

AAUW-IL, Inc. 84th ANNUAL CONVENTION
May 2-3, 2008 – The Holiday Inn Select

By Lois Strom
AAUW-IL Program Vice President

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, research and education. Pay equity, mission based programming, Voter Education campaign, Lobby Corps grants, and research publications are just a few examples of AAUW's advocacy, education and research initiatives. We ARE AAUW and proud of it.

Some of us have been members for a long time and some may be brand new members. Regardless of the number of years in AAUW (one to 50+), this convention is for you. Listed are a few reasons why:

- Leadership Training on Friday, May 2, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Networking and socializing with experts and other AAUW members
- Keynote speaker, Lisa Maatz, Association's top policy advisor
- Successful membership recruitment and retention strategies
- Opportunities to attend two breakout sessions
- Lobbying tactics from the experts
- LAF and EF fundraising and sales
- Opportunity to have fun

The Holiday Inn Select is conveniently located adjacent to I-88/East-West Tollway at Naperville Road exit near I-294 and I-355 at 1801 N. Naper Blvd in Naperville, IL. While in Naperville, shop along tree-lined streets in the charming downtown section, walk along winding paths of the Riverwalk, or visit the Naper Settlement, a 19th century living history museum. Come early on Thursday or stay through Sunday. The Holiday Inn Select will honor room rates of \$94/night plus tax for either single or doubles.

Friday activities begin at 11:00 a.m. with Leadership Training from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This new Leadership Development Conference provides DVD modules with interactive discussion facilitated by an Association leader making leadership skills training available to every member of AAUW. There is a separate fee of \$15 for this training to cover a box lunch and drink plus equipment and facility rental. Whether you are a current or future leader, you don't want to miss this exciting opportunity. (See related article in this issue, "AAUW Announces New Leadership Development Conference".)

Friday afternoon is 3 p.m. hotel check-in and 4:00-5:30 p.m. convention registration and membership credentialing.

Friday evening offers even more:

- **Buffet Dinner at the Holiday Inn Select.** Buffet dinner cost is \$36 per person (including tax and gratuity) from 5:45-7:00 p.m.
- **Breakouts.** This year we are offering breakouts on Friday evening and Saturday morning so that you may attend two of the five breakouts over

the two days. Friday evening at 7:15-8:15 p.m. (Breakout descriptions follow under the Saturday lineup).

- **Interactive Team Building session.** Following the breakouts participate in a fun-filled team building session with Alice Huebner and Alice Smith.
- **President's Reception** begins at 9:15 p.m.

Saturday morning registration and membership credentialing opens at 7:30 a.m. Hot breakfast buffet is from 8-9 a.m. with networking tables, EF/LAF sales tables, and an opportunity to meet and greet Lisa Maatz, Ruth Brown, Regional Director and our own, Jennifer Wilken.

Keynote Address

Lisa Maatz, Director of Public Policy and Government Relations for the American Association of University Women is AAUW's top policy advisor in Washington D.C. She will talk about how AAUW's member-adopted Public Policy Program is implemented, offer advice on what can be done to support AAUW priority issues, and discuss effective strategies for grassroots advocacy in the community. She will include critical women's public policy issues currently moving through Congress, what's at stake in the 2008 election for women, and share her experiences in helping further legislation that supports opportunity for women and their families.

Convention Business includes the presentation, election and installation of new state officers, business of the organization, awards and recognition. After the business session, you can choose one of **five breakout sessions that address our advocacy, research and/or education.** These breakouts with the exception of "Women's Economic Security" are offered Friday evening also.

- **". . . because Pay Equity is Still an Issue".** Join leaders, Lisa Maatz, AAUW Public Policy Director, and Linda Henning Cohen, AAUW-IL President-Elect and member of the IL WAGE Project, and take the WAGE quiz to see how much you know about pay equity. Discuss AAUW's new research, *Behind the Pay Gap*, and other important books. Hear about legislation and litigation related to pay equity and share stories about wage discrimination (everyone has a story). Finally look at solutions and what you and your branch can do about the pay gap (that can be as much as \$1.2M over a lifetime).
- **"How to Power AAUW Lobby Corps".** Paula and Jenni Purdue, lobbyists, provide you the tools to start a Lobby Corps in your own branch. From an overview of the Illinois General Assembly website to training on how to include legislators in your AAUW events, you will be set to start lobbying your local legislators.
- **"Membership Matters".** Does your branch need an infusion of more and younger members? The Lombard Area Branch has increased its membership from 59 to 88 in fourteen months. Come hear Membership Co-Vice Presidents Doris Schertz and Kathy Brenniman tell you how their branch did it. Hear also how they used the various AAUW membership programs and aids to reach and exceed the branch's membership goals. They will also discuss what steps they are taking to retain all these new members.

- **“Share your Mission Based Programming”**. “Education as a Gateway to Women’s Economic Security” serves as a guide for new AAUW programs. There are many ways to develop theme-related initiatives at the state and local levels and to utilize resources provided by AAUW. Come and share your successful programs, learn from your fellow AAUW members, and take away ideas to replicate in your branch. Facilitator is Lois Strom, Program Vice President, AAUW-IL.
- **“Women’s Economic Security: how international development programs envision the path to attaining this goal in developing countries”**. Joan Sherman, Women’s Global Education Project board member, will discuss how the international development field has evolved over the past decades to better address the needs of women. Examples from the education and microcredit sectors will be used to demonstrate various approaches, desired and unanticipated outcomes, and envisioned impact. We will discuss how each sector strategizes to improve the livelihoods of women. Challenges to be discussed will include—should programs be gender focused? Does isolating or integrating the unique needs of women in programming best achieve economic security? Will the needs of women be better addressed through mainstreaming of programming to address gender-neutral goals? A short presentation will be followed by discussion, and a Q&A session.

Afternoon brings lunch with the **Agent of Change Award**, then the second general session, followed by the popular **Town Hall** with AAUW leaders, Lisa Maatz, Ruth Brown, Jennifer Wilken, and Nancy Daugherty on hand to answer your questions.

Registration costs include registration fee of \$15/person for Leadership Development Conference; Friday evening buffet dinner at \$36/person including tax and gratuities; and Saturday registration at \$70/person including breakfast and lunch. We are able to negotiate room rental fees and meals with the hotel because of the number of members who attend and book lodging and participate in the hotel meals.

As you can see AAUW Illinois’ 84th Convention at the Holiday Inn Select in Naperville showcases our accomplishments in advocacy, research and education and provides the leadership tools to continue in these areas. Throughout Friday and Saturday there will be opportunities for fellowship, networking, EF/LAF sales and fun. Take advantage of this opportunity. Come as a delegate, member, leader, future leader or guest and become excited, stimulated and renewed as an AAUW member because **We ARE AAUW!**