

**AAUW**  
**Empowering**  
**women**  
**since 1881**

Louisiana  
American Association of University Women

# Magnolia



**Spring 2020**

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research

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## Nominations

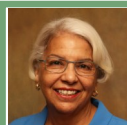
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## Vivian's Views

I am excited to announce a great lineup of AAUW of Louisiana events for 2020.

The day before the Legislative Session starts, we will host our 2nd Annual Legislative Session Kickoff Brunch on Sunday, March 8 from 11am - 2pm in Baton Rouge. American Bar Association (ABA) President **Judy Perry Martinez** will be the keynote speaker ( read her bio inside this newsletter), and **Amanda Brunson**, Director of the Governor's Office of Women's Policy and State Representative (District 91) **Mandie Landry** will also join us.

Equal Pay Day is March 31<sup>st</sup> and our objective this year is to focus on hard core advocacy for our issues and meeting with decision makers instead of hosting a large event as we have done in the past. But we will be at the Capitol joining forces with other likeminded advocates. Find more info later in this newsletter.

In April, we elect a new Board of Directors and sometime this summer or fall we hope to begin building a strategic plan to ensure that this organization remains prepared to address future challenges.

And in August we will be celebrating Women's Equality Day when AAUW of Louisiana joins with the Old State Capitol to sponsor a play written and produced by Aileen Hendricks, Executive Director of LAVOW (and an AAUW Board Member) to celebrate the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Centennial, "Feminists Celebrate Suffragists: 100 years of Voting" .

Thank you to the AAUW of Louisiana membership for your support of this board's efforts to magnify the impact of AAUW's message over the last few years. We are working to change the climate for women in Louisiana. A few of us on the board will become term limited June 30 and this creates opportunities for new leadership to rise within the organization. Nominations for president, program vice president, AAUW Funds, vice president, and secretary are open. For more information, contact any board member.

And in branch news, I want to share with you that in January 2020 the Covington Mandeville Branch changed its name to the Northshore Branch. Great idea! They are working with National to implement that change.

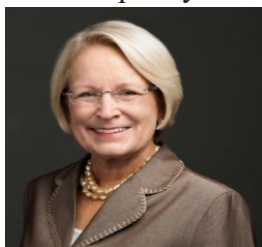
See you at the brunch March 8th!  
Vbg



## Legislative Session Kickoff Brunch Celebrating International Women's Day

Get your tickets NOW!

It's Sunday, March 8 from 11am - 2pm in Baton Rouge. This year's theme is International Women's Day 2020, a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality. The event is open to the public.



We are honored to announce  
that American Bar Association (ABA) President  
**Judy Perry Martinez**  
will be the keynote speaker.

Recognized throughout the nation as a women's rights leader, Martinez also has served on numerous ABA committees dealing with critical issues in law and society. She served as chair of the ABA's Presidential Commission on the Future of Legal Services and its Commission on Domestic Violence. She was a member of the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession, the ABA Task Force on Building Public Trust in the American Justice System, and the Council of the ABA Center on Diversity.

Additional guests include **Amanda Brunson**, Director of the Governor's Office of Women's Policy, and State Representative (District 91) **Mandie Landry**.



Amanda  
Brunson



Mandie  
Landry

Individual tickets for this full-breakfast brunch are **\$50**. Community partners are invited to sponsor the event for **\$350**, which includes a table for **8**.

### Important Event Information:

WHO: AAUW of Louisiana  
WHAT: Legislative Session Kickoff Brunch celebrating International Women's Day,  
Full breakfast  
WHEN: Sunday, March 8, 2020 from 11:00 a. m.—2:00 p. m.  
WHERE: Ruffino's De La Ronde Hall, 320 Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Purchase tickets by March 1 on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-legislative-session-kick-off-brunch-tickets-93340856013>.

For more information, contact AAUW of Louisiana President **Vivian Guillory**, [vlbg225@gmail.com](mailto:vlbg225@gmail.com).



**ANOTHER BUSY LEGISLATIVE SESSION!**  
**by**  
**Camille Moran and Belinda Janeski**  
**AAUW of Louisiana Public Policy Co-Chairs**

As we ready ourselves for the start of the **2020 Louisiana Legislative Session**, things are already getting busy! And being as it is the **100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage (August 26, 1920)**, this year will be even busier than usual.

Following our second annual **Legislative Session Kickoff Brunch** on **Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**, in honor of International Women's Day, we will turn our attention to the legislative session and advocating for AAUW's priority issues. On **Equal Pay Day**, which is **March 31<sup>st</sup>** this year, AAUW of Louisiana and its partners will descend on the State Capitol to lobby our legislators for passage of legislation on such issues as pay secrecy and anti-salary history, paid family and medical leave, a minimum wage increase, and more. This year's format will be slightly different than prior years', in that we will not have a formal luncheon, but will instead enjoy a meal and a time of networking in the cafeteria. Then after lobbying at the afternoon floor sessions of both Chambers, we will head to the Radio Bar at 3079 Government Street to "drown our sorrows" at our annual "Unhappy Hour"!

We are also closely monitoring the **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) proceedings** in Congress and in the courts. In **January, 2020, Virginia became the 38<sup>th</sup> and final state needed to ratify the ERA** for it to become the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U. S. Constitution; **however, three State Attorneys General, including Louisiana's own Jeff Landry, have sued the National Archivist to prevent him from certifying Virginia's ratification.** So although we have the 2/3 majority of states needed for the ERA to become law, the final step in the ratification process is being blocked by these anti-ERA officials. But there is hope on the horizon, as during **the week of February 10<sup>th</sup>, U. S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) is set to bring HR79 (by Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA)) to the House floor for a vote. HR79, which would remove the 1982 ERA ratification deadline that is the subject of the court action,** is expected to pass and move on to the U. S. Senate Judiciary Committee.

More info on the ERA, Brunch, Equal Pay Day activities, and the spectacular **Centennial Suffrage Anniversary Celebrations**, chaired by State Program Vice-President **Aileen Hendricks** and **presented by her theatre troupe LaVOW and AAUW "extras"**, can be found in this edition of your newsletter and in upcoming e-mails. So don't forget to stay tuned to Facebook, to our website, and to your e-mail for all things AAUW!



## College/University Partners Update Debbie Freda, Chair

Current AAUW College/University institution partners:

Delgado Community College  
Louisiana State University  
Louisiana Tech University  
Nicholls State University  
South Louisiana Community College  
Tulane University  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Activities by our AAUW C/U partners:

**Delgado Community College** formed an AAUW student organization on campus in 2019.  
Congratulations!

**Louisiana State University** Women's Center will recognize the outstanding achievements of eight women with its "Esprit de Femme" awards on April 30, 2020.

**Nicholls State University** – The AAUW student organization of Nicholls State hosted a panel of female military veterans on Nov. 13, 2019. In addition, they held a bake-sale fundraiser on Nov. 20, 2019 in their Student Union.

**South Louisiana Community College** – The AAUW student organization of SLCC hosted an information table for "Get Involved Week" on campus on Jan. 24, 2020. Their goals were to recruit and sign-up students for the free AAUW E-Student Membership and "Work Smart", an online salary negotiation training.

**Tulane University/Newcomb Institute** hosted "Elect Her" on Sept. 27, 2019. This workshop trains young women on how to run for student government and political office, led by "Running Start". Tulane also hosted a "Conceiving Equity" event and their annual Roe v. Wade lecture on January 20, 2020.

**University of Louisiana at Lafayette** will host the 13th annual Women's Leadership Conference on March 5, 2020, which brings together students, faculty, staff and community members to commemorate National Women's History Month.



## **Celebrating the 19th Amendment**

**by**

**Dr. Aileen Hendricks, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Programs**

The year 2020 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote. This historic centennial offers an unparalleled opportunity to commemorate a milestone of democracy and to explore its relevance to the issues of equal rights today.

AAUW of Louisiana is celebrating the centennial of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment during all of 2020. We are proud to partner with Louisiana Voices of Women (LAVOW) to present to you the following artistic programming.

- April 3-4<sup>th</sup>      "A Staged Reading: African American Suffragists 1850 – 1920"  
7 – 9:00 PM.      Tickets are \$20.00  
Unitarian Church, 8470 Goodwood Blvd, Baton Rouge LA 70806
- May 17  
2 PM              "High Tea Performance: The Polite Ladies Take Off Their Gloves"  
The Lake House Reception Center, 12323 Old Hammond Highway, Baton Rouge LA 70816
- August 22      AAUW of Louisiana and the Old State Capitol present  
TBD              "Feminists Celebrate Suffragists: 100 years of Voting"  
Old State Capitol, 100 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70801



## AAUW Louisiana Nomination of Officers

According to our bylaws (Article X Elections) the president, program vice president, secretary, funds vice president and nominating committee shall be elected in even numbered years. Nominations opened January 15<sup>th</sup> and the deadline has been extended to March 15<sup>th</sup>. Contact Donna Bertucci-Rogers for more information. ([dcber2c@gmail.com](mailto:dcber2c@gmail.com) 734-468-7920)

### **The following board offices are open to nomination:**

**President** - The state president develops, implements, and oversees all AAUW of Louisiana activities; conducts the business of AAUW in the state; and serves as the primary AAUW liaison to the state, region, national office, and external communities.

The ideal person for this job is someone who enjoys representing AAUW and its policy priorities to targeted audiences; public speaking on behalf of the organization in numerous settings such as legislative testimony on equal pay or ERA; and representing the organization on panels regarding women's issues.

**Program Vice President** -The state program vice president oversees efforts to accomplish our mission and goals. **Responsibilities include** insuring that the state budget reflects state program priorities; Works with other state officers and committees to integrate programs with other state priorities, including public policy, membership retention, and recruitment; collaborates with other groups and coalitions that will promote AAUW's mission, and helps plan and execute programs of action for AAUW of Louisiana to accomplish its goals.

**AAUW Funds Vice President** - Monitors state fundraising by reviewing National website information and sharing information with branches; helps develop financial resources for scholarships and other mission based activities; and communicates actively in fundraising efforts by reminding branches of fundraising initiatives via email, Facebook, twitter, etc.

**Secretary** - The board secretary is responsible for the records of all board actions, including providing notices of meetings to the board; overseeing the taking of minutes of AAUW board of directors and Executive Committee meetings, and their timely dissemination to members; and assisting the chair and board of directors with correspondence and governance matters.



## Sympathy and Condolences

It is with sadness that we inform you of the passing of long-time AAUW member **Bettylou Roundtree** on February 11 in Baton Rouge. Bettylou was a loyal and energetic member of the Baton Rouge Branch. Her sense of history and her love of books made any conversation with her enlightening. She was friendly and nice and welcoming. She will be dearly missed. Please keep her family in your prayers. Sympathy cards can be sent to Catherine Roundtree, 1852 Pollard Pkwy, Baton Rouge, La 70808 Catherine is Bettylou's daughter and is also an AAUW Baton Rouge member.

Also, Joe Pellegrin, husband of Northshore Branch. member (Olga) **Jessica Pellegrin**, passed away on the morning of Wednesday February 5. Please keep her family in your prayers. Our deepest condolences are sent to Jessica and her family. Sympathy cards can be sent to Olga Jessica Pellegrin, 286 Autumn Woods Dr., Covington, LA 70433.

And, I am also sorry to share news of former Baton Rouge Branch member **Leslie Wachob's** passing on Sunday, Feb. 9 in Palm Desert, CA. Leslie was a long time member who moved away after Hurricane Katrina. As Leslie wanted, there will be no funeral or memorial service. Please remember her for the times you enjoyed together. Condolences can be sent to George Wachob, 236 Santa Barbara Circle, Palm Desert, CA 92260 [gswach857@gmail.com](mailto:gswach857@gmail.com).



## 2020 Calendar

February 25	Mardi Gras
March 8	Legislative Session Kickoff Brunch / International Women's Day Celebration — Ruffino's de laRonde Hall, 320 Third Street, Baton Rouge 70802
March 9	Legislative Session begins
March 15	La AAUW Board Meeting Teleconference, 7:30 p.m.
March 31	Equal Pay Day—Advocacy Focus and Unhappy Hour - Radio Bar, 3079 Government Street, Baton Rouge 70806
April 3-4	“A Staged Reading: African American Suffragists 1850-1920” 7:00-9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Unitarian Church, 8470 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge 70806
April 12	Easter
April 26	State Meeting and Election
May 17	“High Tea Performance: The Polite Ladies Take Off Their Gloves” 2:00 p.m. The Lake House Reception Center, 12323 Old Hammond Highway, Baton Rouge 70816
May 17	La AAUW Board Meeting Teleconference, 7:30 p.m.
June 1	Legislative Session ends
June 9	La AAUW Board Meeting Teleconference, 7:30 p.m.
July 15	La AAUW Board Meeting Teleconference, 7:30 p.m.
To be determined	State Planning Meeting / Strategic Planning Meeting
August 22	AAUW of Louisiana and the Old State Capitol present “Feminists Celebrate Suffragists: 100 years of Voting” Old State Capitol, 100 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802
August 27	Women's Equality Day
September 13	La AAUW Board Meeting Teleconference, 7:30 p.m.
October 11	La AAUW Board Meeting Teleconference, 7:30 p.m.
November 15	La AAUW Board Meeting Teleconference, 7:30 p.m.