

Palmetto Leaf

AAUW of South Carolina Newsletter

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September 2003

Delegates offer Association Convention Highlights

The National Convention began with a lively debate between Republican pundit Deborah Perry and out spoken Democrat Dr. Julianne Malveaux, each bringing their good-natured bantering to center stage. They agree on few points except that women have been shut out. They shared the beginning of their rocky relationship which gave birth to a national television show and the writing and publication of their newly published book, *Unfinished Business: A Democrat and Republican Take on the 10 Most Important Issues Women Face*.

AAUW President, Nancy Rustad and Educational Foundation President Mary Ellen Smyth were re-elected to a second term and Michele Wetherald became President of the Legal Advocacy Fund board. Our own **Ann Terry** was elected as South Atlantic Regional Director.

Elections for the contested races took place on Sunday. Many stood in line for up to an hour to vote. Due to a glitch with the electronic vote counter, results were not known until well after midnight. **Betsy Moseley** even stepped in to help run the electronic counter.

At the second business session, delegates voted to retain AAUW's membership requirement of a four-year degree. In a vote on a proposed bylaws amendment, they rejected a proposal to open membership to all who support AAUW's mission. The amendment failed 1069 to 369.

However, delegates adopted a resolution to begin an Association dialogue, to be completed by June 2004, on the suitability of the membership requirements and categories.

At the last business session of the Association Convention, delegates voted 1220 to 192 to increase branch members' dues by \$2.00 each year. A motion was passed that after six years, the Finance

Committee would be required to review whether the fixed amount increase would be continued. The review findings would be published in an every member publication for action at the 2009 convention.

The convention ended with the Educational Foundation Gala. Gloria Steinem received the 2003 Achievement Award, Linda Weaver received the 2003 Recognition Award for Emerging Scholars, and the National Women's Law Center, received the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award.

For more about the Convention, visit the AAUW website at www.aauw.org.

Trish Johnson, president

I was quite impressed with the convention. The sessions I attended were excellent - extra chairs were frequently brought in and still people were standing in the doorways. These gals began work early and stayed late!

Harriett McIntosh, Greenville

I guess it wouldn't be hard for most of you to know what the major highlight of the convention was for me - what an honor to be elected as the South Atlantic Regional Director! Then I was chosen by my nine fellow regional directors to be one of only two regional directors who would sit on the Association Board of Directors! I was thrilled!

In addition to the excitement of the election, I also had the privilege of presenting nine amendments to the Association Bylaws. What a challenge that became as we juggled parts of the agenda to await card counts for voting on various parts of the bylaws' amendments. Talk about doing the two step! It was an amazing thing to see in action, and I have to admit that I have become a business meeting "junkie"! I'd heard that term before, but now I've lived it and it was truly awesome to see our democratic

process in action among our AAUW membership.

Ann Terry, Rock Hill

As a member of the Association Public Policy Committee (APPC), I had responsibilities for two briefing panels, an advocacy workshop where I presented our state action activities to members and student leaders, and floor management during the debate of the public policy program for 2003-2005. The program (in English and Spanish) is available on the national web site and brochures can be ordered from *Shop AAUW* at no charge except for postage and handling.

National conventions afford attendees the opportunity to see "old" friends, make new friends, network and learn. I was honored to be re-appointed to the APPC for a second term!

Betty Bayless, Beaufort

See something new?

It is obvious that your state newsletter has a new look. We hope that you will still find the same informative material that you've always found in the *Palmetto Leaf* as the publication is changed.

Along with a new editor, the publication is being changed to a *Word* document in order to be compatible with the state's new website and with the ability to e-mail the publication to members, leaders, and others interested in AAUW programs, projects and information.

President's Message

by Trish Johnson, AAUW of SC President

During the recent Executive Committee retreat, we came to understand that setting goals without input from our membership could minimize the impact of those goals. Each branch can help to achieve these goals by having its members participate in state meetings.

Our main goal is to promote equity in education for women and girls. Our secondary goal is to develop leadership and mentoring. Our desire is to have every branch represented at the Leadership Conference and the Nuts and Bolts Conference. In addition, we would like to see each branch add workshops on leadership and mentoring as either part of their programming or as a separate program that is presented to the women of their community.

One of my goals is to work closer with the branch boards. I will be coming to your branch in order to meet with your board. This will give me the opportunity to ascertain what each branch may need from the State Executive Committee. In turn, this will help to increase your membership, implement new programs, and give value to your dues payments.

Working together as a team, we can meet the set goals, increase membership participation and improve programming. The Executive Committee wants to be made aware of any ideas that may help us meet our goals and improve communication and services to you.



AAUW of SC Leadership Team, 2003-2004

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State and National Public Policy Issues focus on education concerns

by Betty Bayless, SC Public Policy Chair



Public Policy issues that deserve our attention over the coming months revolve around education and women's issues. Your support in talking with your legislators is critical.

State Issues

Governor Sanford signed the **Predatory Lending Bill** into law on June 3. It is identified as Act. No. 42 and is effective on January 1, 2004. We will monitor implementation and enforcement of this important protection for consumers, especially women.

Many of you worked for the successful passage of the **Domestic Violence Prevention Act of 2003**. General Assembly members ratified the conference committee report on June 5. The Governor signed this measure on August 27.

The trial for the **school funding lawsuit** began on July 28 in Manning.

These eight school districts represent the plaintiffs: Allendale, Dillon Two, Florence Four, Hampton Two, Jasper, Lee, Marion Seven and Orangeburg Three. Witnesses for the plaintiffs stated that they did not believe that the state is meeting its obligation to

provide a minimally adequate education to all children. The poorer districts say the formula for funding schools – a mix of local property taxes, federal aid and state money – does not provide them enough money to meet the basic needs while larger, wealthier districts have an easier time. On August 15, a Florence businessman testified that “unprepared workers show South Carolina’s educational system is not giving all students a minimally adequate education. A judge will have to decide if the state is providing students with this education ordered by the state Supreme Court decision in 1996. The trial will last another month and resumes on September 8.

National Issues

Legislative Day
February 18, 2004
Columbia

Your branch leaders recently received an action alert regarding current Congressional efforts to create a **school voucher initiative** in the District of Columbia. **ACTION:** Urge

Members of Congress to oppose **H.R. 2556**, all school voucher proposals, and all bills that contain school vouchers.

On June 27, the Senate approved a continuing resolution that would extend the current welfare law through September 30, 2003. **ACTION:** Urge senators to oppose the PRIDE Act unless it ensures adequate access to education. Urge senators to support the Pathways to Self-Sufficiency Act (**S.603**) and the Education Works Act (**S.262**).

On July 11, Education Secretary Rod Paige issued a “Dear Colleague” letter to all schools effectively restating current policies on **Title IX**. This action was a huge victory for women and girls. The 3-page letter reaffirmed the three-prong test used to enforce Title IX as well as the weight and validity of each program complying with the law. The letter also acknowledges that “nothing in Title IX requires the cutting or reduction of teams in order to demonstrate compliance with Title IX.” AAUW members played a significant role in this victory! Thank you for your efforts!

Federal Judicial Nominations continue to be an AAUW concern. We only oppose nominations after careful consideration of the appointees' records. **ACTION:** Urge both of our senators to support

ALL efforts to block a vote on the confirmation of Miguel Estrada to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, Priscilla Owen to the 5th Circuit, Carolyn Kuhl to the 9th Circuit, Bill Pryor to the 11th

Circuit, and James Leon Holmes to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas. Also, urge Judiciary Committee members to oppose the confirmation of Charles Pickering to the 5th Circuit.

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South Atlantic Region is a STAR

by Ann Terry, South Atlantic Regional Director

What an exciting time to be a part of the South Atlantic Region of AAUW!

The thrill of the elections is now followed by the pride I feel in having the chance to serve as your regional director and to continue to share the wonderful achievements of our region's leaders, states and branches with the entire Association.

When many of us were in Providence for the AAUW convention, we realized that SAR leaders are involved on every front of AAUW at the national level – add a “T” to SAR and you have **STAR** – and our region full of stars. What pride we feel when we look across the spectrum of participation for the next biennium:

Beth Farokhi (Georgia), Executive Vice President/Secretary, AAUW Board

Michele Wetherald (West Virginia), Legal Advocacy President

Leslie Henderson (Florida), Director-at-Large, AAUW Board

Barbara O'Connor (Florida), Secretary, Educational Foundation Board

Myrna Brown (Virginia), Director, Educational Foundation Board

Barbara Knapp (Florida), Director, Educational Foundation Board

Neola Waller (Virginia), Director, Educational Foundation Board

Shellie Solomon (Florida), Director, Legal Advocacy Fund Board

And in our very own **South Carolina**, we have **Trish Johnson, Betty Bayless** and **Brena Walker** all serving on Association committees.

Also at convention, we had the chance to celebrate the achievements of states and branches in the 21st Century Recognition Program. **Florida** and **Virginia** were platinum states and **North Carolina** and **West Virginia** were gold

states. Branches in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia also were among the winners of platinum, gold or silver awards. **South Carolina** (#3), **Georgia** (#5) and **Virginia** (#8) were in the Top Ten States in per capita giving to the Educational Foundation, and **Florida** was #3 and Virginia #6 in Top States in total contributions. Congratulations to everyone who made the extra effort to participate in all of these programs!



As I start out on my journey to serve you as South Atlantic Regional Director, I know that I have wonderful predecessors to call upon for insight. Yet I know that there will be challenges ahead, too, just as there are for every leader in AAUW.

We all are struggling to nurture new leaders to avoid “recycling” leaders too often. We all are struggling with declining memberships and budgets. We all are struggling to balance programs and projects with AAUW’s mission and goals as well as the needs of our members and our communities. Our problems are not unique to AAUW but are being felt throughout the volunteer organization world, but our problems will *not* defeat us. Our belief in AAUW and what it stands for will be the talisman that we share with others – a talisman that will move us forward and make us stronger and better.

I look forward to my journey in SAR with each of you.

Mark your calendars NOW for Regional Conference!

The **South Atlantic Region**

[*South and North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Virginia, West Virginia and Puerto Rico*]

will be joining forces with the **Southeast Central Region**

[*Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee and Louisiana*]

for a joint regional conference June 11-13, 2004, in Atlanta, Georgia.

The conference will be held at the brand new, state of the art, Georgia Tech University Hotel and Conference Center, and will feature dynamite speakers and programs.

Be watching for details or visit www.onedomain.com/aauw.

Legal Advocacy Fund remains important part of AAUW's mission to help women

by Susan Fitzgerald Bruce, SC LAF Liaison



My main goal this year as SC Legal Advocacy Liaison is to increase awareness of LAF in every branch and throughout the state. To meet this goal I am making myself available to every branch: I will come to your branch and give a program or help you plan a program suitable for your needs. Just let me know when you want me and what I can do for your branch.

The Greater Columbia Branch has already taken me up on my offer. As their president Becky Bailey said, "we decided to go ahead and get on with LAF at the beginning of the year so we could raise our goal before December. As an added advantage, we are hoping to begin attracting other professional women to AAUW and our work." The branch is inviting women lawyers and law students to join them at the USC Law Center Thursday on September 18.



Their LAF liaison Carol Stork will start the evening with an LAF video, then I will present information on what the Fund is, how it works, facts about the application process for plaintiffs, and figures showing AAUW support for the plaintiffs. We plan to end with a discussion of sexual discrimination and harassment in SC. I am really looking forward to that discussion!

I'm so excited about the program and how it will increase awareness in SC. I know the Greater Columbia Branch would love to have you come, too. This may not be the best kind of program for your branch and your community, but I know that together we can find the right program and I look forward to helping you present it.

Diversity is a component of effective membership growth strategies

by Sue Norton, SC Diversity Chair

Diversity encompasses all the ways people differ – with respect to, for example, gender, race, creed, age sexual orientation, occupation, national origin, disability, or class.

Why should our branch care about diversity?

- ❖ We feel better about doing the right thing. Many join AAUW to promote social justice and in particular, education and equity for all women and girls.
- ❖ We enrich our own lives and that of our branches by the experience of including someone different than ourselves.
- ❖ Our branch grows stronger by reaching out to others that will work with us.

- ❖ Our branches and the national organization will grow stronger by representing a broader base of people.
- ❖ We will continue to be relevant because we will address the issues and concerns of a broader base.
- ❖ We will remain vital because we will draw members and allies who share common values and interests.

Has your branch ever tried to identify the diverse groups in your area? Has your branch ever tried to analyze whether or not your meeting time and place encourages or discourages members of a diverse group from coming to your branch gatherings? Diversity benefits everyone. As a branch, spend some time evaluating your area population.

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.

Membership growth takes the work of all members and leaders

by Nancy Hughes, SC Membership Vice President

- ❖ “My friends are just not interested in AAUW”
- ❖ “Our dues are just too high; it’s just not worth it.”
- ❖ “Women have all the freedom they need now. What more could they want?”
- ❖ “What do we do anyhow? Sit and talk about what we need to do.”
- ❖ “We just go to the meeting, eat lunch, listen to the speaker and go home.”

Well, what do we do? Is it just more of the same old thing that we are sure our friends wouldn’t be interested in hearing. They get bored - or, “oh no” I get bored. That’s no way to sell an organization. Do we need more members? All of us do. Do we want more members? Of course we do. Well what are you doing to get them?



Are you inviting your friends and hoping they don’t come because they’re not going to enjoy it anyway? Or - are we doing something that is so interesting and worth our time that will get them excited as well as you.

So what can you do to excite yourself as well as new prospective

members. There are many programs that are there for us that will draw in others, but they require a little work. “WORK,” as Gilligan used to say. Yes work, but work that will be fruitful in the end.

Try some of these on for size:

- A Woman to Woman Dialogue
- Voter Education Campaign
- A Get Out the Vote Campaign
- A Transitions Conference
- Tech Check for Schools
- Sister to Sister Summits

These are only a few - maybe you have some to suggest. But let’s keep working and doing the things that make others take notice of us and want to join.

College/University Partnerships: A Vital Membership Tool

by Brena Walker, SC C/U Representative

The College/University Partnership program, revamped in 2001, provides mutual benefits for both the partner institutions and local AAUW branches. Look at the AAUW website now and find out if your college or university is a member.

AAUW can provide for the College/University partner:

- Community programs for women
- A dynamic network for female students and faculty
- A chance to receive fellowships and grants
- Cutting-edge research for curriculum development, much more

Colleges can go to www.aauw.org/join/value/index.cfm and click on College/University Partner benefits to get the full story. A partnership can provide lots of opportunities for the branch:

- Increased allies in the search for equity for women and girls

- Access to diverse collaborators
- A community outreach partner
- A source for interns and service learning participants
- Visibility in the community
- Potential members of the local branch

Are you ready to partner your branch with a local college or university? Only eight of the more than 35 eligible colleges and universities in the state are partners. These are **Anderson, Benedict, Clemson, College of Charleston, Erskine, Furman, Limestone, and USC-Aiken.**

If your college is not on the list, plan to recruit.

Moxon Endowment reaches \$100,000!! Thanks!

by Ann Terry, SC Educational Foundation Chair

Congratulations to every AAUW of SC branch and member who helped to completed the Barbara M. Moxon International Fellowship! The endowment has been completed with a total of more than \$100,000. That was accomplished in less than three years due to the hard work of everyone involved.

With the completion of the Moxon Endowment, members and branches are asked to consider earmarking their donations for the remainder of 2003 and for 2004 to **General Foundation Support** (#9110) and **Eleanor Roosevelt Fund** (#9170).

Both of these funds are under-funded and need to be boosted with donations. The *General Fund* supports the efforts in research, and the *Eleanor Roosevelt Fund* directly supports teachers in their classrooms - both of these programs rely on donations undesignated to endowments to survive.

EF programs recognize members' contributions

There are a wide variety of programs offered by the Educational Foundation at both the state and national level that recognize the contributions that members make to the work of the Foundation. For more information about any of these programs, check with your branch EF chair or contact me at annsterry@yahoo.com.

Century Circle Program

This program is an AAUW of SC initiative that recognizes members who give \$100 or more in outright donations to the Educational Foundation. This does not include money paid for products or services at a fundraising event or project.

Giving Circle Program

This new initiative for 2003-2004 is designed to encourage members who are regular donors to the Foundation to pledge to increase their donations over a five-year period. Forms are available from branch EF chairs.

Legacy Circle Program

The Legacy Program recognizes individuals who have generously provided for the future of AAUW through one of AAUW's planned giving programs. The Legacy Circle comprises three categories of recognition: *Legacy Donors* - individuals who make gifts through participation in a planned giving program; *Legacy Circle* - individuals who provide for AAUW through estate planning or participation in a planned giving program; *Legacy Estates* - individuals whose bequests have been received by AAUW.

Women in Charge!

AAUW of SC spring convention set for Hilton Head, April 23-24

by Lynn Shore, SC Conference Coordinator

Here's another date for your 2004 calendar - April 23-April 25 - when the state convention happens in Hilton Head at the oceanfront Holiday Inn.

The cost of a room with two double beds is \$109 per night plus applicable state and local taxes (currently 10% per room per night) and \$4.75 for Resort Fee. These rates are available for two days prior to the convention and two days after the conventions. Oceanfront rooms are available at an extra cost through the Reservations Department. *The cut-off date for reservations is March 23, 2004.* The Holiday Inn phone number is 843/785-5126 or 1-800/423-9897.

The tentative highlights for the convention include:

Friday, April 23 - Registration, Board Meeting, Keynote Address, Reception

Saturday, April 24 - Registration, Continental Breakfast, Business Meeting, Speaker, Lunch with leader counterparts, Workshop - *Somewhere Between a Bitch and A Belle*, Get Out the Vote workshop, EF/LAF Sales, President's Reception.

Sunday, April 25 - Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Beach Walk, Awards Breakfast, President's Presentation, Sharing Branch Success Stories, Town Hall Meeting.

Watch future issues of the *Palmetto Leaf* and the *Leadership News* for more details.

SC AAUW Calendar set – make a note

November 1, 2003

Deadline for nominations for 2004-2006 State Officers and 2004-2005 nominating committee

November 12-14, 2003

AAUW Booth at SC Science Teachers Conference, Charleston

December 1, 2003

Deadline for 2004-2005 State Budget Requests

December 29, 2003

Deadline for Palmetto Leaf

January, 2004

Finance Committee Meeting

January 24, 2004

Executive Committee Meeting

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

SC pins available for fundraiser

If your branch is looking for an Educational Foundation fundraiser, the pins pictured here are available for sale. The pins are blue enamel with silver trim. They can be worn as a pin or as a slide on a necklace.

Ann Terry, SC EF chair, can secure as many of these pins as you would like for \$4; then your branch can re-sell for \$10.

If your branch is not interested in selling these pins, but you would like to have one for yourself or others, contact Ann Terry at annsterry@yahoo.com and she will sell to you for \$10. Your branch EF fund will be credited for your purchase.



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

Palmetto Leaf

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

One copy of branch bulletins should be sent to the *Palmetto Leaf* editor and one to the state president.

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