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e-Newsletter

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Connecting Branches

Introducing our branch news issue of *Connect!* Branch Advocate, Diane Schneider, is collecting news, which will be sent out periodically to keep you abreast of branch happenings. You'll be amazed at the many interesting and varied programs that branches are offering.

Brevard NC: Celebrating Their STEM Project

Guests for the November branch meeting were three of the four middle school students who were scholarship recipients for the Project WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) camp

held at Clemson University. Each of the girls expressed great enthusiasm for their camp experience.

They especially enjoyed staying on the college campus and attending an electrical engineering class where they built a solar powered robot. Each also expressed gratitude to branch members for providing the funding for this special learning opportunity.

Also, this month, the branch continued to receive donations of Scholarship Endowment funds for both Blue Ridge Community College and Brevard College.

Tryon NC:

Highlighting Women in National Intelligence

The branch's general meeting in November featured a guest speaker on the topic of "Women in the Military Intelligence Industry." Dana Harmon spent her career in the national defense intelligence community. She spoke about her experiences working in a predominately male workplace for her entire career.

Walkie Talkies-a hiking/walking group- and the Book Study group met in December. To celebrate the Holiday Season, a luncheon was held at a restaurant in Landrum - "Stone Soup." Philanthropy for the season was collected for the branch's Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program (BBBS).

Hendersonville, NC:

Highlighting Women in Local Government

In November, the branch held a general meeting that included social time, followed by a presentation by a guest speaker. Alison Alexander, Laurel Park Town Manager, discussed local government management and the challenges, opportunities, and successes of women in local government. In spite of city/county management being a predominately male profession, Ms. Alexander has served for 5 years with Laurel Park.

The Hendersonville Country Club was this year's venue for the branch's Holiday Luncheon on December 14th. Following a social hour/cash bar, a special buffet lunch was served to the members. The highlight of this event was a fun and festive Christmas Sing-A-Long with live accompaniment.

Orange, Durham, Chatham, NC: Remembering our Suffragette Past

In November, the branch held a book discussion at the Chapel Hill Public Library. The book was "The Women's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote" by Elaine Weiss. This book "follows a handful of remarkable activist women who led their respective forces into battle." Ms. Weiss tells an inspiring story of women winning freedom in the post-Civil War era up through the civil rights battles of the 20th century.

Orange, Durham, Chatham, NC: Connecting with the NC Justice Center

Also, in November the ODC branch invited a staff member from the North Carolina Justice Center to present a program that was open to the public. Allan Freyer, Director of Worker's Rights, spoke on "Poverty in North Carolina: How the Working Poor Live" in the Haven Medical Community Room in Chapel Hill. He oversees helping low-wage earners in several areas of need, such as: earning higher wages, receiving adequate health protections, and accessing paid leave and unemployment insurance.

Cape Fear, NC: Addressing Environmental Issues

The branch meeting for November had coffee and social time followed by a guest speaker. Dr. Larry Cahoon, Professor of Marine Biology at UNCW, specializes in aquatic ecology. He has been working on “the drinking water situation” in New Hanover County and brought attendees up to date about what the county government plans to do about water contaminates.

The branch’s Holiday Party was held on December 8th. On the agenda was an Accessory and Holiday Décor sale. Members enjoyed the holiday music of the Harmony Belles during a catered lunch by local restaurant, “Sweet and Savory.”

Gaston Regional: Connecting With Women In Our Past

November 2018 was designated as Book Discussion Month for the branch. Members chose to read a book by Charles Frazier called “Varina.” An interesting discussion took place at the branch meeting about the main character-the wife of Jefferson Davis- and how she and her children survived the Civil War.

At their upcoming board meeting, in January 2019, members plan to work on developing the agenda for their future meetings, projects, etc. for Winter and Spring 2019.

Winston-Salem, NC: Building Connections

A business meeting was held on November 3rd at the home of Co-President Ellen Morris. Discussion included plans for an Education Night to be held in early November to discuss improvements desired in local education programs. Also on the agenda was planning for a Work Smart Workshop for Winter 2019. Members were brought up to date on the work of the ERA NC Alliance that is focused on passing the ERA in our state.

An interest group for the branch, called “Out and About,” planned a tour of the newly restored “Boys’ School” in the village of Old Salem. A branch member lead the group on a tour of the school on November 17th, followed by lunch at the Tavern restaurant.



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