



# American Association of University Women North Carolina Tar Heel News

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

Fall/Winter 2015

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

2015 Annual Meeting .....	1
President's Message.....	2
Supreme Court Business.....	2
Branch News.....	3-4
Juvenile Literature Winner.....	5
Nominating Committee.....	5
Eleanor: A Great Fit.....	6
AAUW NC Phone Project.....	6
Greensboro on the Move.....	7
Legislative Oversight 2015.....	7
Reach Out with Facebook.....	8

In principle and 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.

If you have questions, comments, or need to request a particular form to be sent by regular mail, please call or fax the number below.

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## Leadership in Challenging Times

Given the results of the recent midterm election in North Carolina and nationally, many AAUW members may be aware of the increasing challenges facing organizations and individuals who are committed to the AAUW mission. Candidates who took positions in support of women and families' well-being often did not fare well in state and federal elections.

To keep AAUW's mission before the public, it is critical that AAUW NC branches prepare to move AAUW's mission forward in their communities. To that end, the primary focus of the AAUW NC Annual Meeting will be on leadership training for branch officers and branch leaders.

*Leadership in Challenging Times* is the theme of our annual meeting which will be held in Greensboro, NC on March 20-21, 2015.

Deepti Gudipati, vice president of Member Leadership Programs at AAUW, will be conducting the training program at the annual meeting. Gudipati is an experienced coach & consultant who has worked with emerging leaders and emerging teams for the past eight years. She has extensive experience in organizational consulting, team building, and systems analysis. Her work focuses on building intentional leadership systems, which helps to align a branch's values and strategic goals with the strengths and capabilities of its members. Gudipati holds a Master's Degree in Organizational Dynamics from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Carnegie Mellon University.

AAUW NC coalition partner organizations, as well as other NC organizations who also work to advance the AAUW mission, will be invited to attend the training program. Branches that have established C/U partnerships are encouraged to invite campus faculty and student leaders to attend. AAUW Fellows who are currently studying in North Carolina will also be invited to participate in the leadership training program.

To tailor the training program to the needs of AAUW NC branches, AAUW NC officers will set up a phone and web conference with the Presidents Council in mid January. Before mid January, branch presidents are asked to poll their board and other branch leaders to identify what leadership training topics would be valuable to the branch.

The annual meeting in Greensboro will follow the format which has proven successful in past years. The Presidents Council will meet mid afternoon on Friday. Gudipati will join the Presidents Council meeting. Dinner will

(continued on page 5)

## President's Message

Mary Peterson, AAUW NC President

### *Thoughts on Leadership*



I looked up the word **Leadership** and found at least five definitions. The one I liked best was organizing a group of people to achieve a common goal. In AAUW branches we do just that, with the goal being our mission statement: Advancing equity for women and girls through

advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

An accurate description of our organization is a diverse membership working in a variety of ways to achieve the goal of equity for all women and girls.

The theme of our annual meeting in March 2015 will be *Leadership in Challenging Times*. This is an accurate description of women's organizations in 2014-15. Our coalition partners are fighting most of the same battles as our branches. To name a few:

- Declining membership.
- Seeing rights we have worked hard to earn over the years being challenged.
- Public policy that benefits women and families not being passed.

For this reason we will focus on recruitment of members/marketing for our Saturday morning program. We will be inviting our coalition partners to join us for this session.

Leaders take ownership of a problem and work at finding the solution. Often the solution does not happen quickly, but if we don't address the problem, we will never find a solution.

There is a saying, "If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem." I look forward to seeing you in March as we learn how to become stronger leaders in growing our membership and empowering women and girls in North Carolina.

## Supreme Court: Not Finished Yet?

Excerpted from the AAUW Website

In all probability, some aspect of several issues will be heard again by the Supreme Court in the future:

### ACCESS TO PREVENTATIVE HEALTH CARE

In the *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* decision, the Supreme Court ruled that closely held corporations can't be required to cover contraception through their employee health insurance plans. The first *Hobby Lobby* fallout on the horizon concerns religiously affiliated nonprofits.

When the Affordable Care Act was first passed, the government created (and AAUW supported) an accommodation for religiously affiliated nonprofits. They could fill out a form that explained their religious objections to contraception and give that form to the company that provided their employee health care plans.

But some nonprofits now argue that the accommodation isn't enough and have filed lawsuits claiming that having to fill out the form substantially burdens religious beliefs. A majority of the Supreme Court then granted a religiously affiliated college an intermediate injunction while lower federal courts considered its lawsuit. Whatever the rulings, the cases will probably end up at the Supreme Court.

### RESTRICTING CHOICE

A number of states have passed so-called TRAP (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers) laws in an attempt to restrict and even eliminate women's access to legal abortion. Challenges to several of the newer TRAP laws are just now making their way to the Supreme Court. Most recently, the Supreme Court prevented Texas from enforcing its TRAP law while the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals considers the case. Depending on the 5th Circuit's ruling, the Texas law could be back before the Supreme Court soon. Similar challenges from other states are also moving close to a Supreme Court appeal.

### PREGNANCY DISCRIMINATION

Peggy Young, a UPS driver, requested temporary light-duty work because of medical complications during her pregnancy. UPS refused to provide light-duty work, even though it allowed several other categories of workers to be assigned such work when they were temporarily disabled. Young was forced to leave her job, losing her income and health care coverage. Young sued UPS under the Pregnancy Discrimination Act. Both the federal district court and the Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit sided with UPS. If the Supreme Court sides with UPS, it could leave pregnant workers even more vulnerable to discrimination in the workplace.

(continued on page 6)

## AAUW NC Branch News

### CHARLOTTE

Former Charlotte branch president Diane Schneider will make a brief presentation and respond to questions about the Start \$mart program at the next branch meeting. Schneider is a trained facilitator for Start \$mart workshops. Branch members are also gathering more books for their sale and planning what items to include in "Pounding for Neet's Sweets" at their Holly Tea in December. Current branch president Lynne Bogguss led a discussion of *I Am Malala* for those in the Literary Group. Both the History Study Group and the International Affairs Group will resume their gatherings in the new year.

### WILMINGTON

Assisting with annual vision screenings for school children began in August for several members of the Wilmington branch. A month later the branch viewed and discussed *Which Way Home*, a film addressing unaccompanied immigrant children coming to the US. Later that month members joined others in the Wilmington community to celebrate International Peace Day. Wilmington's popular fundraising event, "Lunch with Carolina Authors," drew a big crowd.

### HENDERSONVILLE

The Hendersonville branch held a fun-filled afternoon tea and fundraiser in October. The event highlighted the awarding of two \$1,000 scholarships. The two scholarship recipients are second year students attending Western North Carolina's Blue Ridge Community College. Many of the branch members and guests wore colorful, originally-decorated hats; prizes were awarded for the most creative, fun hats. Almost 100 attendees enjoyed tea with delightful delicacies, followed by a raffle and fashion show. The spouses or significant others of local members served as waiters and models for the fashion show. Nineteen corporate and individual sponsors helped to fund the event.



Hendersonville President Kathleen Helspet joined branch members, guests and spouses at their fundraiser.



Joanne Hill, Jacksonville Regional (left) teamed with an OCCW member to distribute information during Oktoberfest.

### JACKSONVILLE REGIONAL

The Jacksonville Regional Branch partnered recently with the Onslow County Council for Women (OCCW) to distribute information of interest to women and their families. Because AAUW and OCCW share common goals, particularly in relation to the education of women, sharing a booth at Oktoberfest made perfect sense. By participating in the event, the branch also supported the work of Onslow Community Outreach which oversees a homeless shelter, soup kitchen, free health clinic, and Christmas Cheer. Jacksonville Regional members Joanne Whitney Hill, Nelda Howell, and Connie Gamble Ochse took turns with OCCW members "womaning" the booth for ten hours. Statistics are still being compiled, but the event typically draws 8,000 or more attendees. As a result, the branch signed up 12 women who requested additional information about AAUW meetings. This is the third year of this joint project with OCCW. Both organizations would like to see the partnership continue next year.

### BREVARD

The Board of the Brevard branch has agreed to revise the criteria for its Women Who Make a Difference Award, aligning the criteria more closely with the AAUW mission and its emphasis on education, advocacy, philanthropy and research. At least one award has been given annually since the award was established in 1996. A \$500 award is given in each recipient's name to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, bringing the branch's support of this Fund to almost \$10,000.

Following months of research and discussion, the Board voted to pursue implementation of a 501(c)3 tax status for the branch. Several factors prompted the decision, including the advantages of offering a charitable deduction for books donated to the book sale, and positioning the branch to write grants in support of their programs.



## Branch News and Project Updates

### ASHEVILLE

In October, the Board of the Asheville Branch GEM (Gaining Educational Momentum) program voted to raise the number of scholarships for the 2015-16 academic year to a record number of eighteen awards. Sixteen, \$1000 scholarships will be awarded to women attending A-B Tech. Two, \$2000 scholarships will be given to women attending UNC Asheville. The branch founded the GEM Fund twelve years ago, awarding a single scholarship of \$500 that first year. Jeanne Smolkin, former Asheville president, is overseeing the "Birthday Dollars for Scholars" program. Honoring friends and family on their birthdays is proving to be a very successful approach to raising funds to support undergraduate scholarships for women whose educations have been interrupted or delayed. In the first eight months of 2014, "birthday dollars" brought in over \$6,000.

Branch members continue to volunteer at the YWCA Drop-In Child Care Center. Asheville's new Public Advocacy group was also very active during the midterm election, registering voters and co-sponsoring a Voters Guide and candidate forums.

Asheville members are now planning their 100th anniversary celebration in 2015 under the leadership of branch member Susan Gabel.

### CHAPEL HILL

At their December meeting every year, Chapel Hill branch members are asked to donate to the Carrie Heath Schwenning Scholarship Fund. The Chapel Hill branch began this scholarship in 1928 to help a female graduate student at UNC-Chapel Hill. At that time the fund was a loan of only \$100 a year. Branch members are now committed to raising a minimum of \$1500 annually to help cover the rising cost of tuition.

Speakers for this year's Schwenning program include Madhu Sharma, Shayela Suvarna, and Ratma Swaminathan, each a well-educated and accomplished woman who lives in the Chapel Hill area. They will present "A Conversation on Women in India."

The branch will continue their programs in the new year with another trio of women speakers in January. Emma Akpan, Jan Feldman, and Susannah Smith represent women clergy who will lead the discussion on "Women in the Clergy."

### TWIN RIVERS/NEW BERN

Judy Balsanek, MSW and New Bern Public Policy Chair, organized the October program on the campus sexual assault crisis. Updates were provided on AAUW's recent national legislative advocacy efforts to address campus sexual assault through student organizations on campuses across the country. New government guidelines for school reporting of sexual assault were reviewed. Data on dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking formed the backdrop of the program.

This fall many branch members and their guests attended a special Community Women's Event at the Havelock Tourist and Event Center. The New Bern branch and AAUW NC are part of a coalition of women's organizations who sponsored this event which highlighted women in the military.

New member Deborah Rhymer is working with other branch members to enlist their support in a local STEM project. New Bern will begin the new year with their annual Authors Luncheon which raises scholarship funds to benefit local women and girls.

### WINSTON SALEM

Winston-Salem branch members are pursuing a \$tart \$mart partnership with Winston-Salem State University (WSSU). Branch member Kathy Pearre is already a seasoned \$tart \$mart trainer who will conduct two \$tart \$mart programs in Greensboro in February.

Dr. Denise Johnson, Associate Professor at WSSU, will be presenting a program on GEMS (Girls Empowered by Math and Science), a math and science academy for girls in grades six through nine. The branch will be exploring ways to partner with Dr. Johnson in the GEMS program.

Partnerships with a local elementary school to support the book bag project (weekend lunch program) are being explored. Members continue to support the Bethesda Homeless Shelter or Battered Women's Shelter.

**2015 AAUW National Convention**  
**June 18-21, 2015**  
**San Diego, California**  
**Sheraton Hotel and Marina in San Diego**

AAUW holds its National Convention every two years to provide its members and other women leaders with opportunities for growth, inspiration, and fellowship. Registration is now open. Best value rates are in effect until January 15. All convention details are available online at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

## Juvenile Literature Award 2014

Lillian Van Order and Mary Peterson attended the meeting of the NC Literary and Historical Society in November at the Tryon Palace History Center in New Bern. They represented AAUW NC at the presentation of 2014 AAUW NC Juvenile Literature award to Joan Holub for her book, *Little Red Writing*.

In 1957 the Chapel Hill branch worked with the Literary and Historical Society to establish this award for the purpose of rewarding “the creative activity” involved in writing juvenile literature, and stimulating interest in worthwhile literature written in NC at this level. To be eligible for the award, the writer must have resided in NC for at least the three previous years. The books are judged on creative and imaginative quality, excellence of style, and the universality of appeal and relevance to NC and her people. Lillian Van Order served as one of the judges to select the book.

Van Order notes, “Holub, as author, and Melissa Sweet, as illustrator, make a great team and fill each page with illustrations and side comments that flush out the story. Filled with puns and word play, this is an adventure for Little Red and readers as well.”

Holub lives in Raleigh and is a full time author. After graduation from a Texas college, she freelanced as an art director at a graphic design firm. Her dream was to work on children’s books when she moved to New York City where she became associate art director in Scholastic trade books. There she designed children’s books and worked with editors and illustrators. In the early 1990’s she began writing and mailing manuscripts to publishers. In 1996, she sold her first two manuscripts, launching her writing career. She now writes full time, creating books that entertain, inform and interest children.



*The book is a tale of Little Red, an attractive red pencil, who attends a school for pencils. Her teacher, Ms. 2, asks the class to write a story. Little Red decides to write an adventure that gets a bit out of hand.*

## Nominating Committee At Work

Branch Advocate Sandra McLaurin is now working with the Presidents Council to propose a slate of AAUW NC officers for next year. Two positions (President and Branch Advocate) need to be filled for 2015-2016.

While the Presidents Council serves as the Nominating Committee, McLaurin welcomes names of potential officers from any AAUW NC member. Do you know a member who may be interested in leading our state organization? Who in your branch has demonstrated leadership, planning and/or organization skills that would serve AAUW NC well?

McLaurin and Mary Peterson, as outgoing Branch Advocate and President respectively, can provide more insight into the duties of these offices. All AAUW NC officers serve as one leadership team, with many overlapping responsibilities, so much work is shared.

Please forward any suggested names to McLaurin who can be reached at 910-392-0395, 910-200-7961 or by email [scmclaurin@ec.rr.com](mailto:scmclaurin@ec.rr.com). She and members of the Presidents Council will follow up on your suggestions.

## Leadership (continued from page 1)

follow at an area restaurant. Friday evening continues with “Wine and Wisdom” when members have an informal opportunity to share what has been happening in their branches.

Saturday morning begins with a short business meeting and the election of new state officers. Leadership training will then be the sole focus of the morning until lunch. Announcements, national conventional details and updates at the national level will follow lunch. The annual meeting will end at 2pm.

AAUW NC leaders are now finalizing the logistics of the annual meeting, including location and accommodations. Information about the annual meeting will be sent to all branch presidents in late January, including registration forms.

**PLEASE  
MARK  
YOUR  
CALENDAR  
NOW !**

**AAUW North Carolina  
Annual Meeting**

***Leadership in  
Challenging Times***

**March 20-21, 2015  
Greensboro, NC**

## Supreme Court (continued from page 2)

### VOTING RIGHTS

The exact number of voters in nearly half the country who will be impacted by new voting laws depends on the outcomes of pending court challenges, but one thing is clear: These voting restrictions will hurt women, minorities, young voters, and the elderly the most. Because the challenges are still being litigated in lower courts, the Supreme Court has only been asked to date to rule on requests to keep the laws from going into effect for the 2014 elections. The Supreme Court's responses have been a mixed bag, allowing significant restrictions to stay in place in states like Texas but lifting restrictions in states like Wisconsin. Those cases will likely return to the Supreme Court once they have gone through circuit court.

### MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Marriage equality is increasing across the country as several same-sex marriage bans have been struck down. All but one of the federal judges considering the question have ruled that same-sex marriage bans are unconstitutional. Several states whose bans had been rejected by lower courts asked the Supreme Court to review their cases. So far, the court has declined to hear any of the cases, making marriage equality a reality in many states. In a year with so many high-stake cases, much is left to be decided at the Supreme Court level.

## AAUW NC Hits the Telephones

Before the 2014 midterm elections, public policy staff at the national AAUW office secured the NC voter list of young NC women who did not vote in the 2010 midterm election. Staff then wrote two scripts for this audience. AAUW NC approved these scripts for robo calling and paid for the calls. AAUW NC President Mary Peterson worked with Deborah Swerdlow, national AAUW Public Policy staffer, on the project.

Denny McGuire, AAUW NC Public Policy Chair, recorded these two messages that went out to young women in North Carolina. The first message suggested how important it was to determine where candidates stood on issues that are important to women, and to make a plan to vote. On the day before the November 4 election, a second call went out, reminding young women to vote on the 4th, giving poll hours and including the phone number of the Election Protection Hotline if there were any problems.

## Eleanor and AAUW: A Great Fit

Excerpted from the AAUW Website

For many reasons, AAUW is proud to have called Eleanor Roosevelt a member, supporter, and friend because...

### • She joined and first gave a speech to AAUW in 1929.

Eleanor Roosevelt did not attend college. However, AAUW membership was still open to women who had received honorary degrees from a list of approved colleges. (In her lifetime, Eleanor Roosevelt received 45 honorary degrees.) In 1929, urging New York City branch members to make "another war impossible," she stated, "The only real safeguard is what education can do to change the hearts of men, and I think that has to be done by women. I think that you are the women to do it."

### • She attended AAUW branch meetings throughout the country.

Many of these are chronicled in her syndicated *My Day* column, which is available online courtesy of the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project at George Washington University.

### • She believed that women were written out of history.

As first lady, Roosevelt held White House press conferences exclusively for women reporters because they were usually barred from the President's press conferences. In 1936, she and Mary Ritter Beard, a historian and AAUW member, began to plan to establish the World Center for Women's Archives to collect and centralize the archival records of women's contributions to our world. Both women expressed dismay that major U.S. history books at that time failed to mention a single woman.

### • Her close friend was an AAUW leader in New York.

Eleanor lived at Val-Kill cottage in Hyde Park with her friends Marion Dickerman and Nancy Cook. Dickerman was president of both the AAUW New York City Branch and AAUW of New York State. Roosevelt and Dickerman were political activists. In addition to being active in politics, Dickerman also served as vice president and principal of the Todhunter School, a private school where Roosevelt taught.

### • She put AAUW's mission into action.

Eleanor Roosevelt had so much in common with AAUW. We both sought to find safe haven for refugee scholars during World War II. We both urged political leaders to appoint women to public office. We both published reports and research on the status of women. Both Roosevelt and AAUW were involved significantly with the establishment of the United Nations and with John F. Kennedy's President's Commission on the Status of Women. The story of Eleanor Roosevelt is a reflection of her commitment to putting the AAUW mission into action. Find photos, links and more information on Roosevelt at

<http://www.aauw.org/2014/10/31/eleanor-and-aauw/>



## Greensboro Reports a Great Start!

AAUW Greensboro is off to an exciting start for this year. Membership is now at 92 members, an increase from last year of 32%. Members have been stepping up outreach and networking efforts, inviting guests to programs and luncheons. Greensboro Branch members' affiliations with other organizations such as the League of Women Voters, Business and Professional Women, and NC Women Matter have proven valuable to their recruitment success.

The branch has signed a memorandum of understanding in support of Degrees Matter!, a partnership between The Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, Opportunity Greensboro and The United Way of Greater Greensboro. The mission of Degrees Matter! is to increase the number of adults with college degrees in the Greater Greensboro/High Point area. Greensboro members attended the first cohort of training for volunteers who will help 67,000+ residents who have been to college but not finished a degree. Several Greensboro members have experience with adult or non-traditional students and will be able to help these adults navigate their way toward a higher education degree.

The branch has improved their website and extended their social media contacts to include Facebook and Twitter, thanks to branch member Laura Tew's expertise in the development of online media tools.

The second annual Triad Tech Savvy is scheduled for March 28, 2015 at the Sullivan Science Building on the UNCG campus. Triad Tech Savvy brings together a highly talented faculty of women professionals from local universities, colleges and community colleges whose experience and expertise are central to working with the young women who attend the conference. A sustaining grant of \$4000 from national AAUW and a donation of \$2,500 from Women In Information Technology (WIIT) is funding the conference.

College and university partnerships are growing and now include UNCG, Guilford College, and Bennett College. Nearby High Point University is a National AAUW C/U Partner. Start \$mart workshops will be held at all four area C/U Partner schools with help from a \$500 mini-grant from AAUW NC. The AAUW Start \$mart Program Director, Dorrie Sieburg [sieburgd@aauw.org](mailto:sieburgd@aauw.org) is based in Asheville and will continue to assist with the workshop planning.

Branch programs in the fall included the annual salad-sharing buffet where members were briefed on the importance of STEM education for girls and the challenges girls face in the classroom.

The October program focused on preparing for the mid-term election, and understanding voter registration, sample ballots, and significant educational issues. Plans are also underway for the fundraising luncheon at the Bennett College Global Learning Center. Committee chair Sue Metz has lined up retired television anchor Sandra Hughes as the speaker; Ellie Dolata is organizing the raffle and silent auction to raise money for AAUW funds.



(lft. to rt.) Jane Terwelliger, Barbara Carter, and Mary Fran Schickedantz attended the Greensboro annual Woman to Woman luncheon. The branch had a full table of attendees to hear Jane Pauley speak and to honor woman of the year Addy Jeffrey.

## Legislative Oversight In 2015

President Mary Peterson is now organizing a committee that will take responsibility for overseeing and reporting on state legislative issues as they emerge in Raleigh when the long session begins in 2015. Raleigh/Wake branch member Denny McGuire will chair this AAUW NC Public Policy Committee. Included on the committee are Judy Balsanek, Diana Gray and Karla Atkinson.

In early January the committee will choose five issues to monitor during the long session. (Medicaid is projected to be near the top of that list.) Public policy chairs and branch presidents will be asked to comment on the list, and following comments, the list will be finalized and become the focus of ongoing monitoring by our state Public Policy Committee.

As announced in the last issue of the Tar Heel News, SALSA will be used as a platform for sending public policy alerts to branch members from our state committee. SALSA will be able branch members to send messages to the NC Governor and legislators with just the click of a few buttons. Active public policy committees at the branch level will be able to access and post their articles, comments, etc. statewide on SALSA as well.



133 Years: 1881-2014  
 1111 16th Street  
 Washington DC 200436  
[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) 202-785-7700  
[connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) 800-326-2289

[www.aauwnc.org](http://www.aauwnc.org)  
 866-525-2155 (phone/fax)

### 2014 - 2015 State Officers

Mary Peterson - President  
 6303 Gondolier Dr.  
 New Bern, NC 28560-6478  
 252-636-5074  
[mapeterson2@yahoo.com](mailto:mapeterson2@yahoo.com)

Sandra McLaurin - Branch Advocate  
 204 Oyster Bay Ln.  
 Wilmington, NC 28409-3027  
 910-392-0395  
[scmclaurin@ec.rr.com](mailto:scmclaurin@ec.rr.com)

Peg Holmes - Vice President  
 43 Hollybrook Ct.  
 Asheville, NC 28803-2067  
 828-274-9280 (h)  
[skitennisquilt@aol.com](mailto:skitennisquilt@aol.com)

JoAnn Hall - Treasurer  
 109 Briarwood Ct.  
 Jacksonville, NC 28546-8321  
 910-577-1890 (h)  
[coachjo@embarqmail.com](mailto:coachjo@embarqmail.com)

### When & Where!

AAUW NC Annual Meeting  
**Leadership in Challenging Times**  
 Greensboro, North Carolina  
 March 20-21, 2015

### AAUW NC Tar Heel News

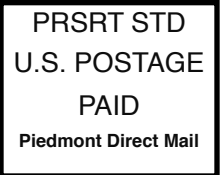
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## Tar Heel News

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Greensboro, NC

## Reach Out or Connect with Facebook

If you use Facebook, there are ways to help get the word out about AAUW:

- Be sure you have "liked" the AAUW NC Facebook page. Go to <http://facebook.com/aauwnc>
- Hover over the Like button to find the "Get Notifications" option. Turn that on to get more news from AAUW NC.
- When you see something from AAUW NC in your news feed, you can "like" (good), "comment" (better), or "share" (best). Those are the ways the word spreads through Facebook and beyond.
- If you want to help post information as AAUW NC, contact [info@aauwnc.org](mailto:info@aauwnc.org)

**If you're not on Facebook**, you can also look at the page without logging in. Go to <http://facebook.com/aauwnc>. Branch newsletter editors, in particular, might find nuggets of interesting information to resend to branch members.

One can also get a weekly email summary of the Facebook posts by subscribing at <http://eepurl.com/QUj1>