

Branching out
A Newsletter of the
American Association of University Women
Tahlequah (OK) Branch
June 2013

The June Membership Meeting
is a
Diamond Anniversary Celebration
Dinner Meeting

Thursday, June 27, 2013
6:00 p.m.
NSU Alumni Center

Advance Tickets Required
\$25.00 per person

The Tahlequah Branch is celebrating their 75th diamond anniversary by naming seven "Women of Distinction." These women will be honored at the dinner on June 27. Tickets for the dinner are \$25 per person in advance. All proceeds will support local programs and scholarships.

At the dinner, AAUW/Tahlequah will announce one of the women as the recipient of its **Diamond Anniversary Award**.

If you have not purchased your tickets, please contact Peggy Glenn at 918-822-3330 to reserve your advance ticket.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) empowers women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research

NEWS FLASH

If you know of someone who has an interest in joining AAUW, invite them to the Diamond Anniversary Celebration. New members may join AAUW that evening for discounted dues of only \$40 for 2013-14.

AAUW Action Network
"Our Kids Deserve a Better Bill"

You are encouraged to review the E-mail of June 20 from the AAUW Action Network. Once again Congress is trying to reauthorize the federal law governing public education. We need to speak up to see that they get it right.

A few members of Congress have vowed to bring amendments to the floor which would weaken public education by diverting funds to private or religious schools through vouchers schemes.

Take Action: Urge your representative to vote against H.R. 5 and oppose any voucher amendments.

AAUW/OK Summer Conference

The AAUW/OK Summer Conferenece is July 13 in Norman, OK . Cost is \$15 per person including lunch. The theme is "Recruiting Members Across Generations." The registration form is

in the last edition of the state newsletter. The conference begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m.

Topics include an overview of the national convention, sharing ideas for branch officers, creative problem solving, recruiting strategies for colleges and university campuses with student branches from OSU and NSU participating, and a preview of Weatherford Branch's Tech Trek Camp.

The completed registration form and payment must be returned by July 10.

A **special thank you** goes to the outgoing officers who have served so diligently the past two years.

Thanks to several of our members who presented excellent programs this past year and to others whom were recruited for program presentations. The programs were informative and enlightening. .

Among those were:

October: Dr. Shannan Bridgmon presented on "Election Issues." The six state questions and national women's issues were the focus of the presentation.

November: Peggy Glenn presented on living with Multiple Sclerosis.

February: Our student members, Breanna Welch and Michele Schmidt made presentations about "Reality TV."

March: Dr. Karen Carey, Tony Duckworth, and Dee Gerlack composed the panel discussing "Title IX-Gender Equity in Education."

April: The NSU Robotics team talked with us about the new program at NSU.

May: Dr. Suzanne Farmer presentation focused on the political sphere in England during the Tudor-Stuart period of 1648-1789 and women's involvement in the system

An item submitted by our new president, Peggy Glenn, is being forwarded to you separately.

AAUW-Tahlequah Names Seven Women of Distinction for 75th Anniversary

The Tahlequah Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is celebrating its 75th diamond anniversary by naming seven “Women of Distinction.” These women, who embody AAUW’s mission of promoting equality for girls and women, will be honored at a dinner on Thursday, June 27, at 6:00 pm at the NSU Alumni Center, 812 N. Cedar Ave. Tickets are \$25 per person in advance, with all proceeds going for AAUW’s local programs and scholarships.

Honorees include:

Dr. Isabel Baker

Dr. Baker is a lifelong educator, having taught in all levels of primary, secondary, and post-secondary schools. She is a Tahlequah native, an NSU alumna and professor emeritus, and she also taught at Morehead State University in Kentucky and Oklahoma State University. Dr. Baker is an active member of AAUW, Soroptimist International, Cherokee County Democratic Women, and the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce. She serves on many local boards, including Tahlequah Hospital Foundation, Bank of Cherokee County, and the Tahlequah Chamber. She has also been inducted into the Oklahoma Women’s Hall of Fame, Oklahoma Mother of the Year, Chamber Board Member of the Year, NSU Centurion, and OSU’s College of Education Hall of Fame. Dr. Baker has often been the first or only woman on many boards, and is a constant advocate for girls and women, as well as a proud mother of all boys and “first mother” of the Cherokee Nation.

Rose Cambiano

After raising three children who all sought post-graduate degrees and now teach at NSU, Rose Cambiano practiced what she preached and started her bachelor’s degree at NSU at age 48. She graduated with a master’s degree and became a certified teacher and speech pathologist in local public schools. She has been active in church, the Red Hat Society, AAUW, and is a source of wise guidance to many women who are now professors, teachers, and community leaders. Ms. Cambiano is an NSU Centurion and serves as a mother figure to anyone who needs someone to listen and provide “guidance without judgment.”

Bertie Carter

A past president of AAUW-Tahlequah, the late Bertie Carter was Tahlequah High School's homecoming queen, received her bachelor's and master's degrees from NSU, then taught at Union Public School (Stick Ross area) and Tahlequah before moving into the educational food service arena, eventually serving as a state food consultant to the Oklahoma Department of Education and a coordinator of over 200 entry-level teachers at NSU. She received AAUW's Outstanding Service Award, the NSU Centurion award, and was active in the First Baptist Church, Delta Kappa Gamma society of women educators, Meals on Wheels, Relay for Life, the Tahlequah Chamber of Commerce, and the Tahlequah Hospital Foundation. Friends refer to "Bertie blessings," those little annoying things that happen in life but also yield positive lessons, and her "sweet and subtle way" of winning a discussion.

Wilma Mankiller

The first woman elected chief of a major tribe, the late Wilma Mankiller served the Cherokee Nation as chief from 1985 to 1995. A survivor of lymphoma, myasthenia gravis, kidney failure and transplant, and 17 surgeries resulting from a head-on car collision, Chief Mankiller supported American Indian demonstrators who took over Alcatraz in San Francisco, then moved back to northeastern Oklahoma, where she earned a bachelor's degree and took community planning graduate courses at the University of Arkansas, while expanding rural water systems and rehabilitating tribal housing. Awarded the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, by President Bill Clinton in 1998, she was an advocate and role model for women and girls to become involved in tribal and other government functions.

Joyce Rose

A lifelong Tahlequah resident, the late Joyce Rose earned a bachelor's and master's degree from NSU, pursued a doctorate at Oklahoma State University, and worked at the Talking Leaves Job Corp for thirty-six years. She was active in Soroptimist International, AAUW, the American Legion Women's Auxiliary, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, the VFW, CASA, Tahlequah Chamber of Commerce, Order of the Eastern State, the Cherokee County Democratic Women, and Friends of the Library.

Lela Stowers

An active member of the Tahlequah AAUW who also served on the state AAUW board for nearly 10 years, Lela Stowers has led the Cherokee County Retired Educators Association and the Nasturtium Garden Club, and has been active in the Philanthropic Education Organization (PEO), the Tahlequah Chamber of Commerce, First United Methodist Church, and Friends of the Library. Ms. Stowers is a co-founder and organizer for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Cherokee County, and has chaired most of AAUW-Tahlequah's committees and activities, including Tour of Homes and Woman to Woman Conference. She is a recipient of AAUW Tahlequah's Outstanding Service Award. While raising a family, she worked full time and went to school, serving as a role model for many working women.

Dr. Jeannette Wilson

A long-time AAUW member, Jeannette Wilson received the AAUW Member Service Award and has chaired AAUW's Policy Committee, assisted with the Tour of Homes, and hosted a delegation of Russians for the Open World program. Ms. Wilson taught at NSU's College of Education and volunteers for the CARE Food Pantry and Feed My Sheep. She is clear in her opinions and not afraid to stand up publicly for her beliefs, even in dueling letters to the editor with her son. Friends note her ability to go below the surface of issues to evaluate them fully, then work tirelessly and faithfully to advocate for her fact-based opinions.

At the dinner on June 27, AAUW-Tahlequah will announce one of the women above as the recipient of its Diamond Anniversary Award. In addition, new members may join AAUW that evening for discounted dues of only \$40 for 2013-14. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Peggy Glenn, AAUW-Tahlequah President, at 918-822-3330 or peggy.glenn@aol.com.