



GRAB YOUR PURSE ... WE'RE GOING TO THE MUSEUM!

We still have spots available for our March 21 visit to the ESSE Purse Museum in the SOMA district of Little Rock. We currently have 15 signed up, including two guests. A wonderful way to introduce someone to AAUW!

Not only will we be seeing ESSE's permanent exhibits, but they also a temporary exhibit entitled: **Exposed: Unmentionables, 1900s-1960s**. A description of the exhibit from the ESSE website:

"Typically not displayed for all to view, undergarments offer a unique view into a woman's life and the measures she will take to achieve a certain look. This exhibit aims to showcase the evolving perceptions of the ideal female figure and the contraptions it takes to achieve it.

Pain is beauty, or is it? Certainly every woman has experienced the discomfort of a binding

undergarment, but the pain inflicted by these present-day garments is minor compared to what women were expected to endure. As we look back to the early 1900s, typically restrictive foundation garments are beginning to be designed with a woman's well being in mind. The invention of new materials and evolving beauty ideals led to less of a reliance on these garments to mold a woman's body and more on them to enhance the beauty that is innately present."

We will be leaving from the East Gate at 10:00 to get to the Museum by 11:00. A number of our members have offered to drive, so we have our own AAUW shuttle service! So don't let the drive to the big city hold you back.

Cost is \$25 per person, which includes admission to the museum and a boxed lunch which we will be enjoying in the board room of the museum. Kim Townsan will be contacting those who sign up the week of March 12 to get lunch orders! Send your check by March 12, made out to AAUW, to Paula Mathews, 25 Navegar Circle, HSV, AR 71909.





AAUW ARKANSAS STATE CONVENTION

This year's State Convention is being held **April 27 and 28** in Jonesboro. All branch members are invited to attend and will be getting an email from the organizers within the next several weeks with registration information.

An interesting program, focused on **STEM**, is being planned. The Convention begins with a meet and greet on Friday night (cocktails and conversation), with registration taking place on Saturday morning. Saturday's agenda includes presentations and a business meeting. On the business meeting agenda will be voting on bylaw changes, along with a proposed change in state dues. As has been done in the past, a **NCCWSL** fundraising activity is planned. Once again, gift baskets will be provided by the branches. Rather than having a raffle, a silent auction is planned and each branch is asked to bring more than one basket.

We are hoping to have HS/HSV members join Kim Townsan, Myra Sanders and Meg Koziar who are attending as State Board Members. Both Kim and Myra are willing to drive to Jonesboro...so there's room for more on the road trip to Jonesboro. Let's have a good representation by our branch at the Convention!

APRIL BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING – NCCWSL FOCUS

Our branch Annual Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 18** at the Unitarian Universalist Village Church at 403 Barcelona. The meeting will begin **at 1:00** and will include voting on new board / committee positions and any bylaw changes. The Board has discussed, and agreed, that there will be no changes to our branch dues for the 2018-2019 membership year.

At this year's Annual Meeting we are happy to have **Maddie Spickard** as our guest speaker. Maddie is currently with the Womens' Foundation Arkansas and is a past NCCWSL attendee. We've asked Maddie to speak about her NCCWSL experience ... and we will then be sharing the details of our own new NCCWSL project. **NCCWSL is the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.**

The HS/HSV Board has agreed to go forward with a new annual fund raiser to support sending a young woman to 2019 NCCWSL. Our branch will be initiating a Luminaries project this fall. This will return to our branch a project allowing branch members to work together. We will be assembling luminary packages for sale, with the activity culminated on November 30 with an event we are currently calling **"Angels of the Night"**. Everyone who has purchased a luminary kit will light them the night of November 30, with AAUW members encouraged to have an open house that night and invite their neighbors. The luminary project will not only provide funding for a great program, but also expand our branch's local exposure.

Be sure to get the April 18 meeting on your calendar!



2018 -19 AAUW MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE AS OF MARCH 1

As most of you know our national dues went up this year for the first time in more than 10 years. And because of low funds in our state organization, State dues will be increasing from \$8 to \$10 but not until 2019-20.

Therefore, the total of AAUW National, State, and Local dues for 2018-19 is \$74.

Some who were a little late with dues last year may think you just paid dues! **But remember, dues are actually due and payable on March 1st of each year.** The breakdown is as follows:

\$59. National (of which \$56 is tax deductible)

\$ 8. State

\$ 7. Local

\$74. TOTAL

YOU SHOULD MAIL YOUR CHECK FOR \$74. TO MYRA SANDERS AT 4 ROMERA LN., HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, AR. 71909.

Please don't hesitate to call me should you have any questions. My phone is 903-276-2150.

For more information on AAUW and our activities, check out the website at:

www.hshsv-ar.aauw.net

AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF MONEY.....

At its recent meeting, the AAUW Board approved a revised budget for 2017-18. **Paula Mathews** shares the following...

This budget included branch dues of \$7.00 per member (76 members).

Speaker fees or honorariums of \$100.00.

Miscellaneous office /postage/printer ink of \$50.00. A contribution to the Reproductive Justice Rally of \$100.00. And, convention expenses (travel expenses.) of \$150.00

As you can see, the board runs a pretty tight ship. If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask at the next meeting, or at the Esse Purse Museum daytrip!

Diversity February Meeting

For those unable to attend this special program, Tish Fisher has shared some information from that day.....

Cheryl L. Batts, CEO and Founder of P.H.O.E.B.E., "People Helping Others Excel By Example", presented a very informative program. P.H.O.E.B.E has several programs and projects that it runs under its 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. Ms. Batts discussed the Uzuri Project Youth Institute Emerging Leaders, P.H.O.E.B.E. Publishers, and the intent to restore the John Lee Webb House at 403 Pleasant St. (Garland County) Hot Springs, AR.

Much information was shared about the Emerging Leaders program. Students between the ages of 10 and 17 are eligible to become active in the Uzuri Project Youth Leadership Institute which is an 8-week, 3-track workshop focusing on the following: **TRACK 1-Social Skills**. Designed to help with self-image and self-improvement, appropriate decision making, coping skills, and other skills needed as an emerging leader.

TRACK 2-Communications. Participants interview senior citizens and gather their stories about the African-American experience in Hot Springs for future documentation.

TRACK 3-CommunityService/Volunteerism and Development. Participants create museum displays and traveling exhibits. They work with state and local governments and neighborhood associations. They also help in local food distribution just to name a few.

Ms. Batts showed pictures and videos of the emerging leaders on picnics, participating in workshops, conventions, fashion shows, and graduations. They were wonderful and inspiring to watch. She also shared specific stories.

We also viewed John L. Webb's trip to Europe in 1927 and Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune's Special Statewide Project (2005) History, Education AIDS Awareness.

Ms. Batts brought signed copies of the book, John Lee Webb: The Man & His Legacy. It was written by Cheryl L. Batts, Janis F. Kearney, and Patricia W. McGraw, Ph.D. Ms. Batts discussed the importance of restoring the Webb House and revitalizing the Pleasant Street Historic District. The house is a focal point in the Pleasant Street Historic District. It will be the place where historical documents, local art, oral histories and photographs will be housed and open for tours. It will also be the place where the youth can meet.

She stressed the fact that P.H.O.E.B.E. is a multiracial group researching African

American history in Hot Springs, working with multiracial children.

Fundraising methods and results were shared. It is an ongoing process.



Just as a teaser...below is a photo of the "spread" at one of the two recent Cocktail Party for 20! events. The hosts this time were **Jim and Becky Gifford**. The event was held at the home of Bill and Sue Luerssen and the heavy appetizers and wine were prepared by Bill and Sue, Diana and Tom Reeves and Howard and Carol Freeland who donated them as a live auction item at last year's Angel Launch.

Start thinking now about what you can provide as a silent or live auction item. AND, start putting your groups or tables together, bringing to the event non-AAUW members.

