

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am excited to be starting my two-year term as Florida AAUW President. AAUW is full of terrific people and I'm looking forward to our work together. We have an excellent state board and I'm gratified that hardly anyone I've asked to take on a job, has turned me down. That's AAUW for you.

Those of you who were at our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention, know that I have adopted a sort of mantra for the next two years, "We will keep showing up". Woody Alley said 90% of success is showing up. He was talking about acting, but I think it is a good theme for the next two years in Florida AAUW. So we will keep showing up. With all the attacks on women's rights in recent times, it is easy to become discouraged. But we have to keep showing up. This is an important election year and AAUW has a role in making sure women understand the issues, register and vote. Women have to show up at the polls to vote for those who support our issues.

I hope we can maintain and grow our membership in the next two years. We must show up – and bring all our friends to join us. We must value our current members and create an atmosphere that encourages new members to join us and get involved. They will find what I already know – that AAUW is a wonderful organization – and they will want to bring all their friends to join.

I have just returned from Leadership Training in Washington. It was a delightful experience to meet all the other State Presidents and Educational Foundation Directors and to get to know some of the staff at AAUW Headquarters. I hope I am better prepared to be State President because we still have much work to do.

Equity is still an issue. So for the next two years, we will keep showing up. We will work hard. We will have some successes. We will have some fun. And women and girls will be the better for it.

I'm looking forward to it and I hope you are too.