

2008 AAUW Convention

Minutes of the Meetings are posted in the Members Center/Events and Records. Synopsis of workshops and speakers written by several members are located in the Member Corner also in the Member Center. **This is for members only. A member ID and password is required for access.**

The following is a convention synopsis written by Judy Burton of the Spokane Branch

AAUW State Convention

Little Creek Casino & Resort, Shelton WA April 25-27, 2008

I attended the Business Meeting as Spokane's delegate – we especially wanted to be represented for the vote this year on the proposed bylaw amendments.

After a welcome from Rickie Ramage, the Squaxin Island tribal representative, featured speaker Ruth Mwandira spoke on “Embracing Change.” Ms. Mwandira is from the African country of Malawi and is an AAUW International Fellow in the doctoral program at Oregon State University in the field of public health. One of her daughters accompanied her to the U.S. and to the convention - both currently are students this year. Lily Mwandira is a senior at Corvallis High School. In her remarks, Ruth told us about the changes the women of Malawi have experienced in recent history and of changes still to come. When she returns to her country, she will teach health management and work to promote more women into management positions.

At the beginning of the business meeting, roll was called and past presidents were featured. Special recognition was given to our oldest past president, Winifred Olsen, Olympia branch, 1963-1965. She readily revealed her age (91) and told us she joined AAUW in 1939!

Jessica Koeberle, State Membership VP, gave an abbreviated report, which stated that overall state membership is down with a few branches making good progress in adding members. Later that day she co-conducted a workshop entitled “Reversing AAUW Membership Trends.” A five-member panel made up of Port Townsend and Walla Walla branch members shared ideas their branches use to recruit. There was a general discussion and it was agreed that the basic question today is “What can younger women get from AAUW?”

Election of officers for 2008-2009 was held and the recommended slate was accepted unanimously. The President will be Dixie Swenson; Jessica Koeberle will continue as Membership Vice President for Branches; and Pauline Barrett will be the Finance Vice President.

Bylaws Amendment 1: A motion was made, seconded and passed to add the position of Vice President of Communications to the state Executive Committee. We will hear more about this position as plans are solidified. Members will also be able to learn more and be informed by going to www.aauw-waonline.org.

Bylaws Amendment 2: A motion was made to reduce the frequency of the state convention from every year to every other year. After a minimum of resistance and discussion of the present-day costs and amount of labor needed to host and attend an annual convention, this motion was seconded and passed unanimously. State conventions for 2009 and 2010 are already set, so this amendment will not be effective until 2011. State Leadership Conferences will continue to be held in late summer, as well as additional state meetings as required. More information will be forthcoming in future.

Shanna Stevenson, Director of the Washington Women History Consortium, spoke about the history of women working for the right to vote in Washington and encouraged branches to have a project for women's history to celebrate the centennial of suffrage in Washington to be held in 2010.

Judy Burton