



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

Palmetto Leaf

AAUW of South Carolina Newsletter

Vol. 54, No. 3
February 2007

Not Our Mothers' AAUW – Embracing Our Future

by Bev James, AAUW of SC President

CHANGE is the byword of this year's convention in Charleston from April 20-21. The AAUW of SC Board has listened to the desires of the branch members concerning the State Convention.

- We have kept the cost of both the convention and the rooms to a reasonable rate.
- We have kept the day active and relevant to important issues facing AAUW members.
- We have tried to be sure that all branches have been kept informed of convention plans.

Participation by all branches at the convention this year is crucial.

Be ready for fun on Friday night! Our host, the **Charleston Branch**, is treating convention delegates to tapas and sangria. If you don't know, tapas are tiny hors d'oeuvres that give you a sampling of the tastes available.

A 125th Anniversary celebration will follow our light dinner. Branch presidents or a representative from each branch is invited to share with others information either about their own branch's anniversary celebration or about someone in their branch or community who has been a trailblazer for change.

We hope that branches will bring scrap books and memorabilia to share with participants.

And no birthday party would be complete without birthday cake. Will

125 candles bring on the sprinkler system?

On Saturday, **Ann Terry** will explain AAUW's strategy for change to take AAUW into the next 125 years.

Then spend a little time with your brain in an interactive seminar led by Gerard & **Charlotte Boe** (Beaufort). Ever wonder why it is so easy to communicate with some people and almost impossible to communicate with others? Have you ever left a conversation and said, "She (or he) just doesn't get it!" Or, "How do you communicate with someone who can't understand English!"

Participants will investigate the reasons for differences in gender thinking styles. We will discuss the concept of "whole brain" thinking, will utilize a self administered survey to determine left or right brain thinking and discover ways to switch our dominant style and move toward "whole brain" activity.

The day also includes the annual business meeting, a networking lunch, and fundraisers for both the Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund.

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AAUW of SC Convention
April 20-21, 2007
Holiday Inn
Mt. Pleasant/Charleston, SC

Friday, April 20

2:00-5:00 pm Board Meeting
3:00-6:00 pm Registration
6:00-7:00 pm Tapas reception
7:00-9:00 pm 125th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, April 21

8:30-9:00 am Registration
9:00-9:20 am Opening Remarks and Welcome
9:30-10:45 am *Honoring Our Legacy – Embracing Our Future*
Ann Terry
AAUW Executive VP
10:45-11:00 am Health Break
11:00 am-12:30 pm Business Session, Awards and Town Hall
12:30-1:30 pm Lunch
1:30-3:00 pm *Spend Some Time With Your Brain*
Charlotte & Gerard Boe
3:00-3:30 pm EF/LAF Auction
3:30 pm Adjournment

The Power of the Purse

by Trish Johnson, AAUW of SC Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund Liaison

We're doing something new at the spring convention this year.

Legal Advocacy Fundraising Opportunity

We are asking everyone who attends to bring in their gently-used books and costume jewelry to help raise money for the Legal Advocacy Fund. Attendees will be able to purchase the books and jewelry throughout the convention with all proceeds to go to the Legal Advocacy Fund. If you can not attend for what ever reason, please send your item with a member of your Branch who will be there.

All unsold books will be donated to the Aiken Branch for their book sale and the unsold jewelry will be donated to the Hilton Head Branch for their jewelry sales.

Educational Foundation Fundraising Opportunity

The Educational Foundation will have an auction towards the end of the convention. Each Branch is asked to donate one item to be auctioned off by our President Bev James. Theme baskets, hand made items and plants are a big hit. All proceeds to be credited to each Branch making the donation.

What can you do?

Be a part of the Power of the Purse by donating and bringing your check book to help raise money for these worthy causes.

We will also recognize State and Branch named gift recipients during the business session of the convention. Branches may honor a person or organization based on how much money they have raised in 2006. The Branch must have raised at least \$500 to qualify.

Governor salutes AAUW's 125th Anniversary

Governor Mark Sanford issued an official proclamation declaring November 28, 2006, the 125th anniversary of AAUW, as *American Association of University Women Day*. This is a great honor for all women and girls in the state, not only AAUW members.

Thank you, Governor Sanford for recognizing the contributions that AAUW members, and all women, make to improve the quality of life for all.



AAUW of SC Convention

April 20-21, 2007

Holiday Inn

Mt. Pleasant/Charleston, SC

Lodging Information

The Holiday Inn at Mount Pleasant/Charleston is the location for the 2007 SC Spring Convention on April 20 and 21. A block of guest rooms has been reserved for Friday and Saturday nights.

Reservations must be made directly with the hotel by March 20. Nightly cost for a room with either a king bed or two double beds is \$85 plus tax. Phone (843) 884-6000 or (800) 290-4004 or fax (843) 881-1786. Be sure to ask for the AAUW rate because it is greatly reduced from their regular rate.

The hotel has an outdoor pool in a beautifully landscaped setting, a fitness center with cardio-aerobic equipment, a sauna, and complimentary parking. All rooms have a well-lit work area with ergonomic chair, two-line speaker phone with voicemail and data port, coffee and tea service, hair dryer, iron and board, radio alarm clock, and a 25-inch TV with in-room movies and games.

The special room rate will also be available to AAUW members who wish to bring family and arrive a day before the convention begins or leave a day after it ends.

Driving Directions

Coming from the South: Follow Hwy. 17 north to Charleston. Continue on 17 north towards Mount Pleasant to the Arthur Ravenel Bridge. Once on the bridge, move over to the far left lane. Follow sign on bridge for Georgetown. Take a left at the first traffic light at the bottom of the bridge. The Holiday Inn is immediately on your left.

Coming from the West: Take I-26 east to Charleston. Take Exit 220 for Mount Pleasant. Once on the Arthur Ravenel Bridge, move over to the far left lane. Follow sign on bridge for Georgetown. Take a left at the first traffic light at the bottom of the bridge. The Holiday Inn is immediately on your left.

Coming from the North: Follow Hwy. 17 south to Mount Pleasant. Continue on 17 through Mount Pleasant. At a traffic light, you will see the Miller Cadillac Dealership on your right. (You will see the Arthur Ravenel Bridge ahead of you, although you are turning off before you get to it.) Go to the next light and turn right. The Holiday Inn is immediately on your left.

Nominees for SC Officers

The Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for AAUW of SC officers for 2007-2009.

Pat Batten (Hilton Head) Candidate for Membership Vice President

Pat Batten currently serves as Membership co-Vice President after being appointed by the Board to fill an unexpired term. Pat is currently the Resident Services Director of the Seabrook, a continuing care retirement community on Hilton Head Island. She holds a BA from Russell Sage College in History & Government. She has been working in her current field for about 15 years, in both NJ and SC, states where she has also been an AAUW member for 25 years.

She has served at the branch level in every position except treasurer. While in NJ, she also administered a Teen Choices grant that the state had received. She has served NJ as the co-diversity chair, LAF chair, Nominations Chair and Central Regional Director and currently serves in SC as the co-chair for membership. As a special note, she says that she found her past three work positions through AAUW networking. "The reason I am working where I am now is because an AAUW colleague was looking for an 'AAUW-type Woman'!", Pat says.

Pat Hall (Gaffney) Candidate for Treasurer

Pat Hall currently serves as AAUW of SC Treasurer. She is running for a second term. She has served as chair of the state Finance Committee. Pat has served president of the Gaffney Branch where she has been a member for 13 years. She also served 3 terms as treasurer in Gaffney.

Pat received a BS degree in Business Management from Limestone College, attending the Block Program classes while working full time. She is retired from the Cherokee County School District after 31 years in the Finance Department. For many years she was a member of the Cherokee County chapter of the SCEA, serving as both secretary and treasurer. She is now a member of CCEA-Retired, the organization for retired employees of the school district.

No Nominee for Program Vice President

Proposed By-Laws Change

by Dot Tunstall, AAUW of SC Bylaws Chair

The following Bylaws amendment is proposed for vote by the delegates at the Spring Convention. Proposed changes are noted as *italics/underlined*.

Article 7 (Officers), Section 6. (Rotation)

The program vice president, treasurer, and one membership co-vice president, *if appropriate*, shall be elected in the odd years. The *president*, recording secretary and one membership *co*-vice president, *if appropriate*, shall be elected in the even years.

Budget to be voted on at Spring convention

by Mildred Finch, Chair, Finance Committee

Members will be asked to consider the adoption of the following budget for 2007-2008 during the business session of the annual convention.

AAUW SC Proposed Budget 2007-2008	
INCOME	
Dues (400 members @ \$10)	\$4,000
Conferences	7,200
Transfer from Assets	1,175
Total income + transfers	\$12,375
EXPENSES	
Branch Services	400
Conferences **	7,200
Conference of State Leaders – Reserves*	250
C/U Liaison	50
EF/LAF Chair	100
EF Chair Conference – Reserves*	125
Membership Vice Presidents	50
Other Chairs	25
<i>Palmetto Leaf</i>	1,750
President – Expenses	550
President – Printing Supplies	25
Program Vice President	50
Public Policy Brochures	50
Public Policy Chair	250
Travel – Delegates to AAUW Convention – Reserves*	750
Travel – Delegates to SAR Conference – Reserves*	250
Treasurer – Administrative	25
Treasurer – Audit & Bonding	75
Website	400
Total Expenses	\$12,375
Explanations:	
* Reserves are for conferences which are held every other year.	
** Conferences –	
Legislative Day (90@\$30)	= \$2,700
State Convention (50@80)	= \$4,000
Summer Retreat (25@\$20)	= <u>\$ 500</u>
Total	\$7,200

AAUW and its members are Amazing!

by Bev James, AAUW of SC President



As members of AAUW, we are amazing individuals. From 125 years ago to the present, AAUW has a legacy of leadership. Not only are we strong advocates of equity for women and girls in all aspects of their lives, we are strong women who make a difference. Our membership enables us to educate our community, to provide a powerful voice for women and girls as well as help assure they are treated with dignity and respect.

For the past sixteen months the Association and the Educational Foundation Boards have honored our 125 year legacy of leadership by working to ensure that AAUW remains relevant and sustainable in the 21st century. They have identified core strategic issues which inhibit our ability to grow, thrive and effect positive societal change: mission clarity, program alignment, member demographics, financial stability, and governance infrastructure. The joint boards suggest streamlining the current structure. Current by-laws will also be changed.

We are living in times of accelerated economic, political, social and technological change. The Spring Convention of AAUW of SC will focus on the recommended Association changes and how we will transition through this time. Ann Terry, Association Executive Vice President/Secretary and president of the Rock Hill Branch, will present a workshop, Honoring Our Legacy – Embracing Our Future, which will inform the members of the proposed changes.

This year we are honoring the past, acknowledging the realities of the present, and planning for the future.

Bev

AAUW of SC State Convention April 20-21, 2007 – Mt. Pleasant/Charleston, South Carolina

Name _____
Branch/Org. _____
Address _____
Daytime Phone _____ E-mail _____

Advance Registration must be postmarked by April 5, 2007.
Saturday lunch cannot be guaranteed without advance registration

- Registration for entire convention** \$55.00 _____
(postmarked by April 5)
- Registration at door or postmarked after April 5** \$65.00 _____

Registration fee includes Friday evening light dinner [tapas and sangria prepared by Charleston AAUW Branch], Friday evening birthday cake, Saturday morning coffee, juice, Danish, Saturday lunch, and materials. Saturday's lunch will consist of boneless breast of chicken marinated with lemon peppers, salad, two side items, tea, rolls and dessert.

Special diet needs: _____

Send this completed form and check payable to **AAUW of SC by April 5, 2007** to:
Audrey Henry, 1609 Circle Drive, Newberry, SC 29108. (803/276-6072; henryag@mindspring.com).

Membership – Key to our Future

by Pat Batten, AAUW of SC Membership Vice President

Welcome to all the new members who have joined this year. Our *Keys to the Future: A Member-Get-A-Member Campaign* is now in its second phase with the goal that each and every AAUW branch bring in at least 3 new members during the period prior to March 15. We have found that this campaign has been successful throughout the country. Let's keep those numbers up in South Carolina!



Our next challenge is retention. It's wonderful to have new members but we need to keep both the new and the "old". This is a time of change for the AAUW both nationally and at the local and state levels. Change is not a negative and we need to approach how we meet the needs of all our members, both at the branch level and our growing number of members-at-large. We want to hear from all the branches about your successes. Share your story with me as well as send it on to the association office (jonesc@auuw.org).

The association is working to make information easily available to all of us. Our new Member Services On-Line database now allows you to access your branch officer listing and the roster of members in your branch. You may also update your own personal profiles. You will access this by going to the AAUW Member Center index page and clicking on the Member Services (On-Line) link. Don't forget, though, to help those members who are not computer savvy by sharing the information with them. While on-line, take the opportunity to visit AAUW's 125th Anniversary Celebration center and our Online Museum. I have always enjoyed seeing our history and how we (AAUW) have been in the forefront of women's education and economic issues since inception. Remember – education and equity is still an issue!

Our next South Carolina event is our April convention. Bring a group so we can have our own celebration of successes. I'm looking forward to the branch awards for membership at the convention. Surprise me with big numbers!

An Invitation to AAUW Members At Large

This issue of the AAUW of SC newsletter also is being sent to AAUW Members-At-Large [MALs] who reside in SC.

We invite you to join other women who care about educational equity at the AAUW of SC annual convention in Charleston on April 20 & 21.

We know that just like branch members, MALs are concerned about equity for women in the workplace and in education. Yet you may not be aware of conferences, learning and networking opportunities in which you might wish to participate. However, because you are not a member of a branch, you do not receive information about these events.

Why not become a SC Member-At-Large for a mere \$10? You don't have to attend meetings, but you'll get this quarterly newsletter, which will let you know what is happening in the state.

To join as a state member-at-large, send a check for \$10 payable to AAUW of SC to Pat Hall, AAUW of SC Treasurer, 1801 Ford Road, Gaffney, SC 29340.

Branches raise thousands for Educational Foundation & Legal Advocacy Fund

by Trish Johnson, SC Educational Foundation & Legal Advocacy Fund Chair

The list to the right indicates the amounts each branch has raised for the Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund based on the last report received from AAUW and reports turned in to the state EF Chair.

These amounts are *not conclusive* since the final numbers for the last quarter of 2006 were not received in time for this publication. Those final amounts will be announced at the state convention.

	<u>EF</u>	<u>LAF</u>
Aiken	\$12,000.00	--
Beaufort	\$ 1,317.00	\$100
Denmark	\$ 40.00	--
Due West	\$ 606.50	\$50
Gaffney		\$45
Greater Columbia	\$ 250.00	--
Greenville	\$ 1,325.00	\$318
Hilton Head	\$ 529.50	\$250
Rock Hill	\$ 7,243.10	--
Summerville	\$ 368.00	--
Total	\$24,179.10	\$763

Take Action on General Assembly and Congressional Bills!

by Betty Bayless, SC Public Policy Chair



State

On February 8 Rep. Tracy Edge and 41 co-sponsors introduced **H 3484, the South Carolina Educational Opportunity Scholarship Act**, and it was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Supporters include the Governor and South Carolinians for Responsible Government. This bill would give parents tax credits and scholarships to help pay for private school tuition.

Any family can claim \$1,000 tax credit per child, regardless of family income. Low-income families whose children are zoned to attend low-rated schools can receive a \$4,500 private-school tuition reimbursement. Home-schoolers can claim a \$500 tax credit. And families of students with disabilities also receive credits toward private school tuition.

This legislation came a day after newly-elected State Education Superintendent Jim Rex released his own school choice plan that includes public but not private school options. Students could attend public schools outside their attendance zone or school district. This open enrollment plan would be phased in over three years. Financial support for low-income parents who want to send their children across school or district attendance lines would be available.

AAUW believes the appropriate strategy for improving our nation's schools is to direct resources toward improving public schools, rather than diverting public funds to private institutions. **ACTION:** Look for **Alerts** and **Urge** your legislators to oppose this bill.

H 3124 provides the **Public School Open Enrollment Choice Program** in the public school system in South Carolina. School districts must accept a number of out-of-



district-students equivalent to three percent of the receiving district's total enrollment. The percentage would increase gradually.

On February 6 the House Committee on Education and Public Works favorably reported **H 3097/S 217, the South Carolina Virtual School Program**, with amendments. Debate will resume in the House on February 13.

Federal

The **Student Debt Relief Act of 2007 (S.359)** was recently introduced in the Senate. Similar to **H.R. 5**, which recently passed the House, this bill will cut student loan cost in half to 3.4 percent. It will increase the maximum Pell grant to \$5,100 in the first year, with further incremental adjustments in each subsequent year. Other features include: a voluntary cap of federal loan payments at 15 percent of the borrower's monthly income; forgiveness of loans after 25 years; loan forgiveness for federal employees after 10 years; reduction of origination fees in the Direct Loan program; allow students to reconsolidate loans; and close several loopholes in the current law that allow schools to circumvent school and lender restrictions and permit lenders to reap unusually high reimbursements from the government for defaulted loans.

AAUW believes the bill is a step in the right direction towards addressing the growing crisis in student debt to help reduce the barriers to attending college. AAUW believes ensuring and increasing access to higher education is imperative to helping women obtain financial security and economic independence.

ACTION: Urge your Senators to cosponsor and support the Student Debt Relief Act of 2007 by clicking <http://capwiz.com/aauw/issues/alert/?alertid=9351351>.

AAUW Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

adopted October 2006

Team work and caring spirits are all a part of AAUW

by Leslie Henderson, South Atlantic Regional Director, flaauw@aol.com



Dear South Atlantic AAUW Members:

You've heard the line, "The only one who welcomes change is a baby with a wet diaper"?

Contrary to that aphorism, in our 125 years AAUW has consistently embraced change. As Nancy Shoemaker, president of NC AAUW said in a recent state newsletter article, "...we were born to champion change, and we've

never been ones to defend the status quo..."

Even so, it begs the question: So why now? What makes this a serious effort, different and perhaps more critical than in the last couple decades? The context of *who* we are today – our collective mission and vision over the years – has not changed. *What* we are today – in structure, operations, and governance - *is* the issue.

We are not re-inventing ourselves; we are simply restructuring the organization, to work more efficiently, more cooperatively, and more in tandem with world dynamics. In the last fifteen years or so, AAUW has been like Sisyphus, straining to raise the huge organizational stone, and push it up the hill, time after time. Unlike Sisyphus, today we know that we can't do it alone. Hence, over the last eighteen months, AAUW has asked for advice from all sectors – AAUW leaders, branch members, members-at-large, coalition members, prospective members, other non-profits, consultants, and business leaders. From that comprehensive feedback, the

Association and the Educational Foundation will be suggesting a first phase of organizational changes at the Association convention in Phoenix.

So, as members, how can we help? How can we participate?

First, we need to keep in mind that we are reorganizing an organization, not only for today, but to serve in the future. We need to focus our energies on what's best for AAUW, even if it challenges what we're comfortable with today.

We need to read the extraordinary and riveting "Roadmap" that explains how we arrived at these changes and what needs to be done. The roadmap is on AAUW's website (http://www.aauw.org/member_center/leader_corner/documents/roadmapDraft9-30-06.pdf).

We need to make every effort to make our voices heard and our support felt at the Phoenix convention.

We need to regularly log into www.aauw.org's home page, click "strategic process", and read up on the proposed bylaws amendments and FAQ's.

We need to conduct dialogues in our branches and states, and member leaders need to make sure that all their members are aware of these proposed changes.

Members need to attend their state conventions, where they will have the opportunity to hear more about the re-organization and to interact and discuss these changes with Association leaders.

This needs to be a team effort, with team spirit, for an enduring mission and for the future of AAUW.

Thank you for all that you do for AAUW.

Leslie

Members have spoken. AAUW's boards have listened. And now your support is needed.

For 125 years, AAUW has been advancing equity for women and girls through education, advocacy, philanthropy, and research—and through community action by strong branches throughout the country. During the past 18 months, AAUW and the Educational Foundation have been engaged in an extensive strategic process to address shared challenges and opportunities. More than 11,000 members' voices were incorporated through surveys, online conversations, and discussions at the branch, state, regional, and national levels.

Several principal findings have emerged as the result of this process:

1. **Members' commitment to promoting equity for women of all ages is as strong as ever.** We continue to work on issues that affect women today, because equity is still an issue.
2. **We need to adapt AAUW's organizational structure to meet current and future challenges.** The strategic

process found AAUW's current structure a barrier to attracting new members, strengthening our revenues, and accomplishing our mission. The boards heard the members' voices that we need to adapt our structure as a necessary first step toward reclaiming our legacy as a relevant, vibrant organization.

3. **AAUW needs your engaged support now and your vote at the Association Convention in June.** We *must* adapt our structure and send a mandate to the new boards for immediate, bold action to move forward. Please take time to research the proposed structural changes for yourself and talk with other members at the local level about our collective direction.

We're ready to re-energize and refocus the AAUW we love and to which we've given so much, because as we know, equity is still an issue!

Tell a student leader you know about NCCWSL – what’s that?

The 2007 National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), themed “Leadership for Today and Tomorrow,” is scheduled June 7–9, 2007, in Washington, D.C. This year, in partnership with the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), AAUW hopes to bring even more college women leaders to Washington.

Here’s how states and branches can help make this year’s conference a success for women students:

- Spread the word. Help promote the student leadership conference on your campus, with campus administrators and college women students. “Word of mouth” and personal invitation are the most effective marketing tools.
- Contact college/university (C/U) representatives to schedule informational meetings on campus and meet with students.
- Refer names and e-mail addresses of potential participants to Laura McCulty Stepp at lmstepp@aauw.org. AAUW will send students personal invitations describing the conference.
- Give to the NCCWSL Scholarship Fund. Donations should be made payable to the AAUW Leadership & Training Institute 501(c)(3).
- Donate your frequent-flier miles to the NCCWSL Scholarship Fund to help college women travel to Washington, D.C.
- Make a general contribution to the NCCWSL fund to be spent where it is most needed.
- Consider designating a portion of your branch’s local scholarship fund to the NCCWSL Scholarship Fund.

Kathy Carter serves as AAUW of SC’s College/University Liaison. Contact her (843-671-2425 or kathycarter@earthlink.net) for additional information on funding available through AAUW of SC to support a branch’s efforts to send a student to this important conference.

AAUW of SC Calendar of Meetings

- April 20-21** – State Convention, Charleston
- May 18** – Deadline for *Palmetto Leaf*
- June 29-July 2** – AAUW National Convention, Phoenix
- August 4** – AAUW of SC Leadership Retreat

Palmetto Leaf is published in September, January, February and May/June.

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