

BRANCHING OUT

A Newsletter of the
American Association of University Women
Tahlequah (OK) Branch
January 2014

NEXT MEETING

The next program meeting of the Tahlequah Branch of AAUW is Friday, January 31 at 11:30 a.m. The program will be presented by Gayle McNamara, Esq. who is the executive director for a new non-profit entity in Tahlequah, namely, Cherokee County Legal Services, Inc. The meeting will be held in the Legal Services office at 816 South College in the Habitat for Humanity Building at the corner of College Avenue and First Street.

Ms. McNamara will discuss the need for a legal aid provider in Cherokee County, the types of legal services to be provided, who qualifies for the services, and the costs for advice and representation.

Please note the earlier than usual start time. Feel free to bring a sack lunch if you wish. Visitors are welcome to attend the program meeting.

The earlier start time for the meeting is due to the fact that the Chancellor for Oklahoma Higher Education, Glen Johnson, is speaking at NSU at 1:00 p.m. in the Webb Auditorium. All are invited.

The next business meeting is Monday, February 10 at noon at the New Grand China Buffet (behind WalMart). Topics for discussion and action include an event/fundraiser to replace the cancelled "Homes for the Holidays" tour, the level of contributions to submit for national AAUW projects, and the Start Smart project. All AAUW members are encouraged to attend.



The Book Club met recently with an enjoyable and thought provoking discussion of the book, "The Blue Sweater."

**a powerful
network of
EDUCATED WOMEN**



Special Event: NATIVE WORDS -
NATIVE WARRIORS. An exhibit devoted

to World War I and II Native American code talkers and veterans from over a dozen different tribes will be on display at the NSU John Vaughn Library from January 25 through April 7, 2014.

A Lecture and Book Signing sponsored by NSU's Sequoyah Institute is Thursday, January 30 at 6:30 p.m. in the Webb Auditorium. Dr. William C. Meadows of Missouri State University, author of *The Comanche Code Talkers of World War II* will speak. A reception will be held in the NSU library at the exhibit immediately following the lecture.

Exhibit and events are free and open to the public.



From the AAUW Action Network

Thanks to the work and generosity of you and our members, we can be proud of some impressive advocacy achievements in 2013. Here are just a few:

AAUW helped lead the fight for passage of the [Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\)](#). AAUW members played a significant role by personally visiting congressional offices and sending thousands of messages to Congress. Without AAUW, campus sexual assault measures would have been overlooked in the legislation that became law.

Because of AAUW members' stalwart advocacy for pay equity, AAUW was invited to stand with President Barack Obama at the White House ceremony commemorating the [50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act](#).

As state lawmakers and courts threatened to roll back voting rights protections, AAUW members across the country mobilized at colleges, community events, and other public spaces to register people to vote during [National Voter Registration Day 2013](#).

The [AAUW Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby Corps](#) continued to travel to Capitol Hill weekly to meet with members of Congress and their staff, making more than 1,500 visits over the last 12 months. These volunteers work with AAUW staff to

reinforce AAUW's public policy positions on the issues before Congress.

In recognition of our advocacy for women's needs within immigration reform, President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden invited AAUW to the White House announcement of immigration proposals. We were honored when our AAUW policy undergraduate intern, a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals student who would benefit from a proposal that creates a path to citizenship for children brought to America at a young age, was asked to meet with the president and [stand with him on stage](#) during the announcement.

In the last six months of 2013 alone, AAUW state organizers have made wonderful progress supporting our members in 20 states through various events and advocacy efforts. They are helping AAUW members develop strong relationships with AAUW college/university partners and increase advocacy through AAUW's Action Network, all while recruiting new members and building a stronger AAUW presence across the country.

Lela Stowers
Newsletter Editor