



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

Palmetto Leaf

AAUW of South Carolina Newsletter

Vol. 52, No. 2
January 2005

Sign up now to participate with members of

Legislative Day to focus on Education Funding & Women's Commission

by Betty Bayless, AAUW of SC Public Policy Chair

AAUW SC, the League of Women Voters of SC (LWVSC) and partner organizations in our annual State Legislative Day in Columbia on Wednesday, February 23, 2005.

We will begin the day at the Adam's Mark Hotel (**could be the Marriott then**) 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.

Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter [D], member of the House Ways and Means Committee will open the meeting with her projections for the 2005 General Assembly session. **Steve Morrison, Esq.**, Columbia attorney for the plaintiffs in the "Manning case" will brief us on the status of this important court action and the impact of the decision on the funding of public education.

Sen. John W. Matthews [D] and a **Spokesperson from Governor Sanford's office** have been invited to debate the pros and cons of the tax credits provision in the *Put Parents in Charge Act*.

After lunch, **Linda Salane, Executive Director of the Leadership Institute, Columbia College**, will explain the College's role in support of the SC Commission on Women.

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 and 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.

Mail your registration by February 16. If you have questions, call Betty Bayless at 843-987-1930 or e-mail tbayless@islsc.net. As our State Public Policy Chair, Betty is responsible for State Legislative Day plans in consultation with Dr. Holley Ulbrich, LWVSC Program Vice President.

Please join us for this special opportunity to learn and to network!
Registration form is on page 2.

Legislative Day Schedule

Adam's Mark Hotel, Columbia, SC
Palmetto Ballroom
803-771-7000

9:00 – 9:30

Registration, beverages and muffins

9:30 – 10:00

Outlook for 2005 General Assembly Session

Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter [D]
House Ways and Means Committee

10:00 – 10:45

Status of the Manning Trial

Steve Morrison, Esq., Attorney for the Plaintiffs

10:45 – 11:00

Health Break

11:00 – 11:45

Funding Public Education in South Carolina

Sen. John W. Matthews [D]
Senate Education Committee
Education Spokesperson
Governor Sanford's Office

11:45 – 1:00

3-Course Luncheon in Palmetto Ballroom

1:00 – 1:45

SC Commission on Women

Linda Salane, Ph.D., Executive Director
The Leadership Institute, Columbia College

1:45 – 2:00

Wrap Up the Day

2:00

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

The power of three – purpose, power, and progress

by Trish Johnson, AAUW of SC President



The power of three, Purpose, Power and Progress. The three sisters of AAUW are strongest when they are used as one. With Legislative Day approaching, we have an opportunity to show the power of three.

Our purpose is to promote educational equity for all women and girls. On December 9, the closing arguments will take place in the Equitable Educational Funding Case in Manning, South Carolina and we will see that purpose put to the test. The state of

South Carolina would like to deny the poorer children of South Carolina an equitable education. We can use the power of our numbers, along with the League of Women Voters and the Education First coalition, to show the Legislators that we want to see all children in South Carolina get an equitable education. By insuring equity for all, we achieve it for women and girls and progress is made. The power of three!

The power of three also needs leadership. The positions of AAUW SC Membership VP and Legal Advocacy Fund Liaison are still vacant. In order for our state organization to survive, we need members from the Branches to step up and take these positions. Time is an issue for all of us; there isn't enough of it. But if you believe in the vision, you'll make the time. I also believe that you get more out of giving your time

to AAUW than you can ever give back. Being a part of this organization has helped me grow not only professionally, but also personally. I have grown so much since joining this organization that I can not begin to give it back. By taking on different leadership roles, I've been able to give back a little. Won't you give back a little of what has been given to you? I look forward to hearing from you!

We want to recognize the great work that has been going on in the Branches. The 21st Century Recognition program is not taking place at the Association level for the Branches, but it will be taking place in South Carolina. All applications are due to me by March 1, 2005 and can include projects that will be completed by May 2005. Your Branch can download the application from the Association Web Site. We will announce Platinum, Gold and Silver 21st Century Branches at the Spring Convention. Last year we had three branches recognized for outstanding work. I believe all of our Branches do outstanding work. Please encourage your Branch to turn in their application this year.

The Executive Committee will be meeting at the end of January to finalize plans for the Spring Convention. We will also be discussing changes to the by-laws and working on new ideas for developing new leaders and providing branch support. Please e-mail amendments you would like to see to the state by-laws to Ann Terry at annsterry@yahoo.com, and any other suggestions to me at virginiaewolf40@hotmail.com by January 24. Your input is very important.

See you at Legislative Day, Wednesday, February 23.

State Legislative Day Registration

Wednesday, February 23, 2005

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 16, 2005

Lunch cannot be guaranteed without advance registration

Registration (postmarked by February 16) \$30.00 _____

Late registration (postmarked after February 16) \$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

Legal Advocacy Fund to become part of Educational Foundation; support still needed for LAF

by Bev James, AAUW of SC Educational Foundation Chair

In May 2004, the Educational Foundation (EF) Board agreed to accept the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Board's proposal of merger. Since that time, further discussions, research, and consultation with legal and accounting professionals have been completed. Both Boards have met separately and jointly, with representatives of each Board, to consider the next formal steps.

Both Boards have unanimously agreed to a full merger between the EF and LAF. This means that the LAF will cease to exist as a separate corporate entity (with an independent board) and that the EF will be the surviving entity. The Legal Advocacy Fund will become a fund of the Foundation, operating under the current EF Program Committee, and will retain the same name.

What does this mean to the Branches? What will happen to the LAF Fund? For most purposes, this change will not be

apparent to members. Contributions will continue to be made payable to the Legal Advocacy Fund, as the mission of the LAF will continue to survive. Both the Educational Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund Board members are confident that the merger will be a new opportunity for LAF growth.

The EF Board has appointed a Merger Committee to act on their behalf in the negotiation process with the entire LAF Board concerning the operational and transition details. This process is expected to be completed within the next several months. Your Branch will be notified when the two Boards approve the final documents and the merger is effective.

Donations are also being accepted from Branches for the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund even though these funds are not being dispersed this year. Hopefully, next year these teacher fellowships will once again be available.

One In A Million Membership Campaign

from AAUW Membership Office

About the Campaign

The *One in a Million Campaign* is a year-long effort (July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005) to raise \$1 million in unrestricted support for the Association.

AAUW is focusing on honorary and paid life members first, asking both groups to participate in the campaign by making a gift of \$120. Each participant will receive the 1881 Fund pin that recognizes the donor's commitment to the mission and programs of AAUW. AAUW will also extend an invitation to all AAUW members and supporters who wish to invest in securing the future of the Association to participate in this exciting campaign.

To date, more than \$71,000 has been pledged by members for Association organizational support.

What Can I Do?

The *One in a Million Campaign* is a fundraising effort geared towards individuals. The campaign relies on the contributions of individuals who are able to personally invest in the future of AAUW. While the initial focus will be life members, AAUW invites *all* members to make a \$120 contribution to help reach *One in a Million Campaign* goal.

Contributions can be sent to: AAUW Development Office, One in a Million Campaign, 1111 Sixteenth St. NW, Washington, DC 20036. Gifts can also be made online at www.aauw.org. Questions should be directed to the

development office at 202/728-3307 or development@aauw.org. AAUW is a 501(c)(4) tax-exempt corporation. Contributions are not tax-deductible under the Federal tax code because of AAUW's advocacy efforts.

Other Association News Items

Patrick Nichols began work November 8, 2004, as Interim Executive Director of AAUW. Pat has a terrific reputation among non-profit, membership organizations, and will be working closely with staff and the Association Board to examine organizational issues.

Planning for the **Association Convention**, June 24-27, 2005 in Washington, DC, is well underway by staff and committees. Programs will focus on AAUW's mission and focus of work, and will include an International component as well. A state leaders' meeting will be held Friday morning, and convention opens Friday afternoon. There will be business sessions on Friday, Sat., Sun and Monday morning, and all participants will be going to Capital Hill on Monday.

Mary Ellen Smyth, Educational Foundation President, has announced that **Madeline Albright** will be the Educational Foundation Achievement Award winner at the AAUW Convention, Ms. Albright will be present to receive her award, so mark your calendar to be in DC!

Looking Ahead to Congress and the 2005 SC General Assembly

December 2004

by Betty Bayless, AAUW of SC Public Policy Chair



As I write this article on December 12 I know that women in particular are still assessing the impact of the election results on our state and on our country. AAUW members were active and vocal participants in the democratic process.

Thanks to each of you for participating in AAUW's *Get Out the Vote* effort!

FEDERAL

AAUW's mission lost some Congressional allies, making it more likely that we will spend our time protecting rights we've already won and less time actually advancing our priorities.

The 109th Congress will reauthorize: the Higher Education Act, including student aid, access for low-income and nontraditional students, and campus safety; the Perkins Vocational Education Act; and the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act.

Despite solid bipartisan support in the House and Senate, the House Republican leadership demanded that the conference committee remove the AAUW-supported and Senate-passed hate crimes provision from the Department of Defense Authorization Act. This issue will be revived in the 109th Congress.

President George W. Bush is expected to have the opportunity to nominate one or more Supreme Court justices in 2005. He has already announced that Social Security reform is one of his priorities that will be addressed early. Plans include partial privatization, revisions to caregiver credits and pension reform.

Projected revisions to Title IX could mean changes to single-sex regulations and re-evaluation of bullying and harassment sections. AAUW will continue to assess modifications and funding of the *No Child Left Behind* efforts, especially school vouchers implementation.



STATE

Education will be AAUW's top priority in South Carolina. We are members of the *Friends of Education* and *Education First* coalitions.

We have monitored the Manning court case where eight rural school districts contend that poverty in their areas results in under-funded and unsuccessful education outcomes. Closing arguments took place on December 9; we don't expect a decision until late spring.

Members of *Education First* will participate in "King Day at the Dome" on Monday, January 17 to promote education equity and recognize the birthday of Martine Luther King Jr. The celebration begins with an 8:30 a.m. prayer service at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 801 Washington St. in Columbia; the march to the State House leaves the church at 10 a.m. Plan to attend!

Education issues for the upcoming General Assembly session include:

- SMART funding (flexible use of funds);
- the uniform start date for schools;
- adequate and equitable funding;
- charter schools;
- Education and Economic Development Act;
- a new Education Freedom Act; and
- the Put Parents in Charge Act (a serious threat to K-12 public education in 2005 known as a backdoor voucher plan).

One question is whether or not the Governor will push to include accountability measures in this proposal for tuition tax credits, a measure that has a better chance of passage in the House than in the Senate.

How will we address the perceived "choice" issue in our state?

Will you participate in AAUW SC efforts to ensure adequate and equitable funding for public schools?

Please contact me at 843-987-1930 or tbbayless@islc.net.

Getting back to our dreams

by Ann S. Terry, South Atlantic Regional Director



Recently I had the privilege of reading an article by **Adele Azar Rucquoi**, a member in Florida, who wrote an article for *Florivision* on her experiences at the South Atlantic Regional Conference last June.

As Adele reflected on her experiences at the conference, I was struck by her summary comments –

“All the weekend’s learning and laughter found expression in a final workshop that lifted me back to my place of dreams – and of faith. AAUW’s work will make a difference. I reflected on my good fortune to be a part of this passionate women’s association. The world cries for this passion. AAUW is turning corners, inspiring all of us to be more than we are, constantly

pushing the culture to raise the equality bar. Someday, all of this will be seen as just another yawning anachronism, a single squiggle in the long climb toward fulfilling human promise!”

Wow! What a thrill to see in words what so many of us feel about our organization and the work it is doing. As I wrote to you last time, these are difficult times for AAUW and difficult decisions are being made daily. But the price of those difficult decisions is paid by the love, talent, energy and commitment of each you, and is reflected in a secure and vital future for AAUW.

Whether struggling with finances, membership decline, erosion of women’s rights, or the many other issues that our branches, state and Association face, if we can but keep our eyes on the vision we each have for AAUW, and how we want our organization to thrive and survive long after we are gone, then the price is well worth it.

My deepest appreciation is extended to each of you who is part of our team as we bring the dream along together.

Denmark Branch reviews Education Progress Report

submitted as presented by Gwendolyn Littlejohn, Denmark Branch

The Denmark Branch spent November and December meetings on education. Gwendolyn Littlejohn, recording secretary, gave an outstanding report on the great progress in some of the area schools at the branch’s November meeting.

In the recent state education report, three schools moved from unsatisfactory to excellent! They are North High School, Ridge-Monetta High School and Blackville Hilda Public Schools.

This was accomplished with hard work and extra funding from the Education Finance Act. Curriculum standards, lesson plans, classroom observation, faculty meetings, and funded field trips helped improve the schools.

North High School added 50 minutes to the school day. It was interesting to note that students read silently for the first 30 minutes of the day. Required reading of one book per week helped teachers to determine from tests the level of student's reading. Teachers were given a stipend for tutoring or coaching for those planning to enter college. Assemblies each nine weeks rewarded students for academic achievement and good behavior. This was a school that might have been closed except for the strong leadership of the principal and the teachers.

Of great importance were the PACT scores in reading, math and writing which showed improvement from 1992-

2003. Homework is considered helpful in raising the scores. More students took the ACT tests. And 66% of the nation's public schools offer advanced Placement Exams compared to only 45% of private schools.

The certification of teachers rates #3 in the nation. SC spends \$40 million a year on this program. Those certified received \$7,500 additional salary.

Diversified teacher recruitment and retaining good teachers are goals of the future. Students must overcome the past stigma that the only career options are to become teachers or a preacher. Parents in the past have discouraged children to become teachers.

These were just a few of the topics covered in Littlejohn's report.

She quoted a *State* newspaper letter that a concerned citizen wrote to the editor pertaining to tax payers who do not think they should have to pay school taxes if they do not have children in school.

"Whatever occupation, profession or job you have, whatever amenities and necessities you enjoy, whatever you read, wherever you travel - an educator was responsible for your growth".

It was suggested that the principals/superintendents of the three schools with tremendous improvement be sent letters of congratulations from the branch.

SC AAUW Calendar

- January 15, 2005**
Finance Committee Meeting
- January 29, 2005**
State Executive Committee Meeting
- February 1, 2005**
Deadline for *Palmetto Leaf*
- February 23, 2005**
Legislative Day, Columbia
- April 1-3, 2005**
State Convention, Columbia
- May 3, 2005**
Deadline for *Palmetto Leaf*
- June 24-27, 2005**
AAUW National Convention, Washington, DC

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Make your plans now to join celebration of AAUW Power

by Lynn Shore, AAUW of SC Program Vice President



It's time to plan for 2005! Mark your new calendars for spring convention in Columbia, April 1-3, 2005.

The convention will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 200 Stoneridge Drive. **It is not too early to make your reservations.** The suites are \$109 (plus tax), with either a king size bed or two double beds plus a pull out couch. Be sure to mention that you are with the AAUW-SC group when

making your reservations. The telephone number for the hotel is 803.252.8700. Reservations requests must be received on or before **Wednesday, March 2, 2005.** As registered guests of the Embassy Suites Hotel, we will enjoy a complimentary, full cooked to order breakfast buffet each morning and a Manager's Reception each evening.

Since many of us have such a busy schedule it is often impossible to attend all three days of the convention, the following fee schedule is available: Three day convention fee-\$80; Friday evening only-\$25; Friday-Saturday only-\$65; Saturday only-\$50; Saturday-Sunday only-\$65; Sunday only-\$25.

P to the Third Power is AAUW of SC's theme for the next two years. We have narrowed our focus to work on making sure the children, **all children**, receive a fair and equitable education. This state convention will have workshops and speakers all dealing with one of the three powers – **Purpose, Power and Progress.** In addition to the exciting programs, the Greater Columbia Branch is planning some entertaining choices for our free Saturday evening in their "fair" city.



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