

# **Cleveland Branch Arrow**

Thursday September 19  
5:00 p.m.  
The Hospice of Western Reserve  
David Simpson Hospice House  
300 E. 185<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cleveland

Our first gathering of the Branch will be a Dedication to honor, remember and celebrate the life of members who have served the Cleveland Branch. The check-in is at 5:00 p.m., with the program at 5:30 p.m., and a reception with light refreshments at 6:00 p.m.

If you plan to attend the Dedication, please email me at [msahlers@att.net](mailto:msahlers@att.net).

Thank you for contributing to this community project.

We send a warm welcome to our new member, Eileen Teare who resides in North Ridgeville.

Also, thank you for sending your dues form. For those of you who forgot due to the long, warm days of summer, please use the form attached to this Arrow.

You are needed and appreciated!!! We need to have our voices heard in Columbus and Washington.

The dates and locations meetings for the remainder of 2013 are:

| <u>Date</u>                    | <u>Location</u>  | <u>Topic</u>                                  |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Saturday Oct. 19<br>11:30 a.m. | Clementine's Victorian<br>Restaurant<br>8072 Columbia Rd.<br>Olmsted Falls<br>440-235-1223 | "How Women Can<br>Protect Themselves"         |
| Saturday Nov. 15               | TBA  | "The Invisible War"<br>DVD                    |
| Saturday Dec. 7<br>11:30 a.m.  | Radcliffe Drive<br>Westlake  | AAUW Fundraiser<br>(and holiday<br>merriment) |
| 2014<br>March                  | TBA  | Women's History                               |
| April 11-14                    | Ohio Convention<br>Springfield   | The Year of Action:<br>Advocacy and Action    |
| May 17                         | Cleveland Yachting<br>Club   | TBA   |

### **Member Update**

Laura Smiley Miller continues to recuperate from a fall. She is at the Bradley Bay Nursing Home, 605 Bradley Road, Bay Village, OH 44140. She welcomes calls and cards.

**OHIO AAUW (aauwoh.org)**

## **AAUW on campus**

2013 August 19

[Leave a comment](#)

tags: [Campus Action Project](#), [Elect Her--Campus Women Win](#), [NCCSWL](#), [scholarships](#), [Student Leadership Development](#)

by Paula Maggio

### **Student Leadership Development Applications Open Aug. 21**

Urge students to apply for [AAUW leadership programs](#) starting Aug. 21. The [National Student Advisory Council](#), [Campus Action Project](#), and [Elect Her–Campus Women Win](#) programs are great ways to build our AAUW community on campuses and for you to grow your branch. [Join AAUW staff on a conference call](#) about these programs on August 19 at 7 p.m. EDT. E-mail [leadership@aauw.org](mailto:leadership@aauw.org) to RSVP.

### **Learn about the Impact of the NCCWSL Student Conference from Attendees**

Find out exactly how transformative the [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#) is for attendees. Use the [NCCWSL: Make a Connection](#) resource to forge relationships with students or school staff who attended the conference. Also, share the 2013 [outcomes](#) with your members to plan your role in making NCCWSL 2014 even better.

### **Get Involved with the Next Generation of Women Candidates**

Do you want to see more women running for office? If so, help spread the word to students and colleges about [Elect Her—Campus Women Win](#). [Like](#) our Facebook page to get updates from the workshops (there will be 50 this academic year) and help prepare the next generation of women for political leadership. Elect Her is a great resource for e-student affiliates at your local [AAUW college/university partner member institution](#).

### **Fighting Sexual Assault with Title IX**

A collective of current students and recent graduates launched a website to help students end sexual assault and improve the climate on their college campuses. The [Know Your IX](#) site features stories and resources, including a link to [AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund resources page](#), where you can learn more about campus sexual assault, Title IX, and recent court cases.

### **Need Funding for Grad School or a Career Change?**

This year, AAUW is awarding \$3.7 million in fellowships for women scholars and grants for grassroots projects. Reach out to women in your community and let them know that they could be eligible for funding next year. [Applications](#) are now available for 2014–15. [Deadlines and eligibility requirements](#) are online, and new 2014–15 recruitment brochures are available on [ShopAAUW](#).

### **Know Someone Graduating from College? Give the Gift of AAUW!**

Undergraduates, graduates ... if they tossed their caps in the air this spring or summer, you can [give them a free AAUW membership](#) by completing our [online](#) form. It's no cost to you, but it's valuable to them in their future careers — priceless, in fact!

## **AAUW Ohio Public Policy E-Newsletter**

**By Jackie Evangelista, AAUW Ohio Public Policy Co-Chair,**

[jevangelista@roadrunner.com](mailto:jevangelista@roadrunner.com), 8-29-13

***Dear AAUW Ohio Branch Presidents, Public Policy Chairs and Newsletter Editors:***

Welcome back to a new AAUW year! Since the last e-newsletter, many changes have been instituted at the state level that impact our public policy program, which are covered below. To help motivate member advocacy on these issues, my co-chair, Karen Rainey, and I ask you to institute a new feature at your meetings, a “Call to Ohio Advocacy.” Also, we ask that you please appoint a separate public policy chair. Rather than having

the busy president serve in that capacity, your branch could more effectively align with the AAUW mission of empowering women and girls through **advocacy**, education, philanthropy and research by having a dedicated public policy chair. If you don't have a member interested in public policy, look for a student at your local college to do the job. You might find someone at the Women's Center who is closer to the age of many branch members. Besides presenting our "Call to Ohio Advocacy," your public policy chair could advocate for programs that serve another aspect of the mission: that of education. The demise of journalism combined with busy lives has led to considerable ignorance on the part of the public about women's issues and legislation surrounding them. Please e-mail me contact information ASAP for any new presidents, public policy chairs or newsletter editors so I can update my listservs. **Jackie**

## CALL TO OHIO ADVOCACY

Please announce these points at your first meeting and publish them in your newsletter and on your website.

1. **Medicaid expansion:** The legislature is still studying how to make this work for Ohio. Please tell your legislators that we need fast action to bring coverage to 275,000 Ohioans who don't have health care, especially when the federal government is picking up the bulk of the cost for the first several years.
2. **The "Heartbeat" bill is back:** Reintroduced after no action was taken by the Senate last session, this bill is now House Bill 248. It would prohibit abortion as soon as a detectable heartbeat is found, which could be as early as six weeks, before many women know that they are pregnant. It's still unconstitutional and is specifically designed to provoke a challenge to Roe v. Wade. Hearings may start soon in the House Health and Aging Committee. Please let your legislator know that you and AAUW oppose this bill; if your legislator sits on the Health Committee, your action is particularly helpful.
3. **Plan to attend:** On Wednesday, October 2, at 11:30 a.m., the "We Won't Go Back!" rally will be held at the Statehouse in response to the measures in the 2014-15 state budget that are detrimental to women's reproductive health (see below). The sponsoring organization, the Ohio Women's Action Network, has a Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/OhioWomensActionNetwork>. The intent is to keep women's health care from being pushed back to the 1950's. Plan now to attend—car pools and buses may be arranged.

How to find your legislator: Go to [www.legislature.state.oh.us](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us) and click on either the Ohio House or Ohio Senate to get to your individual members.

Please also look over the attached revision of the chart I display at Ohio meetings that summarizes Ohio legislative actions and in most cases how they fail to comply with the AAUW Public Policy Program. It also outlines the AAUW Public

Policy planks affected and offers suggested actions. These topics are also reviewed in more detail below.

## BUDGET'S IMPACT ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

AAUW branch members should inform themselves about how the budget affects public education. If you can then do something to inform your community, all the better. Letters to the editor, postings on your website and legislator contacts work if your program schedule is full. Here are some points to highlight at a meeting, in your newsletter or on your website about the new budget:

- Failed to restore the \$1.8 billion cut made in the last biennium, but legislators are disingenuously claiming “huge” increases. Two Ohio think tanks do a good job of documenting the impact of budget cuts on public education: Innovation Ohio and Policy Matters Ohio. Here's one blog post from Innovation Ohio that points out that all levies on the August ballot statewide failed and outlines the impact: <http://innovationohio.org/2013/08/07/all-ten-school-levies-for-new-operating-funds-fail/>. Here's a Policy Matters Ohio link that documents the impact of the last biennium's budget cuts: <http://www.policymattersohio.org/district-survey-apr2013>. If any of your members like slogging through education funding reports, attached is one from the Ohio Department of Education that explains the situation without editorial comment.
- Increased charter school funding by \$57 million, which raised the per pupil charter amount to \$7,475. After the state allocation to local schools is used up to pay for these charters, funding for them is deducted from locally-generated property taxes. This has been negatively impacting suburban school budgets, which get little money from the state. Increased millions are going to for-profit charter schools, which heavily lobby state legislators.
- Expanded significantly the voucher program both in terms of allocation and definition. While the vouchers are awarded on a sliding scale, it is possible that families earning up to \$94,000, over twice Ohio's average family income of about \$40,000, can now get one, and anyone can get a voucher even if their local school district is high achieving. Therefore, this legislation changes the claimed original purpose of the program from helping poor children “escape failing public schools” to helping upper middle class families pay tuition in private—mainly religious—schools their children have been attending all along. This is obvious payoff to the religious right. Legislators eluded accountability for this outrageous change by putting this program in the budget thereby eliminating the possibility that citizens would subject it to a referendum.

If any of this makes you angry, get active. Legislators, who already philosophically support privatization, are being lobbied extensively and are not getting the push back from our side that could make a difference. Sadly, only a minority of citizens have children in the schools at any one time, and those associated with running schools are viewed negatively as being prejudiced in favor of public education.

## **MOTIVATE YOUR COMMUNITY TO DEFEND PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Some who attended convention may have heard Youngstown AAUW Public Policy Chair Barbara Brothers talk about a public meeting her League of Women Voters and AAUW branch sponsored about the impact of charters and vouchers on her local public schools. As noted above, because most suburban districts get a small percentage of their income from the state, monies to fund vouchers and charters come from locally-generated property taxes. If your fellow citizens were aware of that and aware of the large number of dollars being siphoned off to charters and vouchers, they might become concerned and become involved in defending public education. Barbara's outline about how to execute this kind of meeting will be downloaded to your computer when you click on this link: <http://aauwoh.org/aauwoh/wpcontent/uploads/2013/08/Brothers-Ytown-Choice-Project.odt>. Download the Excel spreadsheet with the relevant financial information by school district here: <http://aauwoh.org/aauwoh/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/LATEST-RESIDENT-AND-COMMUNITY-SCHOOL-PER-PUPIL-AVERAGES-12-18-2012-FY12-as-of-April-2012.xlsx>. If you have questions about this project, e-mail Barbara at: [bbrothers@neo.rr.com](mailto:bbrothers@neo.rr.com).

## **BUDGET'S IMPACT ON REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE**

Ohio legislators used the same tactic with reproductive choice as public education; that is, they inserted far-reaching changes in the budget so they could not be subject to a referendum. Last year they proposed a bill that would defund Planned Parenthood but did not follow through on it—perhaps because they knew it might be subject to a referendum. Even those who are anti-abortion should be angry about this anti-democratic way of doing things. Here is what the 2014-15 budget does to reproductive choice in Ohio:

- Defunds Planned Parenthood and a number of free-standing, non-abortion clinics that provide mainly poor, often rural, women with health services

- such as contraception, pregnancy care and cancer testing.
- Forbids publicly-funded hospitals from signing transfer agreements (required by the Ohio Department of Health) with abortion providers. Several abortion providers will likely have to close due to this requirement. Pressure is being applied by anti-abortion forces to hospitals currently providing this service. To counter this pressure, find out which hospitals have transfer agreements with the Planned Parenthood outlet closest to you and thank them for offering this service.
- Requires doctors to do an external ultrasound before doing an abortion to look for a fetal heartbeat and estimate the probability of bringing the fetus to term. Those who fail to comply face 6 months in jail. The jail threat most likely will mean that women will be subject to the internal probe since the heartbeat often cannot be detected with the external probe.
- Permits TANF (welfare) funds to be funneled to unregulated “crisis pregnancy centers,” which have been documented as conveying untruthful information.
- Funds rape crisis centers for the first time, but prohibits them from talking about abortion as a way to deal with a pregnancy resulting from rape.

While many AAUW members consider themselves to be pro-life, many of these also believe that women should have the individual right to choose whether or not to have an abortion. It is possible to be pro-life and pro-choice at the same time. The right to choose is in danger in Ohio simply because legislators have devised a phony way to greatly limit access. Phony because transfer agreements are for the most part on paper. Because the hospital offering the state-required transfer agreement often is too far away, patients needing additional care (less than 1%) are always taken to the closest hospital. Ohio hospital emergency rooms are required by law to accept all patients. Phony because the external ultrasound is not efficacious in many situations therefore requiring the more invasive internal ultrasound. Phony because the Constitution guarantees access to abortion in the first and second trimesters and says nothing about a heartbeat. Having a heartbeat does not indicate sentience. Phony because tax-dollars are being funneled to agencies that purvey misinformation. Phony because rape crisis centers can't get funding from the state unless they gag themselves and withhold relevant facts.

If all of this turns your stomach, get a carload together and come to the rally outlined at the top of this newsletter.

## SHORT TAKES

- You might enjoy this fiery article by now great defender of public education, Diane Ravitch: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/diane-ravitch/keep-your-disruption-out-b\\_3791295.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/diane-ravitch/keep-your-disruption-out-b_3791295.html), this article about her in the latest issue of The Atlantic



- Magazine: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2013/09/the-counterrevolutionary/309427/>, and her new book, *The Reign of Error: The Hoax of the Privatization Movement and the Danger to America's Public Schools*.
- If you are interested in defending public education, check out the National Opportunity to Learn website: <http://www.otlcampaign.org>.
  - Celebrate Women's Equality Day (albeit a bit belatedly) at your first meeting. Here are some ideas: <http://www.aauw.org/2012/08/25/five-ways-to-celebrate-womens-equality-day/>, <http://www.aauw.org/2013/08/20/on-womens-equality-day/>, [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/elisabeth-macnamara/165-years-since-seneca-fa\\_b\\_3610678.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/elisabeth-macnamara/165-years-since-seneca-fa_b_3610678.html), and <http://www.nwhm.org/blog/celebrate-equality-day/>.
    - **Just received an Action Alert asking our legislators to do something to fix the Supreme Court decision that overturned much needed sections of the Voting Rights Act. If you received it also, please respond to it and forward to your branch members, who may not be signed up with the Action Network. Better yet, ask them to sign up!**

## AAUW National (aauw.org)



August 16, 2013

In just a few weeks, Congress will gear back up again and turn to important issues such as immigration and the federal budget. **Are you set to receive the latest updates every day, not just on Fridays in this e-newsletter?**

The best way to stay in the loop is to follow [AAUW public policy updates](#) and the [AAUW Action Fund](#) on Twitter and like the [AAUW](#) and [AAUW Action Fund](#) Facebook pages. We post action alerts, breaking news, and reactions to the latest policy developments on those social media channels, so you'll always be one step ahead of the game. And you'll still have *Washington Update* every Friday to provide additional analysis on the news and resources to help you take action.

Tune in to AAUW on social media today, and enjoy the rest of your summer!

### The One Thing You Must Do...

Find a town hall meeting in your area so you can [ask your elected officials about the women's economic agenda!](#)

### But Because You Want To Do More...

There's always strength in numbers: Once you find a town hall meeting or similar event in your area, [let us know](#) and we'll create an RSVP page for you to help spread the word!

### Get Social

Liz Owens  
AAUW Political Media Coordinator

## Top Stories

### Department of Education Revises State NCLB Waiver List

The Department of Education [announced](#) on Monday that Maine has received a waiver from the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). The department has now granted 40 state NCLB waivers but has [listed](#) the Kansas, Oregon, and Washington waivers as “high-risk.” Those states have been told they need to improve their teacher and administrator evaluation systems.

### Pay Gap Persists at Top of the Corporate Ladder

Considering the salaries of the five highest-paid employees at Standard and Poor’s 500 Index Companies, new [analysis](#) from Bloomberg shows that female executives make an average of 18 percent less than their male colleagues. On average, women make [77 cents](#) for every dollar men make, hurting women and families of all incomes.

### NC Governor Signs Voting Restrictions

North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory [signed](#) an elections overhaul law on Monday which implements [voter identification requirements](#), limits early voting, and eliminates same-day voter registration. The law also includes a dozen additional provisions that voting rights advocates [say](#) makes the North Carolina law the strictest in the country. The new law comes on the heels of the Supreme Court’s decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, which invalidated a portion of the historic Voting Rights Act, making it easier for states to enact laws like North Carolina’s.

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## AAUW State Spotlight: All States

### Polaris Project Releases 2013 State Ratings on Human Trafficking

Polaris Project, an organization that fights human trafficking and slavery, [released](#) its 2013 state ratings to evaluate state laws aimed at preventing human trafficking, punishing traffickers, and supporting survivors. Polaris Project identified Arkansas, Wyoming, Mississippi, and New Jersey as the most improved states in 2013.

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## AAUW Cheer of the Week

The Department of Defense [announced](#) it will extend benefits to its employees’ same-sex spouses, in accordance with the Supreme Court’s June decision striking down the Defense of Marriage Act. The department also announced it will implement policies allowing members of the military to take non-chargeable leave if they need to travel to a different state to legally marry a same-sex partner.

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For today’s Friday afternoon YouTube break: [Disney princesses for equal pay!](#)

### New Resource

Don’t forget to participate in Monday’s conference call about AAUW’s campus leadership programs! AAUW is looking for our next Student Advisory Council (SAC), Campus Action Project grant recipients, and Elect Her–Campus Women Win training sites. [Get what you need to know on a conference call with the experts](#) on **Monday, August 19 at 7 p.m. EDT.**

## AAUW Jeer of the Week

In a recent policy disagreement about standardized testing in public and private schools, North Carolina House Majority Leader Skip Stam [said](#) State Superintendent of Public Instruction June Atkinson "should stick to her knitting." Stam gets a jeer for his unnecessary and sexist attack on the superintendent—and for mixing up the fact that yes, standardized testing in North Carolina schools is indeed in her purview!

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## Bits and Pieces

- *The Salem News* [profiled](#) new AAUW President Patricia Fae Ho this week. Don't miss her comments about the importance of legislative advocacy and helping women build careers in STEM fields!

- Newark Mayor Cory Booker and former Bogota mayor Steve Lonegan [won](#) the Democratic and Republican primaries, respectively, for New Jersey's open Senate seat on Tuesday. The general election to fill the seat vacated by the late Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D) will take place in October.

- The Obama Administration has [delayed](#) the implementation of the Affordable Care Act's out-of-pocket spending limits until 2015.

- Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel [announced](#) a number of new measures that the Department of Defense will take to prevent and respond to sexual assault in the military.

- While AAUW applauds the department's recognition of the problem, we call on Congress to fundamentally change how sexual assault is handled in the military by passing the STOP Act (H.R. 1593): [Take action on this bill today!](#)

- Four Army women have [broken](#) a glass ceiling by becoming the first women to attain a certain tank systems maintenance certification.

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# MEMBER DUES FORM

American Association of University Women – Cleveland Ohio Branch

Effective Dues Period July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

|                             |                   |          |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Regular Member              | full annual dues  | \$74.00  |
| Life Member                 | state/branch dues | 27.00    |
| Dual Branch Member          | branch dues       | 16.00    |
| Student Member              | branch dues       | 20.00    |
| Total dues for current year |                   | \$ _____ |
| Branch Contingency Fund     |                   | \$ _____ |
| General Branch Support      |                   | \$ _____ |

PLEASE WRITE SEPARATE CHECKS FOR DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS (as requested for IRS purposes)

Please make your check(s) payable AAUW CLEVELAND BRANCH and return this form to:

Diane Ahlers  
2050 Radcliffe Drive  
Westlake, OH 44145

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Degree/Year

Institution

Location

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