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Arrow

Branch News

We now have our Branch website up and running! It is <http://cleveland-oh.aauw.net>. You can go directly to the website or through national's website: aauw.org. Information will be posted by our new webmaster Tina Gangidine. Tina will forward items to State and National for posting. Her email is tina44044@yahoo.com For those members who want paper copies, please let me know.

We also have a publicity chair, Jean Rogers. She will disseminate information regarding upcoming Branch events.

Increased visibility will aid in increasing membership. Spread the word!

Araminta Green has rejoined us. Welcome back! Please send her a card at 12000 Fairhill Road, No. 318, Cleveland, OH 44120-1054.

Also, thanks to diligent networking, Helene Cushenan located Mareyjoyce Green. She resides at MacGregor House, 14900 Private Drive, Cleveland, OH 44112. Mareyjoyce would love to hear from you. Please send her a card. For our new members, Mareyjoyce was President of the Ohio AAUW and also president of our Branch. Cleveland State University established the Mareyjoyce Green Women's Center in her honor.

Congratulations and a warm thank you to our members. The annual Educational Fund and Legal Advocacy Fund raised \$300! We are small, but mighty!

Our next meeting is Saturday March 14. Please mark your calendars since speaker will be Virginia Beckwith from Genesis House (a women's shelter in Lorain). Specific information will follow.

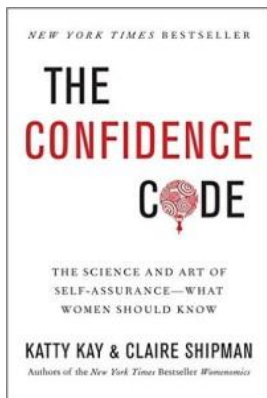
State News (aauwoh.org)

AAUW Ohio Equity Day & Convention 2016

Women Rock the World

AAUW Ohio Equity Day and Convention 2016 will be held April 8-9, 2016, at the [Crowne Plaza Columbus North-Worthington](#). This year's theme is "Women Rock the World."

Please note we are changing up the format for this event. It will be held on Friday and Saturday, instead of Saturday and Sunday. Northeast District branches will host.



The Cleveland Branch is included in the Northeast. We will need to help, and I will be calling for volunteers.

The All-Convention Read is *The Confidence Code: The Science and Art of Self-Assurance: What Women Should Know* by Katty Kay & Claire Shipman (2014).

You will be updated about convention news. You can also access news at aauwoh.org.

AAUW of Ohio

advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research

Public Policy news for December

2015 DECEMBER 21

tags: [public policy](#), [AAUW of Ohio](#)

by admin

By Karen Rainey, Public Policy Chair

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

In this issue:

- Issue of the month: Women and Health Care
- Update on defunding Planned Parenthood
- Giving opportunities

Women's Health: An Economic Indicator

It's been open enrollment season for choosing a health care insurance plan, with plenty of advertising to promote a variety of plans. This emphasis leads us to take a look at health care resources available to women, who now make up 48% of Ohio's workforce. Many families depend on working mothers for their well-being, even their survival. Women's health care is fundamental to achieving economic self-sufficiency, and yet many women have limited access to services. Illness, lack of sick leave, lack of disability insurance, lack of access to family planning services, being a caregiver—all take a toll on women's ability to provide for themselves and their children.

Let's look at how this plays out in Ohio—here are some statistics relating to women's health care from a report recently issued by the Center for Reproductive Rights, which cited numerous research studies from government and private organizations (www.reproductiverights.org).

- Ohio ranks 28th out of 51 in the country on overall indicators of women's and children's health and well-being, tying with West Virginia. These indicators include the percentage of women without health insurance, the percentage of women with no personal health care provider, the maternal mortality rate, and the prevalence of sexual violence. Other indicators were the cervical cancer screening rate, the percentage of women reporting poor mental health, and HIV incidence.
- Ohio only performs better than the national average on 21 of 62 indicators of women's and children's health and well-being; national averages that are already considered to be relatively poor compared with many other developed countries. Indicators here include the percentage of children with a medical home, the percentage of children with emotional, developmental, or behavioral problems that received care, and the percentage of teens who abuse alcohol or drugs.
- Women and children in Ohio face poor health outcomes and numerous social and economic challenges, meeting the benchmark on only 8 of the 30 women's and children's health outcomes and only 1 in 10 indicators on social determinants of health. Of these measures, Ohio did not meet the benchmark on the percentage of women and children in poverty, household food insecurity, or gun safety laws.
- There is a high correlation between the number of abortion restrictions enacted in a state and its overall score on indicators of women's and children's health and well-being; the more restrictions, the worse the score.

On the plus side, Ohio has expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, improving access to health care for women and children; Ohio's policies also ease renewal of

Medicaid. Another plus is that the state requires the training of health care providers to deal with victims of domestic violence, and soon will expand this to include training to identify human trafficking victims.

There is much work to be done to improve policies that benefit women and children. For starters, you can share AAUW's [Quick Facts on Work-Life Balance](#) and on [Women and Health Care](#) with your branch members. It's important that we inform ourselves so that we can advocate effectively for the policies we need. More information, and a focus on paid sick leave, will be included in the January Public Policy News.

Defunding Planned Parenthood

Two identical bills have passed in Ohio's General Assembly, one in the Senate and one in the House. It's not clear which bill will go forward to the other chamber and then on to the governor (who has already committed to signing it), but it is clear that Planned Parenthood will lose around \$1 million in federal funding annually. Specifically banned were funding from the Violence Against Women Act and the Breast and Cervical Cancer Mortality Prevention Act.

The votes in both chambers were almost entirely along party lines. Rep. Kathleen Clyde, our keynote speaker at the August leadership conference, was prevented from speaking against the House bill (HB 294) when it came up for a vote on the House floor, so she entered her comments in the House Journal, excerpted here. In protesting the cuts to the wide range of services provided by Planned Parenthood, she said:

"We are not even pretending anymore that the tidal wave of abortion restrictions are just about abortion. This bill and its many companions are about shaming, judging and controlling women. . . . This bill will hurt women, girls, and the men who also choose Planned Parenthood.

This bill imposes a gag rule on any organization, not just Planned Parenthood, that provides rape and dating violence education, cancer care, infertility prevention, HIV/AIDS services, and infant mortality prevention IF that organization even mentions abortion as an option for women. With no exception for the life and health of the girl or woman.”

You can read the entire protest letter at www.ohiohouse.gov/Kathleen-Clyde/press. Watch for an action alert requesting the governor to veto the bill—we want to be on record in opposition.

Giving Opportunities

In keeping with AAUW Ohio’s focus on women and children in need, here are some resources for branches to explore giving opportunities this holiday season and after:

- Action Ohio Coalition for Battered Women has suggestions at actionohio.org.
- The Ohio Domestic Violence Network accepts cash donations at odvn.org.
- Gracehaven, the shelter for teen victims of human trafficking is now open and accepting donations; more information is available at gracehaven.me.

Your feedback is important. Please send your questions or comments to me at kgraauw@yahoo.com.

National News (aauw.org)

Congress is on recess. The following is an excerpt of compiled quotes from various individuals.

Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely - Lord Acton

10 QUOTATIONS ABOUT POLITICIANS

1. A politician needs the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month, and next year. And to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn't happen - *Winston Churchill*
2. **An honest man in politics shines more there than he would elsewhere - *Mark Twain***
3. Since a politician never believes what he says, he is quite surprised to be taken at his word - *Charles De Gaulle*
4. **When buying and selling are controlled by legislation, the first things to be bought and sold are legislators - *PJ O'Rourke***
5. Mothers all want their sons to grow up to be president but they don't want them to become politicians in the process - *John Fitzgerald Kennedy*
6. **Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber - *Plato***
7. Statesmen tell you what is true even though it may be unpopular. Politicians will tell you what is popular, even though it may be untrue - Anonymous
8. **A politician thinks of the next election—a statesman of the next generation. ~ *James Freeman Clarke***
9. Now I know what a statesman is; he's a dead politician. We need more statesmen - *Bob Edwards*
10. **Suppose you were an idiot and suppose you were a member of Congress But I repeat myself - *Mark Twain***

Happy New Year!