

Palmetto Leaf

AAUW of South Carolina Newsletter

Vol. 53, No. 4

May 2006

Join us for Summer Workshop, Saturday, August 5

The AAUW of South Carolina Summer Leadership Workshop will be an opportunity for new and seasoned branch officers and members to learn about what is happening with AAUW nationally as well as the direction of AAUW of SC.

The new national membership campaign initiative will be introduced and explained. You will receive information about Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund programs.

In her *Election Issues 2006* presentation, AAUW SC Public Policy Chair **Betty Bayless** will review the projects in AAUW's new *Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout* manual and provide a copy of the manual for each branch. She will also highlight priority AAUW state and federal issues that can be discussed in candidate forums prior to the November 2006 election.

And, most importantly, there will be time for questions and concerns about AAUW.



The AAUW of SC **Board Retreat** begins immediately after the workshop ends, around 2:30 pm. This retreat includes all Executive Committee members *and* Branch Presidents.

All of these leaders plus other interested members are welcome to attend to see how the Board plans for the upcoming year.

I encourage all branch leaders and interested members to join us on August 5 in Columbia as we begin a new year of excitement, information and planning for AAUW of SC.

Bev James, SC State President, 2006-2008

Leadership Workshop Schedule

9:00-9:30 am	Registration
9:30-9:45 am	Welcome and Introduction
9:45-10:30 am	EF/LAF Information Membership Initiatives
10:30-10:45 am	Health Break
10:45-11:15 am	Reports on Conference of State Leaders and Regional Conference
11:15-12:00 pm	<i>Election Issues 2006</i>
12:00-12:45 pm	Lunch
1:00-2:00 pm	<i>What's New in AAUW</i> Sharing of ideas and concerns
2:30 pm	Board Retreat

Directions to Meeting Location:

Via I-26 – from West or East: Take I-26 to I-126 into Columbia downtown. Turn right on Bull Street. Go to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1715 Bull Street. This is a grey stone church on your right – enter at red door that faces Bull St.

Via I-77 from North: Take I-77 to I-227 which becomes Bull Street. Go to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1715 Bull Street. This is a grey stone church on your right – enter at red door that faces Bull St.

West & Northeast: Take I-20 to I-227 becomes Bull St. Go to St. Paul's 1715 Bull Street. This is a grey stone – enter at red door that faces Bull St.

**AAUW of SC Summer Leadership Workshop
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1715 Bull Street, Columbia, SC
August 5, 2006**

Name _____
Branch _____
Branch/State Position _____
Daytime Phone _____
E-mail _____

Advance Registration must be postmarked by July 22.

*Registration includes morning coffee, juice and muffins,
salad lunch, and materials*

Workshop Fee \$20 by July 22; \$25 at the door

Send form with check, payable to AAUW of SC, to
Audrey Henry, 1609 Circle Drive, Newberry, SC 29108.

Outgoing President extends appreciation to her leadership team and to AAUW of SC members

by Trish Johnson, AAUW of SC President



By the time you read this message I will be close to the end of my term as your State President. I will represent South Carolina at the joint South Atlantic/Southeast Central Regional Conference in Birmingham and will attend the Conference of State Leaders in Washington as your incoming Educational Foundation Chair.

I would like to thank all the women who have served on my Board and have served as Branch Presidents during my four-year tenure. I particularly want to thank **Ann Terry** and **Betty Bayless** for being my mentors. They pushed, pulled, fussed, praised and always told me what I needed to hear even if it was not what I wanted to hear at the time. Good mentors are a blessing and I was truly blessed.

One of my favorite jobs as State President was to visit the Branches. Some I was lucky enough to be invited to more than once. This was where I got to meet the grass roots members...the women who make AAUW what it is. We have many seasoned members with a wealth of talent and memories. These women are truly inspiring because they are our trail blazers. When I grow up, I hope to be a combination of **Sarah Leverette** and **Bettylou Terry**.

As I have said many times, being a member of AAUW has helped me grow in so many ways. Being President has helped me stretch that growth even further. I no longer dread doing my President's Message because I've learned I can do it. I've learned I can do a lot of things I never thought I could do just by taking risks and having the right people in place to make it happen.

I wish **Bev James** the best as she takes on her role as State President and know that I leave this job in very good hands.

Trish

Membership is critical to AAUW's future – it's up to you!

by Pat Batten & Sue Norton, Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Congratulations to the branches that grew this year!!

Due West Branch doubled its membership!

Denmark showed a 21% increase.

Charleston had a 20% increase.

Let's keep this momentum going for the coming year.

Association and branch dues should be paid by June 30th. It is important that the *Branch Dues Report* be sent in with the dues as early as possible because it is what we all use to determine how many members are in each branch. We all want to be **counted!**

Association Member-At-Large lists have been forwarded to most of the branches. If you did not receive your copy, it is because we did not have a contact person for your branch. Please be sure that we have the names of the current

membership vice-presidents. We like to communicate!! We look forward to seeing you at the Summer Workshop in August.



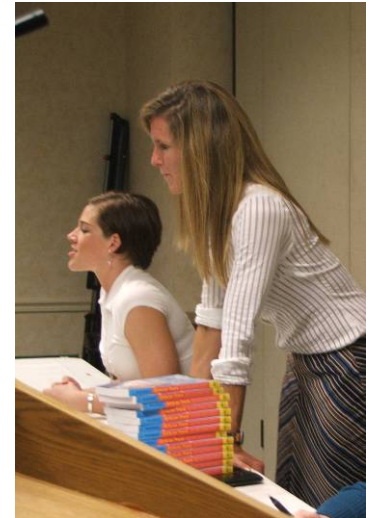
This summer we will receive more information about the new AAUW membership initiative called *AAUW: Keys to the Future – A Member-Get-A-Member Campaign*. This ties in well with what we have been talking about this year. **Members bring in members!!!** By recruiting new members, you will be recognized for your efforts. This will culminate in a celebration at the 2007 Association convention in Phoenix.

Scenes from 2006 Spring Convention in Rock Hill

Keynote speaker **Kathryn Holten** addressed the AAUW theme of *Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security*.



Student Scholar Athlete **Beth Waggoner** and *Girls on the Run* Founder **Molly Barker** were hits with the audience, answering questions and signing autographs after the program concluded.



A panel, composed of (from left) **Rebecca Masters**, **Karen Puthoff**, and **Susan DeVenney** and moderated by **Betty Bayless**, discussed educational funding issues at the preschool, k-12 and higher education levels.



Bev James, EF chair, led an auction of goodies supplied by branches.



(photos by Ann Terry)

Branches support Legal Advocacy Fund & Educational Foundation through fundraising efforts year-round

by *Bev James, Educational Foundation Chair*

Legal Advocacy Fund Achievements for 2005

Did you know that the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund is the nation's largest legal fund focused solely on sex discrimination in higher education? It provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

AAUW LAF has adopted a new pay equity case against Berea College, *Schuster v. Berea College*. An associate professor of nursing, Claire Schuster, is challenging "pink collar" pay inequity between the nursing department and other academic fields as well as sex-based pay discrepancies within the nursing department itself. The Legal Advocacy Fund will provide critical financial backing to Schuster.

Branches and branch members of South Carolina AAUW proudly contributed \$2,270 to **Legal Advocacy Fund** in 2005.

The contributions were:

Anderson	\$50
Beaufort	\$780
Charleston	\$45
Greater Columbia	\$250
Due West	\$50
Gaffney	\$65

Greenville	\$525
Hilton Head	\$250
Rock Hill	\$255

Congratulations on your continued support.

Educational Foundation Update

Every branch EF Chair or Branch President has received information concerning their branch's 2005 giving to the Educational Fund. Please share this information with members.

AAUW of SC has already contributed \$20,604.51 toward the \$75,000 goal to complete the *Ann Scott Terry Research and Project Grant*. Great work!

The "Working Women" pins were a huge success at the State Convention. Our cost was covered and over \$100 was given to the *Ann Scott Terry Project and Research Grant*. The auction at state convention collected \$344 from the unique and thoughtful items contributed by most branches. Thank you.

[Special Note: Barbara Moxon's name was inadvertently missing from the list of Century Circle members printed in the last *Palmetto Leaf*.]

AAUW Priority Issues – A Report on General Assembly Status and Congressional Efforts

by Betty Bayless, SC Public Policy Chair



General Assembly Actions on Education Issues

In a key vote against continued efforts to impose vouchers and tuition tax credits in South Carolina, the House voted 59-52 on May 3 to table an amendment (No. 7) to **H. 4913**, the annual tax bill. The amendment would have established the **Education Opportunity Scholarship Act** (the new *Put Parents in Charge* measure) which had been introduced as **H. 4534**. There

will be major efforts to pass this legislation in the 2007 General Assembly with funding support from out-of-state groups. AAUW SC will work with two SC grassroots coalitions - *Choose Children First* and *Friends of Education* - to oppose voucher/tuition tax credit bills.

On May 3, Governor Sanford signed **H. 3010** that establishes a **Statewide Charter School District**. There will be two separate boards - one to review charter school applications and another to grant charters and run the district.

As of May 10, the House Committee on Education and Public Works continued to work on the amended version of **S. 1004** to create **The South Carolina Child Development Education Two-Year Pilot Program**. Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year and continuing through the 2007-2008 school year with funds appropriated by the General Assembly, this program for at-risk four-year-old children shall first be made available to eligible children from the eight trial districts - Allendale, Dillon 2, Florence 4, Hampton 2, Jasper, Lee, Marion 7 and Orangeburg 3. The program shall focus on the developmental and learning support that children must have in



order to be ready for school and must incorporate parenting education. With any remaining funds, the pilot shall be expanded to the remaining plaintiff school districts in *Abbeville County School District et al vs. South Carolina*.

Judge Thomas Cooper has not ruled on the motions for reconsideration of his decisions that were filed by the plaintiff districts and the state. No date has been set for the rulings and the plaintiff districts will consider an appeal if the judge rejects their requests.

On April 8, Governor Sanford signed **H. 4429**, the **Uniform Start Date** legislation. This Act requires that schools begin classes no sooner than the third Monday in August except for schools operating on a year-round modified calendar.

Congressional Decisions

After much advocacy from AAUW and other education funding groups, Senators unanimously amended the **Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (H.R. 4939)** to extend disaster relief to students displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Instead of continuing a national federal voucher program that began last year, this amendment appropriately redirects this precious funding through existing *No Child Left Behind* programs. AAUW appreciates the Senators' commitment to providing education relief to the Gulf region, and their willingness to consider other options that did not include extending the voucher program. However, the fate of the legislation is still in question because the measure must be addressed in conference committee with the House version of the bill.



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