

Convention report

The national convention was a big success – over 800 members attended. There were over 350 visits with Senators and representatives on Lobby Day where we asked for continued support for Title IX and funding of the Office of Civil Rights as well as for some relief for student debt repayment.. Associate Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor was the achievement award winner. The Alumnae Recognition Award went to Tererai Trent who grew up in Zimbabwe where she was not allowed to go to school. Her parents married her off at a very young age and by the time she was 18 she had 2 children. She was eventually able to make her way to the US where she has attained a PhD with the financial help of AAUW. She is currently an adjunct professor in monitoring and evaluation in global health at Drexel University's School of Public Health. Her Tererai Trent International has a mission based on the belief that education is the pathway out of poverty. The 2017 Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award went to Laura L. Dunn who founded SurvJustice, a national nonprofit organization that increases the prospect of justice for all survivors through effective legal assistance. SurvJustice enforces victim rights and holds both perpetrators and enables of sexual violence accountable in campus, criminal and civil systems.

Results of business at the convention: There are no mandatory changes to Bylaws. The Board did vote to increase dues by \$10 on July 1, 2018 – which means dues will be \$59 next year. Some wording was changed in the Public Policy of AAUW – see your Spring Outlook where they are listed. All the changes were approved. There were numerous workshop topics and attendees could select 3 of them. The newly elected Board members are listed on the AAUW.org website. Julia Brown is the new Board Chair.

There were 8 Tennessee attendees at the convention. We were introduced to the new Chief Executive Officer Kimberly Churches who came on Board on June 1. She is reaching out to the membership in order to introduce herself. You may receive a phone call from her.

Keynote speakers included Judy Woodruff who is Coanchor and Managing Editor of PBS NewsHour, Linda DiVall who is the Executive Chair and Chief Executive Officer of American Viewpoint, Celinda Lake who is President of Lake Research Partners and who is also a prominent pollster and political strategist for progressives and Kimberly Churches, AAUW's new CEO.

We were also provided with a copy of the Executive Summary of AAUW's latest research findings 'Deeper in Debt' which is about the rising amount of student debt that students are incurring. Female students have a much higher amount of debt than male students.

If anyone is interested in more information about the convention, I have the convention program and would be glad to let you borrow it.