

# NUTMEG NEWS

February 2004

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Greetings from your new Regional Director! As a woman who is a professional in mathematics and science I want to thank all of you for the work that you have done and will continue to do to keep our focus of equity for all women and all girls. Young women today are advancing mightily in many arenas but still are behind in others, such as, engineering and computer-related technology. In the face of national re-entrenchment women and girls must stand tall by making further advances in these fields. Any woman or girl who is striving for new achievements must be able to count on our support in our branches, at the state level and at the national level. I pledge to you that I will work to be such an advocate in New England as your Regional Director and in CT as your President. Please let me know of your initiatives.*

*I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who attended the Association Convention in Providence last June. A special thank-you goes to all the members who worked as volunteers before and during the convention. New England AAUW and CT AAUW were huge contributors to the big success of the 2003 convention.*

*During my time as Regional Director I hope to be guided by my role model, Eleanor Roosevelt, who said: "It is not fair to ask of others what you are not willing to do yourself."*

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## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominees for offices to be filled for 2004-2006 are as follows:

**State President:** Carol Buch

**VP Program:** Carol Virostek

**Corresponding Secretary:** TBA

**Public Policy Chairperson:** TBA

**Legal Advocacy Fund:** Laurel Anderson

**Nominating Committee Chair:** Jeannette Phillips

Elections will take place at the state convention, May 1, 2004 held at The Bishop Center/UCONN Storrs Campus. April 30<sup>th</sup> overnight accommodations: The Nathan Hale Inn located on campus

**Cost:** \$89 single/\$44.50 double/\$33 triple occupancy

**Reservation deadline: March 31, 2004**

**Phone:** 860-427-7888 – mention CT AAUW May 1<sup>st</sup> Convention

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2003 ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Over 1,000 attendees (combined for the Association Convention and the Student Women's Leaders Conference) heard fabulous, energizing keynote speaks, and attended informative workshops and business sessions. AAUW members are not afraid to offer their opinions and did so from the floor during the business sessions.

### **Membership options were discussed. None passed.**

(A two-thirds majority vote is required to change Association By-Laws.)

- Opening the membership up to all interested in our mission was roundly defeated (369 in favor; 1069 opposed). A Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited university or college continues to be a membership requirement.
- The vote to allow those with Associate degrees as members was

closer but did not pass. (762 in favor; 640 opposed)

The **dues** procedure for an annual increase (1412 votes: 1220 yes and 192 no), and recommended amount of \$2, amended to sunset at the 2009 convention (1336 yes; 87 no), were strongly supported. Dues this year are \$39; 2004-2005, \$41; then \$2/year to \$49 in 2008-2009.

All of these proposed by-laws amendments and the dues increase amount were done by card count, so that the votes from every branch and state at the convention were counted. A resolution was passed to continue dialogue over the next two years throughout the states and branches on membership options and structure.

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## **March for Choice**

April 25, 2004  
Washington, DC

Mark your calendar. Save the date. Plan to **March for Choice** on April 25, 2004 in Washington, DC. And bring a young person along with you.

To learn more, log on to <http://www.now.org/nnt/fall-2003/march.html> or <http://www.marchforchoice.org/>.

**Anyone have historical items from their branches for the archives? Bring them to Gloria Stewart/Eunice Waller, Co-Historians, at the state convention.**

## PUBLIC POLICY

Although many issues of interest to Public Policy mavens cry out to be presented for discussion, the beginning of a new membership year seems to be an appropriate time to talk about what Public Policy is, what things are worth discussing, and in particular, what is relevant to members of AAUW and to our Mission statement.

From our AAUW website, under the topic of "AAUW Public Policy Program, 2001-2003", you can find out how the Public Policy Program is developed. Federal (and state) priorities are established, on which AAUW members across the country will focus their advocacy efforts and guides the work of the national staff.

I want to emphasize that the strength of each two year Program is that it originates and ends with the membership. Each National Convention is the culmination of a process involving AAUW members nationwide. This is a true democratic process, which of course causes much rending of clothes and tearing of hair when the majority does not take your own positions! The good thing is that you have lots of opportunity to express yourself, through participation in our State Public Policy Committee, to which Branches are expected to send a representative (not all do, so some of you Branch members do not have the voice you should expect. However, not all is lost: Just tell your president that you want to represent your Branch, and you will find that your board will jump for joy.)

All members who are interested are invited to attend our meetings.

We currently meet for lunch at the Yankee Silversmith Inn on the first Friday of each month, but this is under review. To attend, just contact Mary Jane Janick or myself.

The State Public Policy committee presents

the bi-annual survey, requesting all members to list their priorities. These are tabulated and go on to Convention for a national ratification. I have omitted a few steps here, but I do want to emphasize the role that members have in stating their priorities and participating in the process.

"The public policy program underscores AAUW's mission of promoting equity and education for all women and girls. The work of AAUW builds upon a century of responsible public participation at the local, state, national, and international levels. AAUW is committed to working in partnership with diverse allies."

"Basic to all of AAUW's public policy efforts is the understanding that true equity requires a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the community. We believe in the separation of church and state....."

AAUW promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons. Essential to that well-being are an economy that provides equitable employment opportunities, reduction of poverty, quality dependent care, decent housing, and quality affordable health care; freedom from violence; and a clean and healthful environment....."

Our monthly Newsletter to all branches reflects our main concerns, and also reflects current struggles and worries as we think about how women are faring in other countries, and about how we cannot isolate ourselves from the rest of the world, and the effects that our sole superpower position has on the rest of the world. Input from members is welcomed and necessary at [HFJMBJ@aol.com](mailto:HFJMBJ@aol.com).

***Willadean Hart, Co-Chair  
State Public Policy Chair***