



# THE HOT SHEET

**Volume 20**

**March 2014**

**Issue 7**



## **Arkansas and Oklahoma to Hold Joint State Conference in Bentonville April 4-6 ~**

**Keynote Speaker AAUW  
President Patricia Ho**

**The program and registration forms have been sent to each member. To encourage a good representation from the largest branch in Arkansas, the HS/HSV the Board has voted to reimburse the registration fee for the first sixteen members who notify the treasurer that they have registered.**



## **SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON**

Sunshine, warmer weather, and red tulips greeted over eighty AAUW members, scholarship recipients, and guests February 15 at Hot Springs Country Club. It was a beautiful day to recognize AAUW members and friends who help to make our scholarship program possible and meet our 2013-14 scholarship recipients.

As always, the highlight of this event is hearing the stories from our scholarship recipients. All of the recipients echoed their gratitude in receiving our scholarship; they made it clear that our scholarship is enabling them to have a better future. Sandra Escobar, who came to the United States three years ago from Mexico, hopes to be a teacher and the first person in her family to receive a college education. Listening to the stories from these ladies makes all of the hard work of our annual book sale worthwhile. If you did not attend the luncheon this year, watch for an announcement for the 2014-15 date.

This school term we have awarded \$21,000.00 to fifteen deserving women. The Scholarship Committee thanks all who attended the luncheon, helped with the book sale, and made contributions to the AAUW Funds this past year.

**~ Diana Reeves~**



## AAUW in Guinea West Africa ~Anais Troadec ~

These wonderful pictures show village life In Guinea, West Africa. Under Winrock International, I volunteered to help in the organizational development of 26 rice producing and bee keeping cooperatives in a small village of Nialya, (1050 inhabitants ), about 13 hours out of the capital Conakry. These coops wanted to start a union in order to have access to more information on how to better produce and market their products. The representation by women came from very small cooperatives in garden produce, chickens and eggs. Some women coops also raised lambs for the Muslim holy days. They shared in the coops profits and worked communally.

Being a Muslim polygamous community, most men have 2-3 wives. The job of raising and feeding many children is shared by the co wives. Girls work in the household beginning at the age of 5. The girls, who are lucky enough to go to school for the first three years, attend class around work hours (fetching water, fetching firewood, and feeding the chickens) which does not afford them time for homework. The costs of a uniform, school supplies and loss of help for the mother are constraints to sending girls to school.

The school director said that there were not enough benches for more children (girls) to

attend school. That is what the HSVA AUW made happen.

With the help of the Village Chief, who chose the recipients based on his criteria, your generous gift of \$1,427 was used to make 70 benches carved with the AAUW and 100 uniforms –fifty girls, fifty boys, all with an insignia of the old AAUW logo. (Please see photos) Many of those benches will seat girls for the first time- with their uniform proudly showing the AAUW logo. Boy's uniforms are two- piece in khaki- shirt and short pants and girls uniforms are a pink striped sheath dress.



The principal gave to 100 first-, second- and third graders the essential opening day school supplies, i.e., small chalk board and chalk for first graders to help them learn their letters, others, pencil, paper, erasers, folders etc.. There are around 340 children in six grades.

Since four teachers did not have a chair to sit on in the classroom, AAUW funds paid for four teachers chairs also. (See photo). The school principal, teachers, village Chief, mayor and Prefect of the sub-district and other dignitaries attended the ceremony giving the uniforms and awarding the benches to the school. It was a proud day for Nialya.

There exist many other needs for this school. New blackboards are especially needed along with supplies for the older grades in science. Sports equipment, (a few soccer balls, some shoes, a basketball hoop). Nialya has a rather successful adult soccer team and has won many times against its closest villages!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

According to those who were able to attend the Scholarship Luncheon, it was a successful and inspiring event. I was still recovering from the flu – and yes, I had a flu shot – but apparently it didn't knock out the strain I caught. So here's what my trusty co-president Paula Mathews reported.

Prior to the luncheon, we held a brief general meeting in which a by-laws change regarding the staffing of our Nominations Committee was approved. Section 1 of Article VII Nominations now reads: *There shall be a nominating committee of three members elected by the Board of Directors at the first board meeting of the fiscal year, one of whom shall be appointed Chair of the committee, and one of whom shall be the immediate Past President.*

Meg Koziar announced the results of the Book sale and Paula thanked all of those who worked so hard on the book sale, the raffle, the sponsorship sales, and the Second chance sale. Our scholarship recipients addressed the group and told us the importance that our scholarship dollars made to them as they pursued their education.

We made sure that everyone knows that AAUW will be having its 20<sup>th</sup> book sale later this year. In addition, we will continue to explore additional types of fundraising opportunities.

As you read elsewhere in the Hot Sheet, the first meeting for those interested in volunteering to serve as organizers, monthly leaders, and sorters for our 2014 Book Sale will be held at 9AM on Wednesday March 18 at the UUV Church. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

~Susan Brayford~



## GENERAL MEETINGS

**April 16, 2014**

Village United Methodist Church

10 am – 12 noon

Guest Speaker: Melisa Glen, Founder of  
Seeds of Hope.

May 21, 2014

Social TBA

~Mary Jane Attwood~



## BOOK SALE NEWS

Mary Kay Benkert and Karen  
Dolan once again send a BIG  
THANK YOU to all who helped  
make this year's Book Sale(s) a  
huge success!!

**Come to the Meeting On March 18, at  
9 a.m. to meet with the chairs of Book  
Sale #20, Mary Jane Attwood and  
Marjorie Griffith, to start the planning  
for the next one!**