

Palmetto Leaf

AAUW of South Carolina Newsletter

Vol. 51, No. 2
January 2004

State Legislative Day offers chance to learn and advocate

AAUW SC members will participate with members of the Business and Professional Women of SC (BPW) and the League of Women Voters of SC (LWV SC) in our annual State Legislative Day in Columbia on Wednesday, February 18, 2004.

We will begin the day at the Adam's Mark Hotel and conclude the day at the State Capitol. The program features outstanding speakers who will brief us on priority legislative issues of concern to our organizations.

The Women's Caucus Chair, **Rep. J. Anne Parks [D]** will open the meeting with her projections for the 2004 General Assembly session. **Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter [D]**, member of the House Ways and Means Committee, and **Sen. Linda Short [D]**, member of the Senate Education Committee, will discuss the options available for funding public education in South Carolina.

Donna Royson, Deputy Executive Director of the SC State Election Commission, will define the actions her department will use to implement the Help America Vote Act in South Carolina in this important election year. She has just returned from a Washington, D.C. conference on this vital effort. After lunch, **Deborah S. Derrick, Program Coordinator for the Attorney General's Violence Against Women Program**, will explain the department's mission to end violent attacks against South Carolina women by providing prosecution assistance for domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking crimes.

We will close the day by walking to the State Capitol to observe selected committee meetings and meet with our Legislators. We urge you to **contact your legislators in advance** to schedule an appointment with them.

Cost for Legislative Day is \$30, which covers morning beverages and muffins, materials and lunch.

Parking passes for those who park in the municipal garage adjacent to the hotel will be available at the registration desk for \$3.

Please join us for this special opportunity to learn and to network!

Mail your registration by February 11. If you have questions, call Betty Bayless at 843-987-1930 or e-mail tbbayless@islc.net.

Betty Bayless, our State Public Policy Chair, is responsible for State Legislative Day plans in consultation with Dr. Holley Ulbrich, LWVSC Program Vice President.

**Registration form
is on page 4**

Legislative Day Schedule Adam's Mark Hotel Columbia, SC

9:00 – 9:30

Registration, beverages & muffins

9:30 – 10:00

Outlook for the 2004 Legislative Session:
Rep. J. Anne Parks [D], Women's Caucus Chair

10:00 – 10:45

Funding Public Education in South Carolina
Sen. Linda Short [D]
Senate Education Committee
Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter [D],
House Ways and Means Committee

10:45 – 11:00

Health Break

11:00 – 11:45

Help America Vote Act (HAVA)
Donna Royson, Deputy Executive Director
South Carolina State Election Commission

11:45 – Noon

Break – Setup for Lunch

Noon – 1:00

3-Course Luncheon in the Palmetto Ballroom

1:00 – 1:45

Violence Against Women Program
Deborah S. Derrick, Program Coordinator
Office of the South Carolina Attorney General

1:45 – 2:00

Wrap Up the Day

2:00

Walk to State Capitol to observe committee meetings, meet with General Assembly members

President's Message

by Trish Johnson, AAUW of SC President

On February 18, AAUW of SC will be part of a coalition of Women's groups that will be meeting in Columbia to talk about the political climate in South Carolina. With budget cuts and un-funded mandates, it is becoming difficult for the children of South Carolina to get an equitable education.

AAUW of SC and the League of Women Voters have a history of working together in South Carolina to insure that our State Legislature hears women's voices. Be a part of that voice and join us. Help us to continue to move South Carolina forward in improving educational equity for all of our children and improving the lives of it's women and girls.

Nominations are now being sought for *Membership Vice President* and *Secretary* for the 2004-2006 membership year. It is easy to sit back and reap the benefits of those who have continued to step up to leadership roles time and time again because no one else will do it. Isn't it time you as a member of AAUW of SC offer your services to the state? If you are unsure what it takes to fill one of the positions mentioned, call up the women who currently hold these leadership positions and ask. Every year we go through the same process of beating the bushes to find members willing to fill the open positions - it would be nice for a change to have you as a member step up without being asked. Our leadership team works hard, but we also have lots of fun. Won't you be a part of our team?



AAUW of SC Leadership Team, 2003-2004

Trish Johnson, President
virginiawolf40@hotmail.com

Nancy Hughes, Membership Vice President
msmoe@att.net

Kathryn Sharp, Treasurer
Ksharp9966@aol.com

Harriett McIntosh, Recording Secretary
User2ts@aol.com

Brena Walker, Past President
College/University Representative
4bwalker@bellsouth.net

Betty Bayless, Public Policy Chair
tbbayless@islc.net

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Lynn Shore, Conference Planning Chair
cshorejr@yahoo.com

Pat Hall, Finance Committee Chair
phall@cherco.net

Carolyn Gass, Nominating Committee Chair
cg53@bellsouth.net



State and National Public Policy Issues focus on education concerns

by Betty Bayless, SC Public Policy Chair



Proposals to Fund Education in South Carolina

House Majority Leader Rick Quinn (R-Richland) is “shopping” his major tax plan around the state. His plan would reduce the amount of local property tax dollars that go to fund education by raising the state’s 5% sales tax to 7%, thus relieving the overall property tax burden by about \$200 million while eventually increasing spending on public schools by about \$169 million. Bill numbers are **H 4410 and H 4411**. Rep. Vince Sheheen (D-Kershaw) is the chief co-sponsor of the legislation.

The plan would allow local governments to use property taxes to maintain current education spending levels if the statewide sales tax revenue, which will be distributed based on student population and need, falls short. Quinn has said he anticipates such shortfalls to persist for a few years but expects growing sales tax revenues to eventually eliminate the need for local property taxes to fund schools. At this time the Quinn plan would: reduce all property taxes on homes and businesses by at least 50%; eliminate the annual taxes on cars and trucks; and reduce the state’s income tax by 15%.

Governor Mark Sanford’s plan would:

- Lower the state’s income tax rate to 5.9% from 7%.
- Raise the tax on a pack of cigarettes to 68 cents, from the current 7 cents; and
- Apply the 5% state sales tax to state lottery tickets.

Sanford states that reducing income taxes would result in many benefits for South Carolina, including creating a friendlier business climate for small, start-up operations.

Tax reform has been a hot topic during the past several legislative sessions, but officials have traditionally failed to pass significant changes to the tax laws. Because 2004 is an election year legislators could again shy away from any significant tax change.

Friends of Education Coalition Report

Governor Sanford’s new legislative liaison Tom Davis recently met with the Friends of Education Coalition. Diane Monrad of the Greater Columbia Branch is AAUW SC’s representative to the coalition.

Davis presented this “preliminary list” of legislative items:

- **SMART Funding S. 665:** offers discretion as much as possible in allocating funds.
- Income tax credits for scholarship donations **H. 3705:** the Governor supports a tax credit for donations to private scholarship organizations to help subsidized-lunch students in private or public schools.
- Anti-bullying **S. 586:** gives more sovereignty to teachers, with mandatory re-assignment of disruptive students.
- Countywide school district consolidation **S. 273:** the Governor wants districts to consolidate to

meet a certain minimum size, say 2,500 students, but not necessarily to consolidate all districts in every county.

- Alternate approval methods for charter schools **S. 522:** application for charter schools may be filed either with the local school board (the current procedure) or with a newly established statewide Charter School Approval Committee.
- Pathways to Prosperity **S. 462:** pilot projects would be operated using WIA funds (\$5 million) and the General Fund (\$500,000) to establish programs for technically-trained graduates. A year later, evaluations of the projects would shape the final legislation.
- Property Tax Relief (Local Option Sales Tax) **S. 782 and H. 3612:** Friends raised this issue as one which could be very beneficial for school districts and for local tax payers.

Federal Budget Appropriations/School Vouchers

When the 108th Congress recessed on December 20 the omnibus spending bill was not passed. As a result, a resolution will continue government spending at current (FY 03) levels until January 31, 2004. In an interesting display of arm-twisting and backdoor deal making, Senate and House leaders included provisions for a private school voucher plan in their respective funding bills for the District of Columbia. AAUW fought to keep Congress from imposing an ill-advised voucher program on D.C. residents. Unfortunately, the measure passed by a very narrow margin in the House and never received an up-or-down vote in the Senate

(continued on page 4)

State and National Public Policy Issues

(continued from page 3)

Unsure if there was enough support to pass D.C. vouchers, Senate leadership placed the measure in the omnibus spending package without allowing senators to vote on it.

AAUW fought successfully to keep a private school voucher program from being included in the **Improving Education Results for Children with Disabilities Act (H.R. 1350)** which reauthorized the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The Senate will take up reauthorization of IDEA next year, and it is possible the voucher proposal will be brought up again in the Senate bill.

Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit

AAUW supported the addition of a prescription drug benefit to Medicare but is deeply disappointed with the final version of this bill. Medicare is especially important to women who make up the majority of beneficiaries.

Almost eight out of 10 women on Medicare use prescription drugs

regularly, and most pay for those medications out of pocket. AAUW is concerned the new Medicare use prescription drug benefit does not provide a meaningful benefit to most seniors, and that increased privatization measures threaten the viability of Medicare for future generations.

Reproductive Choice

The Senate passed the **Unborn Victims of Violence Act (UVVA, S. 146)** which would create a separate criminal offense for individuals who kill or injure an “unborn child” while committing a federal crime against a woman. The specific language of the bill would mean that for the first time, a zygote, an embryo, and a fetus would be recognized as a person distinct from the pregnant woman. The House is expected to take action on its version of the bill, renamed **Laci and Connor’s Law (H.R. 1997)** sometime in 2004.

AAUW supports the **Motherhood Protection Act (H.R. 2247)** that establishes two penalties in cases where violence against a pregnant woman results in harm to her fetus: a crime against her for harming her body and a crime against her for harming her pregnancy. In both cases, the mother alone is the victim, not the fetus. This act does not challenge the constitutional right to choice.

The day the President signed the **Partial Birth Abortion Ban**, three pro-choice organizations filed suit to challenge the constitutional validity of the law. The lawsuits are pending, with injunctions filed to prevent implementation of the law.

Same Sex Marriage

AAUW is endorsing organization of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), a bill that prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

AAUW will not take a position on the same sex marriage debate. First, the federal government should stay out of the marriage question; regulating marriage has always been and should remain the purview of the states. Second, amending the Constitution is very rare and should only be done to address an urgent public policy need. AAUW will be a watchful spectator at the federal level.

AAUW’s *Public Policy Principles for Action* do not preclude local branches or state organizations who oppose such an amendment from advocating on the issue – especially given the historical precedence of state’s rights in this matter.

State Legislative Day Registration

February 18, 2004

Adam’s Mark Hotel, 1200 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC

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

Advance Registration of \$30 must be postmarked by Wednesday, February 11, 2004.

Lunch cannot be guaranteed without advance registration.

Registration (*postmarked by Feb. 11*) \$30.00 _____
 Late registration (*postmarked after Feb.11*) \$40.00 _____

Send this completed form and check payable to **AAUW of SC** to:
 Kathryn W. Sharp, 139 Alexander Glennie Drive, Pawleys Island, SC 29585-6882

Association President Rustad and Southern women authors among leaders set for regional conference

by Ann Terry, South Atlantic Regional Director



American Association of University Women President Nancy Rustad is among the leaders who will keynote the program and events of the South Atlantic and Southeast Central joint regional conference, June 11-13, 2004, in Atlanta, Georgia, at the new Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center.

The conference theme is **Woman Power** and programs will examine the purpose, power and progress of women as leaders, advocates, philanthropists and mentors.

President Rustad will join other women leaders in the arenas of politics, business, athletics and international issues as a member of a panel of women as leaders. She will also provide a keynote address and participate in a workshop on leadership for AAUW members on Sunday morning.

The conference will kick off on Friday evening with a panel of women authors discussing the power of women's words along with an author book signing, for which women authors throughout the south are being invited to participate. If you or someone you know is a published author, we would like to extend an invitation to be a part of this event. Send contact information to me at annsterry@yahoo.com or 4882 Stoneridge Road, Catawba, SC 29704, as soon as possible.

Universities and colleges in both regions are being invited to send their top female student athletes to be recognized with their peers in a special program. The student athletes will join in all of the conference activities, which will give AAUW members the chance to interact with the finest of our future.

Other women leaders either confirmed or invited to participate in the conference include Michelle Wetherald, AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund President; Jenny Higgins, AAUW Educational Foundation Fellowship Recipient and student at Emory University; authors Gail H. Evans of CNN, Jill Connor Brown and Dr. Dorothy Shawhan; Dr. Lynn Hagan of Kuwait; Representative Kathy Ashe of Georgia; and Elaine Hughes and Betty Bayless of AAUW Public Policy Committee.

Complete program information, schedule of activities, registration form and hotel reservation information is available on the conference website – www.onedomain.com/aauw. Along with links to websites of all the states in the regions, the website also has links to Atlanta attractions and cultural events, in the event that you would like to make this a family vacation destination.

Please note that early-bird conference registration is due **by May 10**; you'll save \$25 by registering early. Registration is \$125 and includes all materials, Friday author event, Saturday breakfast, lunch and all-day breaks.

Also, room reservations must be made **by May 12** in order to secure conference room rate. You cannot register online but can register by calling hotel at 1-800-706-2899, Monday-Saturday, and requesting the *American Association of University Women* room rate. Do not ask for AAUW rate, as the rooms are not listed that way.

Watch for more information in upcoming issues of your state newsletter and bookmark the conference website so you can stay updated on program plans as they are confirmed. You can also feel free to contact me anytime for more information or questions.

Hope to see you in Atlanta in June!

Ann S. Terry, South Atlantic Regional Director
803-789-6129 or annsterry@yahoo.com.

The American Association of University Women promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

Check out the AAUW of SC Website at www.aauw-sc.org

Branches increase Legal Advocacy Fund giving

by Susan Fitzgerald Bruce, SC LAF Liaison



As I write this on December 16, the early results of our LAF contributions for 2004 are outstanding. Seven of our 13 branches have already met or exceeded their goals! And many have passed last year's totals. I have listed all the branches with their contributions and starred (*) the ones who have exceeded their goals.

Special thanks go to the **Beaufort Branch** for its impressive fundraising! And a "you go, girls!" to the **Greater Columbia Branch** which is extending its coupon book fundraiser to the last day of the year for maximum profits!

Below are *early* results combining national's totals as of November, plus additions that branches have told me about. The final results from LAF's report in February will be reported in a later edition of the *Palmetto Leaf*.

Aiken, \$320.00 *	Anderson, \$65.00
Beaufort, \$880.00 *	Charleston, \$25.00
Denmark, \$175.00 *	Due West, \$25.00
Gaffney, \$75.00	Greater Columbia, \$300.00
Greenville, \$1,943.00 *	Hilton Head, \$325.00 *
Newberry, \$25.00	Orangeburg, \$30.00
Rock Hill, \$207.00	



Gen X is future of AAUW membership

by Nancy Hughes, SC Membership Vice President



We need to look at how (or if) we are recruiting new members. Perhaps our strategies are not quite getting the results we want. The following is part of an article on recruiting younger members for our branches. I think there are some ideas here that we all should look at and determine what it is that we can do about attracting new members.

"If you haven't started yet, it's time to really focus on getting Gen X involved in your chapters.

- o Within ten years, 43% of labor force will be eligible to retire.
- o By 2010, Generation X plus Millennials will equal 45% of adults in the US.

What's the average age of your members? The involvement challenge is that potential younger members have tons of choices how to spend their time.

Your branch activities from meetings to learning events to volunteer efforts need to provide a valuable enough experience for younger members (or any members) to say "no" to other options. A common problem is that many of you run the same types of meetings and events that your chapter ran decades ago - and the format is not meeting the learning needs and experience expectations of younger members. If it did, they would show up.

Another common occurrence... you may hear potential younger members' demand for value in their involvement, but haven't taken the steps and time to make it happen. Or perhaps, the new steps you're taking, aren't the steps younger members are looking for.

Another problem... many of you see Gen X in predominantly negative terms with regards to your association. "They aren't loyal," you grumble. "They don't want to get involved," you might complain -- while others complain "They don't want to pay their dues. They want to be able to take over."

We need to work through and let go of the negativity to find the wonderful value younger members can bring to your chapter and association. Yes, successfully attracting younger members may mean some changes in how you do business - but who says changes have to be a bad thing?

Perhaps ramping up to some new ways will help to revitalize your chapter over all - and help take you to the next level? The more Gen Xers you attract to your chapters, the easier it will be to also attract the Millennials who are just now graduating from college. It's time to guarantee the future of your association - and to recruit and keep those younger members. So it's time to roll our sleeves up and get to work. As leaders, you will be deepening your legacy by recruiting the future of your association to your chapters today."

from Cynthia D'Amour, Leadership Coach, Author,
 "How to Turn Generation Me into Active Members of Your Association"
 The how-to book for getting more members involved!

Make plans for spring convention now!

by Lynn Shore, Conference Planning Chair

The New Year has begun, and it's time to make plans to attend the spring meeting for AAUW of South Carolina. The convention dates are Friday, April 23 - Sunday, April 25, 2004. We will be at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront on South Forest Beach Drive in Hilton Head.

It is not too early to register for the convention – in fact, **early bird registration ends March 23.**

We have reserved 15 guestrooms for April 23rd and 24th. The room type is with two double beds. The cost of the room per night is \$109 plus applicable state and local taxes (currently 10% per room per night) and \$4.75 for Resort Fee. Please be aware that these rooms usually rent for over \$200-\$300 per night. Oceanfront rooms are available at an extra cost through the Reservations Department.

The negotiated rate (\$109) applies two days prior to the convention and two days after, so you might want to consider bringing along the family for a mini-vacation.



The cut off date for hotel reservations is March 23, 2004. Individuals are responsible for their own reservations and charges.

The Holiday Inn phone number is 843/785-5126 or 1-800/423-9897. The fax number is 843/785-7753.

More details about the speakers, programs and workshops will appear in the next issue of *Palmetto Leaf*, which will come your way in early March.

AAUW of SC State Convention

April 23-25, 2004

Hilton Head Holiday Inn

Name _____

Branch/Org. _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ FAX _____

E-mail _____

Advance Registration of \$79.00 must be postmarked by March 23, 2004.

Meals cannot be guaranteed without advance registration.

Registration includes meals, breaks, materials and reception.

Registration for entire convention (*postmarked by March 23, 2004*) \$79.00 _____

Registration for Saturday only (*postmarked by March 23, 2004*) \$55.00 _____

Late registration for entire convention (*postmarked after March 23, 2004*) \$89.00 _____

Late registration for Saturday only (*postmarked after March 23, 2004*) \$65.00 _____

Special needs/diet: _____

Send this completed form and check payable to **AAUW of SC** to:

Lynn Shore, P. O. Box 464, Taylors, SC 29687

cshorejr@yahoo.com; 864/244-6217

A Warm Thank You

You did it! You reached the goal of raising \$100,000 for the Barbara W. Moxon American Fellowship in less than four years. The fellowship now stands at \$100,055.87, and, of course, could grow higher. AAUW of SC voted to begin this fellowship in 1999 and in these few years, our local branches and many members gave time, money and creativity to raise the funds to make this fellowship a reality.

I congratulate you and express my gratitude for all your work for this particular fellowship. Now women scholars who are completing doctoral dissertations or conducting post doctoral research have another source of financial aid. This makes it possible for more women to be in faculty leadership positions or fulfilling other leadership roles.

I hope that we will have South Carolina women among the applicants for an AAUW fellowship this year. Does your branch have a member or friend whom you could make award of this opportunity for a step upward? If yes, then have them contact AAUW of SC Educational Foundation chair, Ann Terry, for complete information.

*Barbara W. Moxon
Greater Columbia Branch*

Bayless appointed to AAUW IFUW Delegation to Australia

The Board of Directors of AAUW have appointed Betty Bayless (Beaufort) as a member of the AAUW delegation to the 2004 IFUW Triennial Conference to be held in Perth, Australia, August 4-11, 2004.

The AAUW delegation will consist of the Association president, Association finance vice-president, the international chair, the Foundation president or her designee, the Legal Advocacy Fund president or her designee, and four delegates from the AAUW membership.

SC AAUW Calendar

January, 2004

Finance Committee Meeting

January 24, 2004

Executive Committee Meeting, Newberry

February 18, 2004

Legislative Day, Adams Mark Hotel, Columbia

February 23, 2004

Deadline for *Palmetto Leaf*

April, 2004

AAUW of SC joins Columbia College in saluting female scholar athletes [details TBA]

April 23-25, 2004

Spring Convention, Hilton Head

May 3, 2004

Deadline for *Palmetto Leaf*

June 11-13, 2004

South Atlantic Regional Conference, Atlanta, GA

July 24, 2004

Nuts & Bolts Conference and Executive Committee Retreat

Palmetto Leaf

The 2003-2004 *Palmetto Leaf* will be published in September 2003, and in January, March and June 2004 by AAUW of SC.

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803/789-6129 or annsterry@yahoo.com

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