**AAUW**

**FUNDRAISING IDEAS**

**New Orleans Convention - June 2013**

**FLORIDA FUNDRAISERS**

**Holiday Fashion Show/Luncheon - Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Florida**

This has been an annual event for over ten years, usually held on the first Saturday in December. The income comes from patrons, and a Chinese auction (i.e., raffle tickets put in bags of desired choices) of donated goods from members and community businesses; and a silent auction for some "big ticket" items such as golf packages, upscale wrist watches and hand painted furniture. A live auction is held with such items as a luncheon with a local author and a ride with a sheriff's deputy. The cost of the luncheon is reasonable; it is a sit-down hot luncheon. Tickets this year were $35, although if purchased by November 1, they were $32. It encouraged early sales. About $10.00 per ticket over the meal price is cleared. In 2012, the attendance was 170 guests and over $8200 was netted.

Contact: Ellen Schneider, ellenschneider@earthlink.net

**Wine Tasting/Social – Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Florida**

A wine tasting party is held in late March or early April that is also meant to foster social contact among members and be inclusive of friends and partners. Various locations have been used. Recently, a home décor store with an expansive patio, was used after store hours (5-7:30 pm). Members of the branch brought in the wine and their own hors d’oeuvres. Patrons provided music and other minor expenses. The ticket price was $30. Attendance is approximately 60 people and usually over $1000 is cleared.

Contact: Ellen Schneider, ellenschneider@earthlink.net

**Adopt-a-Precinct – Fort Myers/Lee County Branch & Greater Naples Branch, Florida**

Taking advantage of a statewide fundraising opportunity, these two branches participate in their respective counties, by each adopting a local precinct. Ten to 12 members are trained in advance and then work on election day at the polls. Even though it is a long day, there is great camaraderie with shared food and making new friends. The members are paid individually for the training and service on the day, and sign their checks over to the branch. Money raised is more than $1600 for each election.

Contacts: Ellen Schneider, ellenschneider@earthlink.net; Ressa Benen, ressa2232@aol.com

**Tours and Talks Program – Greater Naples Branch, Florida**

This fundraiser entails making monthly visits to local museums, small businesses, schools and various selected sites in the community to learn what each is about. Each participant pays a small fee of approximately $10.00.

Contact: Ellen Granger, ankhnaton1@comcast.net

**Women of Achievement Benefit Luncheon – Greater Naples Branch, Florida**

Outstanding women from the community are selected to be recognized for their philanthropy and volunteerism. Through ticket sales which includes an added donation, sponsorships, individual donations and a silent auction at the event, funds are raised. Attendees are not only branch members but the family, friends and business associates of the 8 to 10 honorees. The net profit is over $20,000.

Contact: Ellen Granger, ankhnaton1@comcast.net

**Card Party/Games and Luncheon - St. Augustine Branch, Florida**

This fundraiser is held on Valentine’s Day. Choose a venue and work with a caterer for the lunch. There is an open bar and simple hors d’oeuvres are available. Reservations can be for tables of four to play cards or games, or reservations also can be taken for tables of 6, 8, or 10 for those who want to come for just lunch. Larger tables also may be provided for those wanting to play poker or bunco after lunch is served. All those coming are asked to provide their own cards and games. There is a nice selection of silent auction items, raffle items and a 50/50 raffle. There is also a money tree valued at $100, which brings in a little under $250. The branch nets approximately $4,000.

Contact: Debbie Brinsfield, cdbrins@yahoo.com

**OREGON FUNDRAISERS**

**Honor an Educator / Holiday Gift Auction - Baker Branch, Oregon**

The branch conducts two fundraising events during the program year. They hold Honor an Educator to benefit the Educational Opportunities Fund, and a holiday gift auction with proceeds directed to the Legal Advocacy Fund. At Honor an Educator, branch members share stories and memories about a teacher or professor who had made an impact in their lives, and add a donation in that person’s name. Members who are not able to attend that meeting are encouraged to send in their stories along with a donation.

Debby Trapp-Roehm, deblyn@eoni.com

**Monthly Raffle - Tillamook Branch, Oregon**

The branch holds a raffle each month with a different national AAUW Fund selected as the recipient of their fundraising efforts. Members donate items and raffle tickets are sold for $1 each at the monthly business meeting. Along with the photo of the last winners, they run this statement each month in their branch newsletter: “AAUW causes and missions cost money. If we all contribute, we can accomplish great things. Can you contribute $25 to a cause that you believe in? We'll take it! No contribution is too small. You don't have to be a member to donate to our research, advocacy and educational programs.”

Susan Pierce, hendersonpierce@oregoncoast.com

**MISSOURI FUNDRAISERS**

**Eleanor Roosevelt Walk – AAUW Missouri & Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch, Missouri**

Since 2001, when AAUW introduced the idea of a walk/run to raise money for the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, AAUW Missouri and the Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch continue with this fun and easy idea. (Other states and branches also hold walks on a regular basis.) AAUW MO sponsors a walk every other year at the state convention. Walkers pay $25 to walk and secure pledges from neighbors, friends, branch members, and other attendees at the convention. Special recognition is given to the top money raising walker. This year, Illinois and Missouri had a joint convention in St. Louis. Illinois walkers wore blue for Cubs and Missouri walkers wore red for Cardinals, as they walked around Busch Stadium. Missouri challenged Illinois for the highest contributing state.

Toni Thornton, tonithornton@comcast.net

**Eleanor Roosevelt Birthday Walk - Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch, Missouri**

Every year, in celebration of Eleanor Roosevelt’s (ER) birthday (October 11), members of the Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch are invited to participate in the ER Walk. The walk is held in a different location, usually a park, each year. The registration fee is $25, payable directly to AAUW Funds, which is tax deductible. Walkers are encouraged to give an additional gift of $75 to total $100 to receive the AAUW Eleanor Roosevelt Fund pin. Walkers are also asked to find sponsors. This past year there were 33 walkers and 71 sponsors. The twelve walks sponsored by the branch, have resulted in close to $27,500 donated to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund.

Rosann Swaringim, rosannms@charter.net

**Learn and Lunch Events - AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch, Missouri**

As you search for new and interesting fundraisers it is a good idea to look at your own community and see what is available to tour or visit. Our branch just finished a very successful tour of the newly renovated Central Library in downtown St. Louis. Many people were interested in seeing the new building, but very few had gotten around to doing it. Our branch committee arranged a date and time for a staff member to be our guide, coordinated carpooling to the Library, set a cost of $10 per person to attend, and contacted a restaurant near the Library for lunch after the tour. 60 people attended! The cost of lunch was not included in the initial charge. We had an opportunity to learn about the building, to be with people we know, to discuss what we learned at lunch - - and raise $600.

Other sites recently visited include: Daniel Boone home; History Library; backstage tour at the Muny Opera; a chocolate store and a specialty food store. Set a cost, find a neat place for lunch and GO! The best part is to feel good about what you’ve done. The funds raised will help make the world a better place for women and girls.

Yvonne Morrison, 636-391-6026; ydmorrison@msn.com

**NORTH CAROLINA FUNDRAISER**

**Authors Luncheon - Twin Rivers/New Bern Branch, North Carolina**

A lot of local authors reside in the area of this branch and while many self-publish they are always looking for venues to promote and sell their books.  Ten local authors (different ones each year) are invited to come to sign and sell their books and enjoy lunch with attendees at a local restaurant. In the past, the authors have included a woman who had been an AAUW fellow and wrote books for children. Another author was Kristen Harris, author of *Band of Sisters*, a book about women in the military that got national recognition. Members sell tickets starting in December for the January event, and tickets are sold at *The Next Chapter Bookstore*.  The local newspaper provides good publicity before the luncheon and great coverage after the event.  Tickets are $25 per person. Proceeds from the luncheon are approximately $700.

Contacts: Mary Peterson, mapeterson2@yahoo.com; Ann Corby, jrcorby@hotmail.com

**IOWA FUNDRAISERS**

**Local Fair Trade Store Collaboration - Ames Branch, Iowa**

The branch hosts an evening at the local Fair Trade Store, providing refreshments and hospitality. The store then gives the Branch 10-15% of the sales profits for the evening.

Contact: Jane Edwards at edwardsjane576@gmail.com

**Dutch Bulb Sales - Webster City Branch, Iowa**

The branch sells Dutch bulbs through the Flower Power project. The web page is: [www.flowerpowerfundraising.com](http://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com). The catalog includes a selection of 35 varieties of bulbs and they come with a money back guarantee. The branch keeps one half of the selling price, so it is a very successful fundraising project. The branch members sell the fall bulbs, and there is also a spring catalog.

Contact: Cynthia Weiss at cynthia811south@gmail.com

**Poinsettias and Holiday Greenery Sale -Washington Branch, Iowa**

Poinsettas from a local florist and holiday greenery from a nursery in the Northwest are sold.

Contact: Marde McConnell at mcconnellmj@mchsi.com

**Historical Bus Tour - Washington Branch, Iowa**

Every year or every other year, the Branch pay a local historian to serve as the guide for an historical tour of their area and charter a bus. Their tour guide has a fabulous reputation so they have lots of repeat attendees.

Contact: Marde McConnell at mcconnellmj@mchsi.com

**Computer Mouse Pad and Poster - AAUW Iowa**

AAUW Iowa is making a computer mouse pad of digitally submitted art pieces from branch members showcasing subject matter about Iowa or about the women of Iowa. They are also making it into a poster which will be sold to members at the Spring Conference.

Contact: Janet Heinicke at janetheinicke@earthlink.net

**MICHIGAN FUNDRAISER**

**Flamingo Fling -**  **Cass City/Thumb Area Branch, Michigan**

As you can imagine, the decorating theme is pink flamingos. It is an evening event starting at 6 PM with wine, appetizers and a chocolate fountain. During the social hour, a silent auction is held with items donated by local businesses and members. Dinner is served at 7 PM followed by a last call for bids on the silent auction items. After dinner a live auction is held with one of the members serving as the auctioneer. Tickets are also sold for items that are raffled off at the end of the evening. Cass City is a small town of about 2500 and the branch has 40 members. The Flamingo Fling is one of *the* social events in the community. Event tickets are sold for $22 and last year they netted over $4,000.

Contact: Sharon Dunn at flyrod3328@charter.net

**SOUTH DAKOTA FUNDRAISERS**

**Busing Tables for Tips - Pierre Branch, South Dakota**

Twice a year the branch members bus tables for “tips” at the Pizza Ranch and Perkins restaurants. They gather about $300/night for about 3 hours of work. The owner also contributes for their work. AAUW is one of several community organizations who participate in this type of fundraising. Generally, 6-8 members take part in the work.

Contact Gloria Smith-Rockhold, AAUW SD President, Pierre SD (605) 945-2327

**Booksale - Pierre Branch, South Dakota**

Pierre holds an annual book sale which generates $3,500-$4,000 for scholarships and AAUW national Funds.

Contact Gloria Smith-Rockhold, AAUW SD President, Pierre SD (605) 945-2327

**NORTH DAKOTA FUNDRAISERS**

**Annual Book Sale - Grand Forks Branch, North Dakota**

This annual book sale raises upward of $5,000. It is a social event as well as book sale. Tickets are sold and other vendors supply food and drinks. They have 32 members and 8 are capable of carrying boxes of books. They’ve enlisted the aid of college students to carry books. It is a labor intensive venture, requiring a place to receive and store books, set up and organize them, publicize and clerk the sale.

Contact Lavetta Syverson, AAUW ND Funds Chair, Grand Forks ND (701) 746-7306

**Dinner and White Elephanats - Bismark Branch, North Dakota**

Members hold a December dinner with White Elephant gifts. During the event, when one individual buys the gift, another can pay more to buy it from the first purchaser. All funds from the dinner and “purchases” are for AAUW.

Contact Lavetta Syverson, AAUW ND Funds Chair, Grand Forks ND (701) 746-7306

**North Dakota - continued**

**Holiday Homes Tour / Garden Tours - Jamestown Branch, North Dakota**

Jamestown hosts a holiday tour of homes. In the summer they have hosted garden tours.

Contact Lavetta Syverson, AAUW ND Funds Chair, Grand Forks ND (701) 746-7306

**NEBRASKA FUNDRAISERS**

**Presidents’ Day Card and Game Party - Scottsbluff Branch, Nebraska**

Held from 1pm-4pm, tickets are $6.00 each and they underwrite $500 scholarships to community college and bachelor degree programs. Held at a conveniently located retirement center, people bring whatever game they want to play. Usually a couple tables of bridge and canasta are set up. Other games have included “Banana” word game and UNO. Light refreshments are served and members bring white elephant gifts for door prizes. Last year, in addition to ticket sales, a couple donated $1000.

Contact: Alice Hemingway, AAUW NE Funds Chair, Scottsbluff NE (308) 783-2345

**Salad Luncheon** **in Downtown Business District - Scottsbluff Branch, Nebraska**

A salad luncheon was held in the downtown business district, so business people could attend. Tickets sold.

Contact: Alice Hemingway, AAUW NE Funds Chair, Scottsbluff NE (308) 783-2345

**Dillard (Dept Store) Coupon Booklets - Papillion Branch, Nebraska**

For $5 purchase, buyer gets $400 of discounted coupons. The organization (AAUW) selling the coupon booklet gets the full $5 for each one sold.

Contact Marilyn Bambac, AAUW NE President, (402) 292-6245

**Home and Garden Tour - Blaire Branch, Nebraska**

Working with other community organizations, a home and garden tour is held annually. Tickets are sold.

Contact Marilyn Abariotes, AAUW Blair Branch President, Blair NE (402) 426-3459

HAPPY FUNDRAISING !!