

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When last I wrote a message for our website, we had seen Charlie and Frances and were anticipating Ivan. Now, Florida has been hit by four hurricanes (five, if you count Bonnie) and we are all exhausted by the waiting, watching, and many of us, by the agony of losses and repairs. But, I am amazed by the attitude from those I've heard from, that they will go on with their AAUW activities. A few meetings and programs had to be cancelled or postponed, but everyone is getting back into their branch activities.

Our first state board meeting was scheduled for August 13 (the day Charlie arrived) so it had to be postponed until October 1 and 2. But it finally took place. We shared storm stories as well as conducted the business of the state board. We have a terrific board and I hope you will all feel free to call on us when we can help you.

Due to financial constraints, the Association will not be able to administer the 21st Century Recognition Program. They have asked the states to administer it and our Directors at Large have taken on this responsibility. Branches will be hearing more about this; competing for recognition is a good way to meet your branch goals.

Nominations are still open (until November 15) for State Board positions of: Director for Program, Director for Finance, Director for Legal Advocacy, Director for Public Policy and four Directors at Large. Serving on the state board is another way to "*show up*". Remember our mantra.

Don't forget all the other ways you can *show up*:

March 12 – 15, 2005, Florida Women's Consortium Lobby Days, Holiday Inn Select, Tallahassee

April 15 – 17, 2005, Florida State Convention, Renaissance Orlando Hotel Airport, Orlando

June 24 – 27, 2005, AAUW Association Convention, Omni Sheraton Hotel, Washington, D.C.

But most of all, you must *show up* to vote on November 2, 2004. Equity for women and girls depends on you. And Equity is still an issue.