



American Association of University Women North Carolina Tar Heel News

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research

Spring/Summer 2014 Vol. 62 No. 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Annual Meeting Highlights.....1,5
 President’s Message.....2
 Voting Record Released.....2
 Branch News.....3-4
 Hendersonville STEM Project.....4
 ERA Update.....4
 NC Teachers Resolution.....5
 Wilmington’s Anniversary.....6
 CAP Grant to VGCC.....6
 Greensboro Tech Savvy Event.....7
 Salsa Delivery on Its Way.....7
 AAUW NC Joins Jumpstart.....8

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Burlington Bustles During Annual Meeting

The agenda was packed with information, speakers and branch updates during the AAUW NC Annual Meeting on March 28 and 29, 2014 in Burlington, NC. The theme of this year’s annual meeting was “A-B-C in AAUW NC: Activism in Branches and Coalitions.”

Washington, D.C. guests included Kathryn Braeman, AAUW Board member and Diversity Committee Chair, and Deborah Swerdlow, AAUW Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator. Michelle Evans, Tar Heel Co-President, coordinated the weekend activities.

The *NC General Assembly Voting Record - 2013 Regular Session* was distributed. Presidents were reminded to update branch bylaws to include mandatory bylaw changes voted in during the New Orleans national convention. Branch Advocate Sandra McLaurin announced that the section of the AAUW NC Bylaws which impact the Presidents’ Council was being updated and would be sent soon to branch presidents.

Several branch presidents reported on local programs supported with mini-grant funds from AAUW NC. Discussion also focused on the need to strengthen C/U partnerships and the importance of STEM activities at the branch level.

Peg Holmes/Hendersonville was elected as AAUW NC Vice President, and JoAnn Hall/Jacksonville Regional was elected as state Treasurer. Both will serve a two-year term.

Dana Jennings, speaker from the Women’s Forum of North Carolina and Tar Heel Branch member, presented an overview of the status of women elected to state offices. She led the discussion of why women are so underrepresented in these areas. Audience members responded with a long list of reasons, including women’s perception of themselves as unqualified, challenges juggling personal with professional roles, and campaign finance resources.

Kathryn Braeman provided the narrative for the AAUW *Forward in ’15* video presentation, and urged everyone to begin planning to attend the next national convention in San Diego on June 18-21, 2015.

Deborah Swerdlow closed Saturday’s session with an update on the Paycheck Fairness Act, several suggestions for using the AAUW NC Report Card, and a brief overview of Salsa, a new platform for promoting advocacy at the grassroots level.

(Other annual meeting highlights are noted on page 5.)

President's Message

"AAUW Women in NC Branches"



I love to go to a meeting with AAUW women. Have you noticed, too, that the conversation is about a lot of ideas and events that have been held in their communities?

In Burlington, I learned about how you have helped young women negotiate their wages.

The first time I did that I was in my 50's. Another group placed books children could read and take home when they'd had to accompany someone to the local laundromat. You have been providing scholarships for young college women to attend NCCWSL and receive leadership development and learn networking.

In less than 24 hours these Women of Action accomplished:

- wrote and passed a resolution to support our public school teachers and public education K-12.
- voted to provide a scholarship for a college girl to attend NCCWSL
- heard a talented young author read her book "Teacakes For Tosh" and supported her work by purchasing 36 copies of the book.
- elected and installed a treasurer and vice president for the next two years. The Council of Branch Presidents served as our nominating committee.
- received our first AAUW of NC Report Card on the 2013 session of the NC General Assembly and learned ways to use this information.

Since then a Tech Savvy day was provided for girls and their parents. You have had local book sales to provide scholarships for women in both the US and globally. Another group reached out to educate their community about human trafficking.

I want to send congratulations to those of you who have received community awards and recognition during our 2013-14 AAUW year.

A quote by Eleanor Roosevelt: "When you cease to make a contribution, you begin to die". I'm happy to report that North Carolina AAUW women are well and alive.

Mary Peterson, President

Legislative Voting Record Released

Excerpted from the AAUW NC Website

AAUW of North Carolina has released its assessment of the voting record in the 2013 North Carolina General Assembly. Copies of the report are available at on the web at www.aauwnc.org in a PDF format. Pages 6-10 of this report list the salient voting information.

The *NC General Assembly Voting Record - 2013 Regular Session* covers six key pieces of legislation that represent a broad spectrum of issues of concern to our members. All of these six bills were passed by both chambers and signed into law by the governor. AAUW of North Carolina opposed all these bills:

- No NC Exchange/No Medicaid expansion
- UI Fund Solvency & Program Changes
- NC Charter School Advisory Board
- Health and Safety Law Changes (aka Motorcycle Vagina)
- Appropriations Act of 2013
- VIVA/Election Reform

In addition, two bills in the NC House addressed specific AAUW priorities; they were also included in the *Voting Record*, even though there were no roll call votes to include in the scores. In the *NC General Assembly Voting Record*, sponsors have a "minus" indicating that AAUW NC opposed the Opportunity Scholarship Act (vouchers) bill. Sponsors have a "plus" indicating AAUW NC supported the Equal Pay Act bill.

This document follows from AAUW NC efforts to track AAUW priorities in the 2013 legislative session and from discussions at the fall regional meetings where members highlighted the bills that they thought should be included in the *NC General Assembly Voting Record*.

We challenge our members and others who may find this report of interest to use it to inform their remarks at community issue forms, candidate debates, and town hall meetings. Use the information in informal discussions with friends, family and colleagues.

If you need a large number of copies of the *Voting Record* for voter education efforts, apply for AAUW NC mini grant funds to reproduce what you need.

Just check with your local printing company and get a quote for 100 copies, 200 copies, etc., then call President Mary Peterson who can give you the details on applying for mini grant funds. You will have a response to your request within a few days!

Hats off to President Mary Peterson and Web Manager Nancy Shoemaker who delivered on their promise to produce and distribute this document before our annual meeting!

AAUW NC Branch News

CHAPEL HILL

The Chapel Hill branch welcomed spring with a unique program featuring *Carrboro Poetica*. This group of five women poets read selections from their poems. The group included a former teacher of literature, writing, and communication; a retired professional flutist; a retired school health coordinator; the director of a company whose research and consulting focuses on lifelong learning; and an award-winning essayist. The branch rounded out the year with their annual potluck lunch.

GREENSBORO

After the soup was served at Greensboro's Annual Soup Lunch, the "downstairs staff" came upstairs to invite members to the Greensboro branch's Downton Abbey High Tea on March 15. Lady Donna Hodgman of Allwood Court hosted the event at her home. The event was a sellout, with most members and guests dressed in Downton Abbey attire as ladies, duchesses, dowagers or downstairs staff. The monies raised benefitted local branch projects on pay equity, STEM education and leadership opportunities for young women and girls.

WILMINGTON

The new AAUW Title IX Champions Award celebrates the vital contributions of members and branches to educational equity. The inaugural Title IX champions include Wilmington member Michelle Scatton-Tessier. Scatton-Tessier's award was announced in the LAF Update bulletin and on the national AAUW website. The Wilmington branch received an e-badge that can be posted on their web site to recognize Scatton-Tessier's accomplishments.



(From left) Tar Heel charter members Nancy Shoemaker and Doris Bernlohr present the Five Year Anniversary plaque to Tar Heel Co-President Michelle Evans.

RALEIGH/WAKE COUNTY

Members of the Raleigh branch joined NC MomsRising to support a fun and educational celebration for children and their parents. "Remarkable Women, Remarkable YOU!" was held at the Marbles Children's Museum in Raleigh in late March as part of Women's History Month. Local elected officials were present at the celebration and read stories about remarkable women in history. Fun craft tables, activities and snacks were provided for the children. While the children were learning about women's progress and contributions, parents were encouraged to get involved in ensuring that their daughters have the same opportunities as their sons. Speakers emphasized that women are still making only 77 cents to every man's dollar.

SALISBURY

Salisbury Mayor Pro Tem, Maggie Blackwell was the featured speaker at the Annual Brunch of the Salisbury branch on April 12, 2014. Blackwell's talk on "Successful Women in a Male Dominated Industry" included a slide presentation with examples of her own life's experiences in business and public service. Also attending were representatives from Livingstone College which is now an institutional affiliate of AAUW. Livingstone student Tonya Stewart was this year's recipient of a \$500 scholarship from the branch to attend NCCWSL in June.

TWIN RIVERS

The Twin Rivers branch used mini grant funds in May to present a community forum on human trafficking in the Craven County/I-95 area. The branch partnered with ENC Stop Human Trafficking and Pearl Ministry to develop the program. Following a short video on human trafficking, the program featured four panelists who represented local service agencies and commissions addressing this issue. The program was held downtown immediately after work to "capture" that audience of workers. Mini grant funds supported advertising which was designed also to have broad community appeal.

TAR HEEL

At its annual meeting on March 29 in Burlington, the Tar Heel branch celebrated its Five Year Anniversary, commemorated with a certificate from AAUW. The three branch presidents, Doris Bernlohr (founding president 2008-2011), Nancy Shoemaker (2011-2014), and Michelle Evans (2013-) commented on the branch history and the 2013-2014 year. Tar Heel is the only virtual branch in the country to reach the 100 member milestone (102 members as of May 31), the first virtual branch to serve as a liaison to a Campus Action Project (see pg. 6), and was recognized at the 2013 AAUW Convention for total giving to the AAUW Action Fund. In the five years, 185 people have been members of the branch, and for most of them Tar Heel has been their first (primary) branch, bringing new people into the AAUW NC community.

Branch News and Project Updates

ASHEVILLE

The Asheville branch celebrated twelve years of developing and sustaining their GEM (Gaining Educational Momentum) Fund. The sole purpose of the fund is to provide undergraduate scholarships for women whose educations have been interrupted or delayed. The GEM Fund is supported entirely by contributions or funds earned on investments from prior contributions, including donations of cash, stock, insurance policies, and legacy gifts. To date 58 scholarships have been awarded to local women. Several of the GEM scholars attended the event held in early June at the historic Fernhurst Mansion on the A-B Tech Campus.

SANDHILLS/SOUTHERN PINES

The branch approved a new pilot project to provide free books to children to read in a local laundromat while adults launder the family clothes. "Bored children who get rowdy in a laundromat seemed the perfect place to start," said Christine Ganis who initiated the program. The project targeted early reading, low literacy adults, and promoted positive behavior. From October-December, 660 used books were purchased from local consignment shops or donated by members. The success of the project resulted in the adoption of another laundromat project in Southern Pines, and a third location at the Northern Moore Family Resource Center. Additionally, Sandhills/Southern Pines is partnering with the Moore County Literacy Council which targets adult literacy, to act as a clearing-house. The branch is providing book procurement and distribution, baskets and little stools. Multicultural signage (Take a Book/Bring a Book) encourages sharing books with other children. A homework station is being considered.

BREVARD

Brevard members are pleased with the outcomes from their partnership with the Graphic Arts program at Brevard High School. Students there have produced new logos to advertise the branch's annual book sale which will be held June 21-26. Tee shirts, book marks, posters advertisements, and other publicity materials will reflect the winning designs from a competition for advanced students in the graphic arts program. The book sale has grown substantially since its card-table start on a street corner 45 years ago. The book sale now takes up the entire Boshamer Basketball Gymnasium at Brevard College and is held over a six-day period. Local non-profit organizations are invited to take any remaining books at the end of the sale.

Hendersonville Promotes STEM

Excerpted from the *Hendersonville Times News*

It seemed a natural fit for Hendersonville AAUW to partner with area Girl Scout leaders to sponsor the branch's first STEM project. The Hendersonville branch hosted a STEM fair for local Girl Scout troops on March 22 at Blue Ridge Community College.

A few weeks earlier, in preparation to host the event, branch members practiced building small catapults, coasting cars and miniature playgrounds under the leadership of Girl Scout Membership Manager Ashley Merrill who also helped to develop the concept of a STEM fair.

Merrill reasoned that before branch members could help engage the imagination and ingenuity of the girls at the fair, they also needed to master the skills themselves. Branch members moved through the steps of each activity they would be doing with the girls, starting with the use of simple machines to build model playground equipment.

At the STEM fair girls worked to design six simple machines using wheels and axles, wedges, screws, pulleys, inclines and levers. The design exercises served to introduce girls to careers in science and engineering. Teaming with Merrill to lead the program was a local female scientist. "Our guest scientist explained how the little things the girls are doing with their crafting translate into big picture projects for adults in her field," Merrill said.

AAUW NC branches who might be interested in a similar partnership with Girl Scouts of the USA can contact Peg Holmes, AAUW NC Vice President and member of the Hendersonville branch, at SKITENNISQUILT@aol.com or 828-274-9280.

A Radical Idea: Equality For Women

Roberta Madden, RATIFY ERA-NC Coordinator

The Equal Rights Amendment, written 91 years ago and believed dead in 1982 when the congressionally-imposed deadline ran out, is alive and well. The ERA continues to be a priority for AAUW NC and RATIFY ERA-NC.

Bipartisan legislation to eliminate the deadline and make ERA part of the U.S. Constitution after three more states ratify is pending in Congress. The **Senate measure, SJR 15**, is expected to be heard in the Judiciary Committee soon. Senator Kay Hagan is one of 34 cosponsors. The **House version, HJR 113**, was introduced by Rep. Jackie Speier/CA.

ACTION: Please call Senator Burr to sign on as a cosponsor; and your Representative in the U.S. House. Urge them to cosponsor this legislation. Call toll free to the U.S. Capitol: 1-877-762-8762. Ask for the office of Senator Burr and then the office of your Representative.

Burlington Highlights (cont.)

Business Meeting Decisions

- contributed \$600 as scholarship funds for a deserving woman to attend NCCWSL in June
- joined the Democracy NC *Jump Start Voting* Project, with Denny McGuire serving as the AAUW NC liaison at the monthly meetings
- passed the Resolution of Support of NC Teachers, written and presented by Virginia Adamson/Tar Heel branch.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT OF NC TEACHERS

WHEREAS, North Carolina teachers provide one of the most important services to the people of North Carolina by educating our future leaders, and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina teacher pay has fallen to forty-sixth (46th) in the nation while class sizes (teacher to student ratio) are projected to increase, and,

WHEREAS, The North Carolina General Assembly passed and the Governor signed into law on July 25, 2013, Session Law 2013-355 (S337) NC Charter School Advisory Board that, while reporting to the North Carolina Board of Education, adds emphasis on the creation of more charter schools. Charter schools do not have to abide by all the regulations of public schools, but are funded with public school education funds, and,

WHEREAS, The North Carolina General Assembly passed and the Governor signed into law on July 26, 2013, Session Law 2013-360 (S402) Appropriations Act of 2013 freezing teacher salaries, eliminating teacher tenure (career status) and incentive pay for teachers with advanced degrees, providing a voucher program to divert public education funds to private education, and cutting 3,800 teaching assistant positions, and,

WHEREAS, Contacts with the NC General Assembly are needed to support teachers and public education in North Carolina,

BE IT RESOLVED, That AAUW of NORTH CAROLINA declares its support for public education teachers of North Carolina to pledge active engagement of its members with current legislators in the General Assembly so as to raise our public education system back to a leading position in the nation.



AAUW NC Juvenile Literature Award Winner Kelly Starling Lyons read "Teacakes for Tosh" to a captive audience at the annual meeting in Burlington. All branch presidents in attendance received a copy of her book to donate to their local library.



President Mary Peterson congratulates B'Ann Vance, Gaston Regional Branch member, on achieving Honorary Life Membership in AAUW. Honorary Life Members are recognized for having maintained their membership in AAUW for 50 years.



(From left) Kat Braeman, AAUW Board member, installed Peg Holmes/Hendersonville and JoAnn Hall/Jacksonville Regional as Vice President and Treasurer respectively at the annual meeting in March. They join President Mary Peterson and Branch Advocate Sandra McLaurin as the AAUW NC leadership team for 2014-2015.

Wilmington Celebrates 60 years!

Since 1954, the AAUW Wilmington Branch has worked for education and equity for women and girls, as well as provided community service, scholarships and intellectual enrichment for members. The group celebrated its 60th anniversary May 3. Jill Birdwhistell, Chief Operating Officer for AAUW, was a guest.

The branch was established with 14 charter members, including two who still live in Wilmington, Jo Chadwick and Clara Stokley. According to Chadwick, female university graduates then in the Wilmington area were few; most early members were teachers.

The Wilmington branch now has 76 members who advocate for equal pay for women, reproductive choice, and legal support for female professors wrongfully denied promotion and tenure. Its lunch with Carolina authors raises funds for graduate fellowships nationally and an annual scholarship for a woman transferring from Cape Fear CC to UNC-Wilmington.

Each fall, in conjunction with the Temple of Israel Ladies Concordia Society, 44 volunteers provide vision screening for over 5,000 New Hanover County public school's first, third and sixth graders. AAUW began vision screening in 1998.

In collaboration with UNC Wilmington, the branch offers "Elect Her" workshops to help female students get elected to student government and hosts Start Smart workshops. The branch also sends annually a UNCW student to the AAUW National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

Excerpted in part from an article by Mimi Cunningham, Past President of the Wilmington Branch and AAUW NC



(From left) Wilmington charter members Jo Chadwick and Clara Stokley joined AAUW NC President Mary Peterson and national AAUW Chief Operating Officer Dr. Jill Birdwhistell at the branch celebration at the Landfall Country Club.

VGCC Receives CAP Grant

Vance Granville Community College (VGCC) in Henderson, NC is one of 11 campuses in the nation to receive a Campus Action Project (CAP) from AAUW. According to Kate C. Farrar, AAUW director of leadership programs, "The winning teams were selected because they hold a great deal of promise for student leadership development and impact."

Jacquelin Heath, the head of the VGCC School-Age Education program, was coordinator for the CAP. Michelle Evans, co-president of the Tar Heel Branch, was the AAUW state contact for the project.



(From left) CAP workshop speakers included D. Carr Thompson, Senior Program Officer for the Burroughs Wellcome Fund; VGCC President Dr. Stelfanie Williams; Jacquelin Heath (see above); and Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs Dr. Angela Ballentine. (VGCC photo)

Heath presented an overview of the project at the AAUW NC annual meeting in Burlington. Entitled "An Education Woman, An Educated Future" the project involved a series of three workshops with topics focusing on goals for finishing a four year degree, self-care, and follow-through to complete a college degree.

Key components of all workshops programs were breaking barriers and continuing to support women at the grassroots level. Two-thirds of curriculum students at VGCC are women. Approximately 128 curriculum students participated in the CAP workshops.

At the conclusion of the project in May, Ms. Heath recognized three students, each of whom had assisted with the project. One young woman was awarded a NCCWSL scholarship. Two other women were cited for their educational achievements and acceptance into four-year college programs following their graduation this spring.

Greensboro Presents Tech Savvy

The Greensboro Branch, in collaboration with UNC-Greensboro, was selected to be one of ten pilot sites in the nation to present a Tech Savvy conference this year. Tech Savvy, a national AAUW program, is a daylong science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) career conference designed to attract girls in sixth through ninth grade to these fields and to inform their families about STEM education and careers.

North Carolina A & T State University, the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering, Guilford College, and AAUW branches in Winston-Salem and Statesville partnered with the Greensboro branch to present the Tech Savvy conference on March 29, 2014. Over 140 young women attended with their parents.

Local female teachers, professors, and professionals led hands-on workshops. The young women learned about a variety of STEM professions, as well as gaining “savvy skills” such as public speaking, presentation, and how to build a successful resume. Just as important, parents of the Tech Savvy participants attended sessions to learn how to support girls with STEM interests and how to plan for their higher education.

The young women who attended the conference were challenged to create animations and video games using MIT’s “SCRATCH” software; develop Android mobile applications; and work with LEGO® Robotics. Several experiments involved the application of physics principles using coil loops, pennies, jump ropes and liquid nitrogen. The young women were also guided in building basic models of a radio, a generator, and a motor.



A chemistry exercise was one among many of the Tech Savvy activities planned for middle school girls at the Greensboro conference.

More information on the content and detailed planning done by the branch to guarantee the success of this STEM project can be found at www.greensboro-nc.aauw.net/ or open the national website, www.aauw.org and enter “Tech Savvy” in the search box.

SALSA Will Soon Be Delivered to Your Doorstep



AAUW has switched to an exciting new platform for our e-advocacy. **The new platform is called Salsa.** By the time you read this, we will have started using it to bring you advocacy update information for bills of interest to AAUW NC during the short session of the NC General Assembly.

Look for these “to the point” emails on bills enabling you to take action on AAUW issues without having to do your own research.

If your public policy folks are doing regular mailings to your branch or putting regular articles in your branch newsletter, you will get more bang for that effort by sending the messages to salsa-admin@aauwnc.org for inclusion in the next email to the state. It takes a village ...

Future plans include being able to use the Salsa platform in the 2015 long session of the NC General Assembly so that any branch member can send messages to the Governor and your legislators with just the click of a few buttons.



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When & Where!

Annual Conference:

"Getting Out Women's Vote"

NC Women Matter Coalition
 Bennett College Conference Ctr.
 Saturday July 26, 2014

AAUW NC Tar Heel News

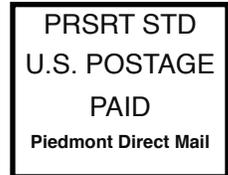
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Greensboro, NC

AAUW NC Joins Democracy NC Jumpstart Efforts

Operation Jumpstart the Vote is a coordinated, statewide campaign to counter the wave of new voting restrictions through local nonpartisan projects that help citizens understand the big changes in North Carolina's election law. As the campaign coordinator, Democracy North Carolina will connect people working in the same local area, provide a variety of materials, and help groups create a program with practical goals that advance voter education, voter registration and/or voting protection.

AAUW NC officially joined the *Jumpstart* efforts, following a motion at the Burlington annual meeting to become involved at the state level, and to encourage involvement of AAUW members at the branch level.

The success of *Operation Jumpstart* depends on volunteers to help, for example, register voters or distribute materials. Volunteers can assist with getting IDs for voters who potentially lack proper ID, be trained to monitor elections, or provide transportation to the polls.

For more information, please contact Adam Sotok, *Operation Jumpstart the Vote* Manager, at adam@democracy-nc.org or 919-286-6000. Denny McGuire, AAUW NC liaison to *Jumpstart*, can be reached at 919-562-0860 or jmcguire11@nc.rr.com.