled in me the obligation we all have to make our world more just and equal. Prior to AAUW, I was at the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, where I had the privilege to work with the grassroots army that is the Million Mom March. These women (and men!) taught me so much about what it means to work with committed, lifelong advocates. I look forward to bringing that experience and those lessons learned as I grow in this new role at AAUW.

Throughout my professional career I've had the opportunity to serve and work with women and girls of all ages, in wildly diverse environments. Working with dedicated volunteers has inspired me. It's the personal stories of advocates that sustain me. I have seen the pride and excitement of a teenage girl as she told me she would be the first in her family to graduate from high school. I have heard the strength in a retiree's voice as she recounted registering voters in Birmingham in the 1960s. I've known women and girls who, faced with immeasurable personal tragedy, transformed their pain into action and advocated for a better world – so that their sisters, daughters, mothers and friends would live better lives.

It's an exciting time to be joining AAUW, especially with Equal Pay Day less than a month away and the presidential election right around the corner. April 12th will mark the symbolic day when women working full time have their earnings catch up to the earnings of men from the previous year. Last year, AAUW members and supporters participated in [a variety of actions](#) in communities across the country. AAUW branches are planning activities from coast to coast, including bake sales, rallies, and even an appearance from a Lilly Ledbetter impersonator! If you are holding an activity or event for Equal Pay Day in your community, make sure to let us know through the [upcoming events form](#). You deserve credit for your great work, and this is one way to make sure that happens. If you're still looking for inspiration, [listen to the Equal Pay Day webinar](#) held in December to get some ideas, and learn more about the fight for pay equity.

As the saying goes: *If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.* I look forward to taking this journey with all of you.

Katie Simon
AAUW Associate Director, Field Services

Top Stories

House Passes Bill to Allow Inurnment of Women Pilots at Arlington National Cemetery

This week the House [passed](#) a bill (385-0) to restore inurnment rights of Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) at the Arlington National Cemetery. AAUW's CEO and veteran, Linda Hallman, called upon Congress to take action in a [letter to the editor](#) published in the Washington Post over the weekend. AAUW Action Network supporters helped to advance the issue by sending messages to their members of Congress urging them to pass the bill. It now heads to the Senate for passage.

Obamacare Birth Control Rule Goes Back Before SCOTUS

The Supreme Court [heard](#) oral arguments on a case that is challenging the contraceptive mandate in the Affordable Care Act. In *Zubik v. Burwell*, religious non-profits argued that the process of applying for an exemption to the Obamacare contraceptive mandate violates the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act. They state that filling out this form claiming a religious objection to covering birth control is an undue burden on their religious beliefs. Until September, most courts rejected this argument. However, the ruling in favor of this “undue burden” argument by the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last September brought it to the national spotlight. On Wednesday, AAUW members joined our reproductive rights partners in rallying in front of the Supreme Court to rule against Zubik.



High schools failing to investigate sexual assault cases

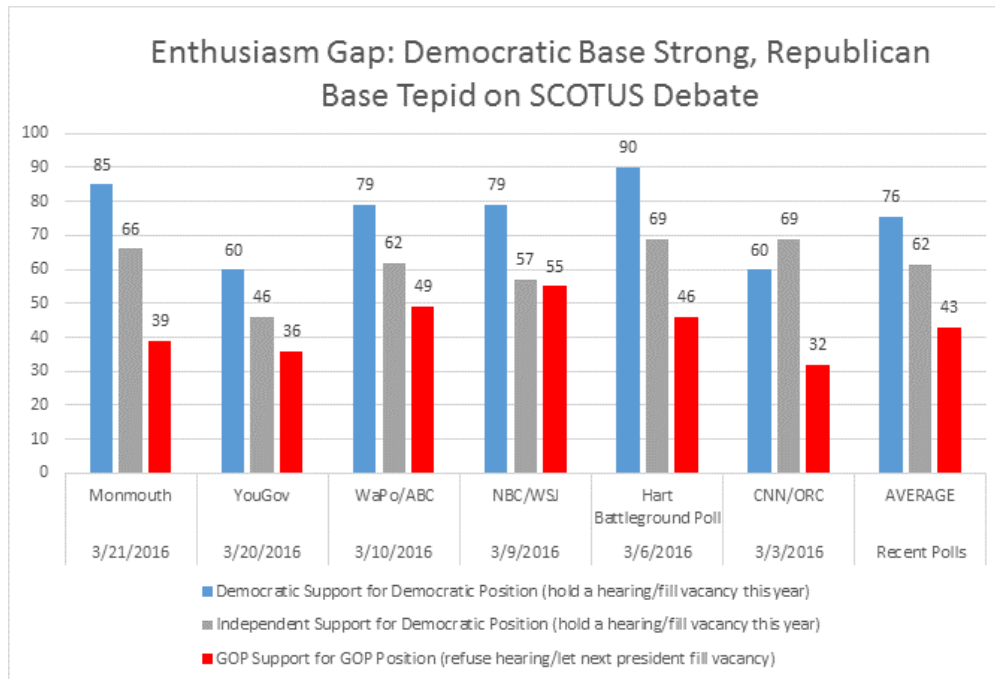

The Huffington Post [reported](#) that high schools across the country are failing to investigate reported cases of sexual assault, and in some cases are expelling survivors. In one case out of Warren, Michigan, a student filed a sexual assault police report and then was subsequently expelled for 180 days. In Indiana, a high school failed to prevent a survivor and accused assailant from coming in contact with each other at the school until the criminal investigation was complete. The survivor in this case was forced to rearrange her class schedule and faced bullying from classmates. To date, the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights has opened 83 Title IX sexual assault investigations.

[Back to top](#)

Supreme Court Report

Senate Republicans Beginning to Budge on Supreme Court Confirmation Hearings

Two Republican senators stated that they do not agree with their party’s decision to block confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland. Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) [claimed](#) it was “not fair” to block consideration of the nominee. She clarified that she has not yet reached a position on how she would vote during the hearings, but reiterated that the vetting process should move forward. Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS) [stated](#) at a town hall that he believes it is his job to hold hearings for Garland, even if he does not plan to vote for confirmation. A recent poll found that self-identified Republicans from the public do not support a refusal of confirmation hearings.

**The President's Supreme Court Nominee:
Chief Judge Merrick Garland**

- More federal judicial experience than **any Supreme Court nominee in history**
- Led the investigation and prosecution that **brought Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh to justice**
- Confirmed to the D.C. Circuit Court by the U.S. Senate **in a strong, bipartisan vote of 76-23**
- **Has tutored elementary school children in reading and math for almost 20 years**

go.wh.gov/SCOTUS
#SCOTUS

More SCOTUS Highlights:

- The Supreme Court handed down its first 4-4 [decision](#) since the passing of Justice Antonin Scalia. With only eight justices currently serving on the Court, the deadlocked decision may be a preview of future rulings. [Hawkins v. Community Bank of Raymore](#) raised the issue of whether the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, which prohibits bias on the basis of sex (and marital status), applies to both the borrower and the spouses who are required to guarantee their husbands' business loans. Lower courts agreed with the banks that the law only applied to the borrowers, not the spouses who were required to guarantee to secure the debt. The one-sentence opinion upholds the lower court decision but does not set a national precedent and does not identify how each justice voted.
- Deans from Harvard and Pepperdine law schools wrote an [op-ed](#) in support of holding confirmation hearings for Merrick Garland.
- The New York Times [released a poll](#) showing that the more historical context people are given about

Supreme Court confirmations, the more likely they are to support hearings held this year in the Senate.

- The New York University Law Review [unveiled](#) an online guide to Merrick Garland's past court rulings. The guide tracks his decisions in areas such as constitutional law, criminal law, and civil rights.

[Back to top](#)

State Spotlight

AAUW-Boise member and retired attorney Amie Bruggeman [wrote an op-ed](#) that was published in the Idaho Statesman this week. Her letter calls on her senators from Idaho to perform the constitutional duty to fairly and expeditiously consider the Supreme Court nominee, Merrick Garland. AAUW Action Network supporters in Idaho sent messages to their senators urging them to ensure that we have a fully staffed Supreme Court sooner rather than later. You can urge your senators in your state to take action [here!](#)

[Back to top](#)

AAUW Cheer of the Week

All Marines will receive [unconscious bias](#) training as more women join the infantry. This test will focus on how people prejudge others based on factors such as race and gender, and principles of institutional change. This decision comes after a recent report found that a significant majority of male Marines at every rank opposed the decision to have women serve in ground combat jobs. AAUW recently released an Implicit Association Test focusing on unconscious bias, which you can take [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

AAUW Jeer of the Week

North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory (R) [signed](#) into law a bill that prohibits cities and counties from passing protections against LGBT discrimination. The General Assembly passed the bill on Wednesday, and the Governor signed it hours later. The new law also prevents schools from allowing transgender people to use the bathroom of the gender with which they identify.

[Back to top](#)

Bits and Pieces

- The U.S. Military is stepping up [investigations](#) of high-ranking officers for sexual assault against subordinates. Since September, the armed forces have court-martialed or filed sexual-assault charges against four colonels.
- Women's pay [decreases](#) as they enter male-dominated fields. A study found that when women moved into occupations in large numbers, those jobs began paying less even after controlling for education, work experience, skills, race, and geography.
- The Department of Labor [submitted](#) a final version of its overtime rule. The new rule sets the salary basis to be \$970 a week, compared to the current \$455 a week.
- The CEO of the Indian Wells tennis tournament [resigned](#) after making sexist comments. Raymond Moore, CEO and tournament director, stepped down after stating that women "ride on the coattails of men" among other lewd comments.
- The House passed a bill [reauthorizing](#) support for millions of older Americans. This bill provides essential services every year to nearly 11 million seniors, including in-home supports, transportation, and job training.
- Arizona lawmakers are attempting to [decrease](#) funding for cities that implement paid sick leave laws. This follows a previous law in 2013, in which state legislators tried to ban cities from regulating wages and employee benefits, which activists successfully challenged in court.
- Two bills aimed at increasing women's participation in STEM careers [overwhelmingly passed](#) the House this week. The first bill would authorize the National Science Foundation to use its entrepreneurial programs to recruit women, which passed 383-4. Reps. Justin Amash (MI), Louie Gohmert (TX), Thomas Massie (KY), Glenn Grothman (R-WI.) opposed the bill. The second bill would require NASA to develop a plan for facilitating mentorship programs between scientists and female K-12 students interested in the field.

- An Alabama state trooper was [sentenced](#) to just six months in prison for raping a car accident victim. Under the agreement made, he will also be permitted to serve his sentence “in increments at his own discretion.”
-