

AAUW dates to remember

Jan. 12, 2012
9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

3rd Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Day

Statehouse Atrium
Columbus

Sponsored by State Senator Teresa Fedor and NASW

Free and open to the public.

For information or to RSVP, contact Marta Mudri at 614-644-6017 or Marta.Mudri@ohr.state.oh.us.

RSVP by Jan. 9.
CLEs and CEU credits pending

April 13-14, 2012

AAUW Ohio Equity Day & Convention

Findlay Inn, Findlay
Organizers:
Northwest Branches

Join AAUW Ohio on our [website](#), on [Twitter](#) and on [Facebook](#).

Save April 14-15 for our statewide Equity Day and Convention at Findlay Inn

We hope to see all you at [AAUW Ohio's Annual Equity Day and Convention](#), April 14-15 in Findlay.

The theme is *Building a Strong Community: Leading, Advocating and Educating* at this two-day event held at the Findlay Inn. The AAUW Ohio 17th Annual Equity Day and 88th Annual Convention and Meeting promises to be a weekend focused on the AAUW vision and mission, featuring Ohio's own [Lisa Maatz](#), AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations.

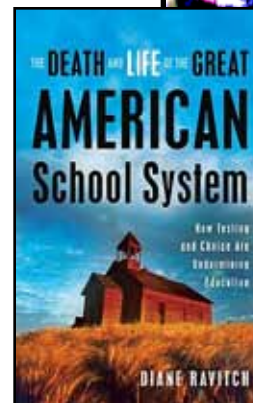
Topics include:

- Public Education in Ohio
- Women's Health Issues
- Community Partnership Building
- Women in the Military and their Families
- Voting Issues
- Pay Equity Issues
- AAUW Public Policy and Reproductive Choice
- Partner Violence
- Social Networking
- Diversity Issues
- Women and Leadership

This year we have selected the book *Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education* by Diane Ravitch as the all-conference read.

Branches in the Northwest District will be your host. Plan to bring some first-timers so they can see and hear what we are doing, meet state board members, make new friends, and participate in the Silent Auction, with all proceeds going to the AAUW Funds.

For more details, visit <http://aauwoh.org/aauwoh/events/aauw-ohio-equity-day-and-conven->



Lisa Maatz, AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations, will speak at Convention 2012.

Put AAUW on your holiday wish list

Thanks to all of our generous donors, AAUW has had victories this year that make the future brighter for women and girls. But the fight isn't over. Recent

rulings against reproductive rights, attacks on Social Security and Medicare, and more will bring tough challenges in 2012. Please help ensure that AAUW can continue to

have your back, time and time again, by making a tax-deductible gift now.

Thanks for making 2011 a great year for women's advocacy. We hope you'll be a part of our work in 2012.

AAUW Ohio

www.aauwoh.org

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Straight talk

from Patricia Millhoff

President, AAUW Ohio

Join us for a new year of action and advocacy online and in person

Happy Holidays. I am intrigued by all the commotion about Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, etc. Wondering if you all are too? I feel like a Seinfeld episode: "Can't we all just get along?"

As a big believer in separation of church and state, I don't think my religious views are anyone's concern but my own. And what I do regarding my own reproductive choice is nobody's business but my own

Action in Columbus

I have been closely following Karen Rainey's work on the [heartbeat bill](#) and other reproductive rights legislation. It is so frightening to think that women who are raped would be made to bear a child by their government. Reproductive rights are really under attack. The other side is very organized.

Please play close attention to this legislative activity, contact your state senator and legislator (I hear written letters are particularly effective) and attend hearings in Columbus if at all possible.

Karen Rainey is AAUW Ohio's public policy advocate. In this role, she testifies at legislative hearings in Columbus regarding issues that affect women and girls. You can find Karen's testimony on

the [Statewide Public Policy Advocacy](#) page on our website. Contact her at karengr@yahoo.com.

On the road

I have been to Columbus twice this year to follow legislation. "[Trust Women](#)" [Lobby Day](#) was a great experience. If you have never been, please try to go next year. Advocacy training is provided in the morning, and meetings are set for visits to your representatives. While my own state senator and legislator are very conservative, I still feel like it is worthwhile.

I also went to Columbus with Paula Maggio on another issue. We were able to see Chief Justice Pfeiffer testify before the Judiciary Committee on the death penalty. I told Paula it really made me feel like I was doing my part in participatory democracy.

Moving online

Several people have asked why they no longer receive the president's mailings that used to regularly go out. Good question. All AAUW materials are now available online. The AAUW website is amazing. In the [Member Center](#) you can find all the program materials, e.g., [Program in a Box](#), as well as branch officers and financial

information.

The same is true for [Ohio AAUW](#). Paula Maggio does a superb job of keeping the website updated and all necessary forms and program information is posted as soon as it is available.

Also, current affairs information is usually posted on our [AAUW Ohio Facebook page](#). Please "like" us so you can see all the great information posted there.

This use of the Internet saves a lot of money, both statewide and nationally.

Remember AAUW Funds

Speaking of money, please remember our [AAUW Funds](#) are given on a calendar year. Consider giving a gift to your favorite programs or the AAUW general funds. It is very easy to do on the website. I just did it, and the system is very user friendly.

Convention news

[Convention](#) information is on Page 1. The program is exciting, and the committee has negotiated a great rate for the hotel. Findlay is fairly easy to get to from anywhere in the state so we hope to have a big crowd. Mark your calendars for April 14 and 15 now so we can all get together to celebrate this year's victories and plan for next year.



Public policy in Ohio

Growing opposition to Personhood Amendment, voucher expansion

By Karen Rainey
Public Policy Advocate

Healthy Families Ohio Coalition Formed to Challenge

“Personhood” Amendment

A new bipartisan coalition has been formed to challenge the Personhood Ohio movement to place a constitutional amendment on the November 2012 ballot that would redefine “person” to include a human being at every stage of development, including fertilization. The new group, Healthy Families Ohio, which includes medical and legal professionals, faith leaders and family and children advocates, describes the proposed amendment as bad medicine, bad policy, and bad law. Its objections are detailed on its web site, www.healthyfamiliesohio.com.



Karen Rainey

Despite the defeat of a “personhood” amendment on the ballot in Mississippi this fall, the backers of Personhood Ohio are undiscouraged and continuing plans to place the issue on the ballot in Ohio in November 2012.

In late October, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine rejected the initial wording of their proposed amendment and told the group that it must rework the amendment and resubmit another 1,000 signatures for approval before they

can begin to circulate a petition to place the amendment on the ballot. Their summary needs to clarify the impact of the amendment on birth control and in vitro fertilization by either excluding certain items or including them in the amendment. Critics of the proposed amendment fear unintended consequences such as banning birth control.

Meanwhile, the founders of the movement have created a PAC to fund anti-abortion candidates and to educate voters.

Heartbeat Bill to Have Competition

The Heartbeat Bill (HB 125), which would ban all abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected, will soon face competition in the form of a bill to be introduced called the Heartbeat Informed Consent Act, proposed by the Ohio Right to Life organization. HB 125 passed the Ohio House last June, and awaits action in the Senate. HB 125 is supported by a rival faction, Ohio Pro-Life Action. Ohio Right to Life has not supported that bill, believing that it would be struck down by federal courts, but favors its bill which will add an “informed consent” provision, meaning that a woman would have to see an ultrasound or hear an audio of the fetal heartbeat before going through with the abortion.

Neither proposal meets AAUW’s standards for reproductive choice. Freedom of Choice Ohio (FOCO) continues its suffragette-style picketing of the Senate in opposition to the Heartbeat Bill.

Opposition Grows to Voucher Expansion Bill

House Bill 136, which would dramatically expand Ohio’s school voucher program, is facing increasing opposition from school boards across the state. The bill was approved by the House Education Committee in September, but awaits action by the full House. AAUW Ohio has opposed the bill, which would fund the expanded voucher program by deducting a per-pupil amount from a local school district’s budget. The vouchers would be available to any student meeting income criteria that go as high as \$95,000 for a family of four—no longer limited to students in failing public schools. To date, about 145 school districts have passed resolutions opposing the bill, which has been characterized as a raid on public school dollars to support private school education.

Get Jackie’s Ohio Public Policy E-Newsletter

You can stay abreast of Ohio public policy news by reading Public Policy Chair Jackie Evangelista’s informative e-newsletters on the [Ohio Public Policy E-Newsletter](#) page. Or contact her at jevangelista@roadrunner.com to get on her list.



What's happening at branches around Ohio

Worthington holds card party fundraiser

Worthington Branch will hold a card party as a fundraiser on Saturday, Jan. 12, 1-4 pm. at JoAnn's Community House, 1295 Cobblestone Ave. , Westerville. The goal is to have 32 players with eight tables of four. Participants will play four rounds of four hands each of Crazy Cards. Donation is \$10 per person. RSVP to JoAnn or Jana.

Branch co-president wins handmade quilt

Heights-Hillcrest-Lyndhurst Branch held the drawing for its hand-stitched quilted wall hanging celebrating AAUW's 130th anniversary at its holiday party on Dec. 4. Co-president Jan Bowden was the lucky winner.

Thanks to all who purchased tickets at the state convention and other events at which the quilt was displayed. Even though you didn't win, you helped support a better future.

It was the branch's first attempt at this kind of fundraiser, and it raised \$500 for AAUW Funds. These funds, combined with their other fundraising monies, allows HHL to have 3 named-grant recipients for 2011.

Longtime Zanesville member honored

Betty Wiechert, 92, and a longtime member of the **Zanesville Branch**, was one of 13 heroes honored in October during the Red



Heights-Hillcrest-Lyndhurst Branch Co-president Jan Bowden was the lucky winner of the hand-stitched quilted wall hanging made by talented member Jakki Dukes. The quilt, celebrating AAUW's 130th anniversary, was raffled off as a fundraiser.

Cross's sixth annual Hometown Heroes breakfast. Wiechert has taught Sunday School for at least 50 years. She has gone on mission trips to Indonesia, Mexico and — even with a broken foot — to Kentucky and Maryland.

Right: Betty Wiechert



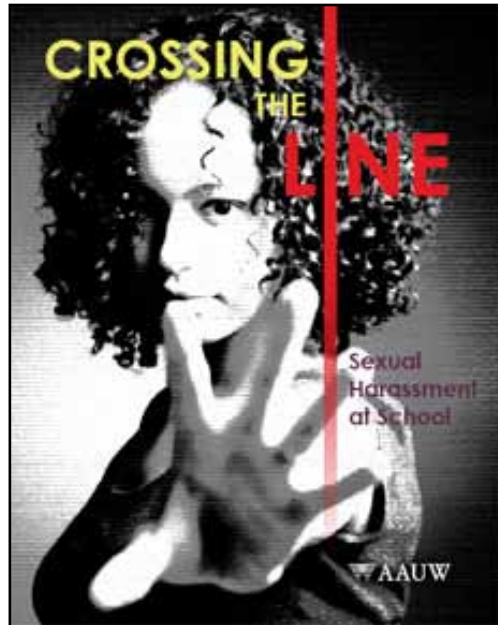
Help spread the news about new AAUW research report *Crossing the Line*

The buzz about AAUW's new research report, [*Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School*](#), continues to grow, with a front-page mention on Dec. 2, in *USA Today*.

A Program in a Box will be available by the end of January to help you share the report's valuable information (and best practices) with your local community. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) for your use is now online.

AAUW's groundbreaking research report on sexual harassment in grades 7–12 was released electronically on Nov. 7, and on Nov. 15 AAUW held a well-attended event at the National

Press Club to draw attention to it. As a result, the documentation of the prevalence of sexual



harassment and its negative impact on students touched a nerve across the country. The report earned more than 1,000 media hits the day it was released, and the coverage keeps growing.

You can download the full report online. You can also order print copies from ShopAAUW.

We encourage you to share the report, written by Catherine Hill and Holly Kearl, with educators, students, parents and your networks. Our efforts can help protect students from sexual harassment.

Programming: *Know the Score* about Title IX

LAF's [Title IX Compliance: Know the Score program](#) provides members with materials about Title IX and high school athletics and resources to help members find out if schools in their community are in compliance with the law.

This program can be implemented by your branch or by an individual. Get involved this spring with this easy-to-use program, and help improve girls' opportunities to play sports.

[Download the Know the Score Program in a Box.](#)



AAUW Ohio Northeast District Coordinator Marilyn Kornowski and Fellow Rabelani Makwarela

Elect-Her program coming to three campuses in Ohio

[Elect Her—Campus Women Win](#), the only nationwide program that trains college women to run for student government and future office, will be held on 30 campuses around the country next year, including three in Ohio — University of Cincinnati, Denison University and Wright State University.

AAUW International Fellow studying in Cleveland

[Rabelani Makwarela](#) from South Africa is the latest International Fellow and recipient of AAUW Funds enabling her to pursue her master's degree in Cleveland. She is working towards a degree at Cleveland State University in nonprofit administration and leadership.

AAUW offers free template and Web hosting for your branch

An attractive and informative website will help your branch keep members up to date on news and events. It will also help attract new members of all ages. Now AAUW is offering a free specially designed Web template and free website hosting that will make it easier for your branch to do both.

Called [AAUW Site Resources](#), this new service started Aug. 23, and it uses the WordPress publishing platform to provide an easy-to-maintain website template that delivers a professional Web experience.

Content can be easily maintained from any computer browser, and regular updates from AAUW will be provided to each site through a national [RSS feed](#).

If your branch wants to set up and maintain the content of its own website, there is no cost involved. If you want AAUW to provide initial and/or ongoing maintenance and updates, a fee is charged.

[AAUW Site Resources](#):

- simplifies state and branch websites;
- is low maintenance and user-friendly;
- delivers a consistent, professional experience;
- integrates content updates from AAUW national;
- incorporates advanced functionality such as newsletters and events management to have a dynamic web presence;
- provides a centralized infrastructure and updates; and
- offers dedicated customer service.

[AAUW Site Resources](#) also offers helpful information and resources for website maintenance. These include:

- [FAQ](#)
- [Video Tutorials](#) on these topics: Adding a Post, Adding Images, Adding a Page, Embedding a YouTube Video, Adding a Link, Adding Permalinks, Adding a Subpage and Scheduling a Post
- [WordPress Editing Tips](#)
- Free Picture Re-Sizer Utility

Visit [AAUW Site Resources](#) or contact site-resources@aauw.org or 202-785-7775 for more information.

State website offers Web and social media help too

You will also find help from AAUW Ohio on the [Website and social media help](#) page on our website. You will find recommended text, links and graphics to include on your AAUW Ohio branch website, along with other information.



Starz Awards form online

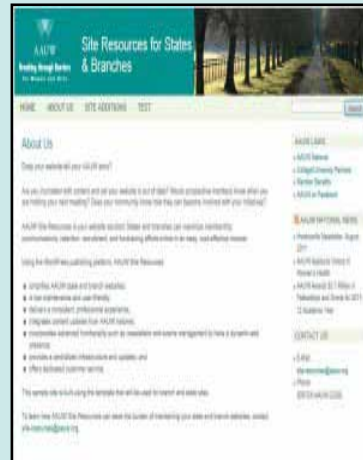
The **2011-2012 Starz Award Application Form** and instructions can now be downloaded from our website. Visit the [Member Center](#) page, then scroll down and click on Forms. The [Starz form](#) is just one of many you can download there.

Upcoming due dates:

- **Dec. 31:** Contribution Report Form for Fundraising should be sent in.
- **March 15, 2012:** Starz application should be completed and mailed to JoAnn Benseler. Her address is on the Starz Award Application Form and instructions.

AAUW was at the White House

AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations Lisa Maatz and AAUW Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby Corps member Penny Wakefield attended the White House Briefing on Women in the Economy on Nov. 18. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, Valerie Jarrett, Tina Tchen, and other experts discussed trends and opportunities for women in the workforce. AAUW advocates for all women to achieve economic self-sufficiency.



The free AAUW Site Resources template for states and branches includes an RSS feed of updates from national in the right sidebar.