

## 2014-2015 Leadership

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## 2014: The Year of the Feminist

By: Ayesha Kirk



As the year comes to a close, I cannot help but reflect on the fight for equality and the often belabored title of “feminist.” Throughout the year, various media outlets have continuously offered op-ed articles aimed at defining the term feminist. Not only has the definition of a feminist been a hot topic, but as of late numerous individuals have argued about the commercialization of the term and the feminist movement itself. Does the use of neon lights and splashy advertisements emblazoned with the word feminist somehow negate the goals of those fighting for equality for women? The notoriety of newly minted “feminist” stars such as Emma Watson and Beyoncé may bring more attention to the issues surrounding equal pay and gender bias. However, celebrity interest in the ongoing battle against the marginalization of women within our society cannot be taken for more than what it is. Although the interest has peaked within the general population in terms of identifying oneself as a feminist, we must ensure that young women and men understand the issues at hand. In the fight for equality for women and girls, our actions speak louder than the labels society deems necessary to define our cause.

## Reminder: December Holiday Gathering

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover

Our December meeting is an opportunity to gather together and to celebrate our contributions to AAUW Funds. We will vote on the proposed allocation of our donation to the AAUW Funds, and we will announce our Branch's Named Grant Honorees in whose names our Funds are donated. We will also learn how AAUW Funds are being distributed in our community. In addition, we will have a silent auction to raise additional monies for the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF), which works to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. Participation in the silent auction is completely voluntary, but if you wish to donate an item for the auction, or to bid on the items there, your contribution is welcome!

### DECEMBER BRANCH MEETING DETAILS:

Date: December 7, 2014

Time: 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Location: Mary and Darwin Womack's Residence

3945 Club Drive, N.E. Atlanta, GA 30319

## Gender and Diversity in Scientific Endeavors

By: Blondie Chitunya Wilson



Gender is a universal but sensitive issue that impacts values which are culturally determined such as personal identity and power. Today we look at the relationships

between men and women differently than in the past. For example, any form of discrimination against women can no longer be tolerated now on equity grounds, nor can it be justified in terms of social efficiency; women's productive capacities are an essential ingredient in improving the quality of life for all.

According to National Academy of Science (NAS), women faculty members at research institutions in male dominated fields of science and engineering typically receive fewer resources than their male counterparts. NAS findings also indicate that women have the ability and drive to succeed in science and engineering, but women who are interested in engineering careers are lost at every education transition. For each step up the academic ladder from high school to college, more women than men who have expressed an interest in science and engineering decide to major in something else. In the transition to graduate school more women than men with science and engineering degrees opt into other fields of study. From doctorate to first position, there are proportionately fewer women than men

in applicant pools to tenure-track positions. Active recruitment can possibly overcome this deficit. However, eliminating gender bias requires that government, professional organizations, corporations, and work places be reformed with decisive actions.

While women have earned over 30% of the doctorates in social sciences and behavioral sciences and over 20% in the life sciences, only 15.4% of full professors in the social and behavioral sciences and 14.8% in the life sciences at top research institutions are women, and these are the only fields in science where the proportion of women reaches into the double digits. In addition, women from minority and ethnic backgrounds are virtually absent from the nation's leading science and engineering departments.

In her book, *Fear of Diversity*, Arlene Saxon House describes how Plato and Aristotle dealt with the fear that differences bring on chaos and disunity. Research demonstrates that women are likely to face discrimination in the field of science and engineering. Women in the United States have been told for decades they need to enter science at the bottom in order to make their way to the top without evidence of improving their academic status. This situation has been going on for too long. Those in the scientific elite must take it to bring about genuine gender diversity in all fields of scientific endeavor.

## Contemporary Literature Group: December Gathering

By: Kay Collins



On Monday, December 1, 2014 the Contemporary Literature Group will meet at noon for lunch and discussion of *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich. During the December Contemporary Literature gathering, there will also be a book exchange. Please bring your favorite book, an oldie-but-goody and be sure the book is not one that we have read in group recently. The book need not be new, but it should be in good condition. Be sure to wrap the book (but do not put the title or any identifying information on package).

Please contact Kay Collins for location information. We hope to see you at the last Contemporary Literature gathering of the year!

## AAUW Atlanta Branch: President's Message

By: Dr. Myra Carmon



There is an exciting opportunity for you to have a voice in the AAUW National Election by commenting on or proposing changes to bylaws amendments, Public Policy Program updates, and resolutions. To do this, review these documents on the AAUW website at the AAUW National Election page. If you click on each of the changes, you can review the existing documents and find explicit guidelines for commenting or proposing an amendment to the proposed changes to the Bylaws and Public Policy Program. You can also make a Resolution on a topic not covered by the Bylaws. The proposed Bylaws changes include:

**Article III. Use of Name. Section 2.** Proper use of Name and Logo. This change relates to organizations, branches, and other AAUW affiliated initiatives complying with current laws and IRS regulations to use the name and logo.

**Article IV. Section 3. Elections. B.** This proposed amendment defines a process for filling vacancies that occur after voting has begun in an AAUW election.

**Article VI. Officers and Directors. Section 1.a.** This proposal would change the title of the president and vice president to board chair and board vice chair. If accepted, these changes would propagate throughout the bylaws.

**Article IX. f. Terms of office for committee members.** Committee members serve a two year term and can be reappointed for another term. The proposed amendment would allow members to serve another two term on a different committee.

There are a variety of editorial changes suggested for **Article X. Section 1.3 and 4, Article XI. Branches. Section.1, Article XII, Article XIII, and Article XIV.**

Proposed changes to the introduction of the AAUW **Public Policy Program** include greater emphasis on the priority of women in policy and decision making positions. There are editorial changes and changes in emphasis proposed for Public Policy Principles for Action in paragraphs 2,3,4,5, and 6. There are also proposed changes to our Biennial Action priorities in paragraphs 1, 2 and 4.

The AAUW National Election page also has directions for submitting resolutions. A resolution is an idea about something not covered in the bylaws.

The application deadline to run for an elected position on the board has passed. Candidate profiles will be posted online January 29<sup>th</sup>. Please review and vote on your leadership.

Make your voice heard through comments on the Bylaws and Public Policy Program proposals or by writing a resolution. December 5, 2014 is the deadline. All these things impact what we do as a Branch, so please take time to review them, whether or not you submit any comments.

Myra Carmon

President, Atlanta Branch AAUW

## 2014 AAUW Funds Contribution Recommendation

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover



Contributions to the AAUW Funds advance our priorities by sustaining programs that advance equity for women and girls, strengthen AAUW's role in the global community, and attract new participants in our mission. \$11,000 was allocated to the AAUW Funds in the last Atlanta Branch Community Fund budget. Atlanta's AAUW Funds committee has proposed, and the Board has approved the following recommended allocation of those funds. Please come to the December meeting prepared to discuss this recommendation and to vote on the matter.

The Legal Advocacy Fund	Supports the protection of the legal rights of those who are facing discrimination. Supports all the following tax-deductible programs; case support, travel and education grants, campus outreach projects.	\$3,000
Public Policy Fund	Supports advocacy for public policies and laws that are fair to women. Public Policy programs include Government Relations, Civic Engagement, and Field Organizing.	\$2,000
Leadership Programs Fund	Supports programs that develop women's potential to lead in their schools, communities, and country. Programs include National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), Campus Actions Projects and Elect Her.	\$1,000
Eleanor Roosevelt Fund	Supports AAUW research to provide analysis, data, and accurate information about issues important to women and girls, i.e. <i>The Simple Truth Behind the Gender Pay Gap</i>	\$2,000
Educational Opportunities Fund	Supports educational and lifelong learning opportunities that give women a chance for a lifetime of success. Programs include Fellowships and Grants, The Fellows Alumnae Initiative, The Undergraduate Scholarship Clearinghouse.	\$3,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,000</b>

## December Outing: Atlanta Branch Travel Group Update

By: Betty Arden



The AAUW Travel Group will meet at 10:00 am on December 11, 2014 to carpool to Neiman Marcus at Lenox Square Mall.

The group will view the 2014 holiday preview sale for Trinity School's *2015 Spotlight on Art* exhibit. The art display will include a wide range of gift-worthy and collectible art.

Lunch will follow in the Neiman Marcus restaurant.

Please contact Betty Arden for further information.

# AAUW Atlanta Branch 2014: End of the Year Reflections



## Revised Standing Rule: Atlanta Branch Archives

By: Pat Bevis



As instructed by the Board on 10/4/14 and with the wording provided by Wendy Venet, below is the revised Standing Rule regarding the location of the AAUW Atlanta Branch Archives:

### I. A. Permanent Records:

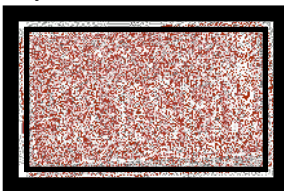
The permanent records of the branch shall be deposited in the Special Collections and Archives, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA and are accessible to any person wishing to research the material. The AAUW Atlanta Branch category shall be the responsibility of the historian. The original copy of the minutes in the Archives will be the official record of the AAUW Atlanta Branch. The most recent biennium records shall be placed in the Archives a minimum of every four years. The president will maintain a copy of the minutes of the immediate previous biennium.

Bylaws Committee,

Pat Bevis, Chair/Kay Collins

## Bookroom Holiday Closing

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover



The Bookroom will be closed from Tuesday, December 23 to Saturday, January 3 so that we can celebrate with our friends and family.

If you need access to the Bookroom during that period, please contact Sharon Bevis-Hoover. See you in 2015!

## Submit Newsletter Articles

By: Ayesha Kirk

The deadline to submit articles for the January newsletter is December 20, 2014. Please email your articles to me at [publications@aauwatlanta.org](mailto:publications@aauwatlanta.org). I always welcome any ideas or feedback for the newsletter you would like to send my way. Thank you for your assistance.

## Table of Contents

- 2014: The Year of the Feminist Pg. 1
- December Holiday Gathering Pg. 1
- Gender & Diversity in Scientific Endeavors Pg. 2
- Contemporary Literature Group Pg. 2
- President's Message Pg. 3
- AAUW Funds Contribution Recommendation Pg. 4
- Atlanta Branch: Travel Group Update Pg. 4
- AAUW End of Year Reflections Pg. 5
- Revised Standing Rules: Branch Archives Pg. 6
- Bookroom Holiday Closing Pg. 6
- Call for Newsletter Articles Pg. 6

## Calendar

December 1, 2014 - Contemporary Literature Group

December 7, 2014 - AAUW Atlanta Branch Holiday Celebration

December 11, 2014 - Lenox Square Mall Travel Group Outing

December 13, 2014 - Cool Girls: Holiday Shopping Extravaganza

December 20, 2014 - Newsletter Article Deadline

December 23, 2014 - January 3, 2014 - Bookroom Holiday Closure

January 5, 2015 - Contemporary Literature Group

January 24, 2015 - Cool Girls: Resumes, Interviewing, Jobs...Oh My!