

President's Message

In my last message on the website, I reported from Convention that we had heard from our newly selected Executive Director, Kathy Frost. Unfortunately, Kathy Frost had to withdraw before assuming the office because of health problems. We all join in wishing her well. In the meantime, Michele Warholich Wetherald, has assumed the position of Interim Executive Director. Michele was President of the Legal Advocacy Fund until its merger with the Educational Foundation and brings a wealth of administration and management experience, as well as commitment to AAUW, to the position.

The State Board of Florida AAUW met the last weekend in July in Venice to start gearing up for a new AAUW year. We will continue to meet changes and challenges to AAUW. We are awaiting additional clarification on the new requirements for membership in AAUW as well as additional information on the new Program theme, *Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security*. By opening up our membership to those with an AA degree or equivalent, we will have a new pool of potential members and can look forward to welcoming them into our branches. I hope all our members will look on this change as an opportunity to revitalize our branches.

Among other things, the Board passed a new Website Policy, which is posted elsewhere on this site. Our website manager has essentially been operating with these guidelines, but we thought it prudent to formalize them.

Branch Presidents have all been sent a package from the Nominating Committee of Florida AAUW. At next year's convention, April 21-23 in Sarasota, we will be electing a Director for Membership, Director for the Educational Foundation, Director for Communications, Secretary and four Directors at Large. I can't tell you how rewarding I have found serving on the FLAAUW Board to be. We have a wonderful organization and all of us should be willing to contribute in whatever way we can. I hope branch members will seriously consider becoming a candidate for the State Board.

As we get ready to start another AAUW year, let's rededicate ourselves to our Mission of Promoting Equity for All Women and Girls, Lifelong Education and Positive Societal Change. Because equity is still an issue.

Carol Newnam