



American Association of University Women North Carolina Tar Heel News

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

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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 contact us

866-525-2155 phone/fax
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Leadership Training Continues at 2016 AAUW NC Annual Meeting

The theme of this year's annual meeting on April 1-2, 2016 in Chapel Hill continued last year's theme of *Leadership in Challenging Times*. Deepti Gudipati, vice president of Member Leadership Programs at AAUW, returned to North Carolina to lead the morning workshop.

The morning began with comments from Frances O'Roark Dowell, the 2015 winner of the Juvenile Literature for her book *Anybody Shining*. She noted the importance of younger readers "hearing the voices of southern rural children" as spoken through the book's lead character, Arie Mae.

A brief business meeting preceded Gudipati's workshop. Highlights from the business section are summarized on page 3.

Gudipati organized the remainder of the morning to discuss how branches can focus member recruitment efforts on diversity and inclusion. Her materials were drawn from a newly developed *Diversity and Inclusion Took Kit*, available on line from www.aauw.org.

Gudipati emphasized how diversity contributes to strength, interest and intersecting in any branch. Attendees listed several types of diversity, including age, race, gender, ethnicity, political leaning, religion, sexual identity, education, geography and class. Gudipati outlined the four stages of group development as groups move to become more diversified. Groups begin as closed and homogeneous, then move to becoming neutral and open to individuality. A branch may welcome many individuals, assimilating them into their membership, but a branch that actively brings diversity into its membership becomes an inclusive organization.

Attendees spent the later part of the mornings in small groups, identifying ideas for actively seeking a more diverse membership. Among these ideas:

- use QR codes on AAUW literature, especially material designed for college students. (A QR code, when scanned on a smart phone, goes directly to a web site.)
- develop more weekend activities, to attract 9-5 working women
- pair food with conversation opportunities
- invite AAUW Fellows to speak at a branch meeting
- diversify meeting places, reaching out more into the community
- update branch web sites
- identify more community opportunities to build coalitions
- use the branch newsletter to focus on diversity issues
- support AAUW bylaw changes that open AAUW membership to everyone, regardless of her/his education

(continued on page 2)

Co-Presidents' Message: Annual Meeting Generated Good Ideas



AAUW NC Co-Presidents
Jean D'Addario



Sandra McLaurin

We want to start off by saying “thank you” to all the branches and branch members who participated in the AAUW NC Annual Meeting. We have had an exciting year!

We are raising funds to complete the Ann Chipley Fund that then will become an endowment. We can report that 12 out of the 18 branches have completed their bylaws update with the AAUW mandates and know for sure that all six of those that remain are working on them.

The AAUW NC Board of Directors will be meeting in July to discuss the strategic plans that we outlined in a workshop prior to the annual meeting. The results of the President’s surveys will help us know how to better serve and communicate with you. For more information on the 2016 Annual Meeting, please see other articles in this newsletter.

Please mark your calendars! The 2017 AAUW NC Annual Meeting will be March 31 and April 1 in the Greensboro area. Our AAUW speaker and guest will be Melissa Johnsen, our board liaison to AAUW. She is an AAUW board member who lives in Colorado. Please see more details on Johnsen’s area of expertise on p.12.

In our March gathering, we listened closely to all the exciting projects and programs of your branches. You also gave us suggestions on how to be better communicators with you. We look forward to implementing these ideas, working hard together to Get Out The Vote in the fall, and building relationships and coalitions with other groups as we work toward equity and advancement for girls and women.

Leadership Training

(continued from page 1)

Two AAUW Fellows and a Career Development Grantee attended the annual meeting and spoke briefly on their fields of study.

Erin Maher, Ph.D., Musicology, UNC – CH
Maher is exploring the transitional culture of classical music in the early twentieth century, and the participation by gender in the arts during that period.

Tamar Malloy, Ph.D., Political science, UNC – CH
Malloy is focusing on the politics of respectability, tracing the history of how subtle discrimination has been linked to respectability in different fields, including education.

Brittany Zick, M.P.H., Global health, Duke Univ.
Zick traveled to Uganda to explore the crisis in neurosurgeries for trauma and cancer, patients, including lack of staffing, inadequate equipment and poor diagnostic tools.

To see where endowments of special interest to North Carolina are being used to support these scholarships. see <http://www.aauwnc.org/tag/fellows>.



AAUW grant recipient Brittany Zink (second from left) joins (from left) Kathleen Pearre, Joanne Hill, and JoAnn Taylor Hall for lunch at the annual meeting.

Business Highlights of the 2016 Annual Meeting

Incumbents Vice President Margaret (Peg) Holmes, and Treasurer JoAnn Taylor Hall were unanimously reelected. They join Co-Presidents Sandra McLaurin and Jean D'Addario, and Branch Advocate Donna Wilson on the AAUW leadership team for the upcoming year. Former AAUW NC president Mary Peterson inducted the leadership team.

Wilson reported on the discussion at the Presidents Council meeting on Friday afternoon. At that meeting, several branch presidents summarized current projects or projects planned for next year. As branch advocate, Wilson suggested that if each branch would write a short description of their project(s) on a standardized form, these project descriptions could be collected in one place and accessible on the AAUW NC web site.

A motion to encourage AAUW NC, its members, its branches and their allies who may remember Ann Chipley to contribute to the completion of the Ann Chipley endowment by May 2017 was unanimously approved. (\$7,900 is needed to complete the fund. If the endowment is not completed by the May 2017, it will fund American Scholarships.) Also approved was the distribution of AAUW NC funds up to \$3,500 in 2016 – 2017 to encourage donations from branches and individuals or to make a direct contribution to complete the endowment.

A resolution to oppose North Carolina House Bill 2 (the "bathroom bill") was unanimously approved. A copy of the HB2 resolution that was adopted at the annual meeting can be found at <http://www.aauwnc.org/uploads/2016/04/AAUWNC-Resolution-on-HB2.pdf>

Branches were asked to share this resolution with their members and to send the resolution to their elected officials and other community groups. Denny McGuire, AAUW NC public policy chair, sent the resolution to the governor and the leadership of the NC House and Senate. She also sent a copy to the AAUW Diversity Committee, asking the AAUW national board include gender identity and gender expression in the AAUW diversity statement.

AAUW NC policies are being updated by for review by the board at the end of July.

Treasurer JoAnn Taylor Hall presented the financial report which covered activity from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. (See page 9 for more details.)



(from left) AAUW NC officers for 2016-2017 include Vice President Peg Holmes, Treasurer JoAnn Taylor Hall and Co-Presidents Sandra McLaurin and Jean D'Addario.

AAUW Public Policy Committee Activities

Committee Chair Denny McGuire reviewed the AAUW NC public policy priorities from 2015. Support for the passage of Equal Rights Amendment in North Carolina was added in 2016 as another priority. AAUW NC will collaborate other groups that impact public policy by:

- Supporting the NC Women Matter's new voter guide for women by asking volunteers to help distribute it,
- Participating in the "Women to Women" letter writing campaign to get women to come to the polls and vote. Writers will pen encouraging, hand written letters, sent especially in women in rural communities.
- Attending the Bennett V Conference at Bennett College in Greensboro, July 30, 2016.
- Supporting the ERA-NC Alliance to bring various groups in North Carolina together to support passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. AAUW NC will have one to two of its board members on the NC-ERA Alliance board to help lead this initiative.
- Supporting Cities for CEDAW (Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women). Although the United States has not signed this United Nation's statement against the discrimination of women, a coalition of women's groups in the Triangle is working to get communities in North Carolina to adopt these concepts.

Branch News and Project Updates

ASHEVILLE

Asheville's well established GEM scholarship fund offered its members' services and talents for bid as one center piece of its annual fund raising event. Those attending the event on June 5 at the historic Fernhurst Mansion were encouraged to bid on member-led workshops. Making handmade paper, mini film appreciation, a pottery workshop, a nature hike, a picnic, a Margaritas and Mexican train, and a two-night stay at a bed and breakfast were for sale. Raffle items included gift certificates and tickets for events.

Eight branch members joined the Habitat for Humanity WB (Women Build) program as the work crew on a Saturday in June. Asheville Area Habitat builds one WB house a year. Volunteers are required to attend a safety talk before their work day. Branch leaders believe Asheville AAUW and Habitat's WB program are natural partners because both organizations have the interest of all women at heart and work to promote their welfare.

HENDERSONVILLE

In April three members of the branch's public policy committee members met with representatives from Senator Tillis' and Representative Meadows' offices to call attention to pay equity issues for women.

Hendersonville members continued their partnership with Girl Scout leaders to offer another Techbridge program in May. Techbridge has developed five "Girls Go" programs-in-a-box to introduce fourth and fifth grade girls to hands-on activities which explore principles of math, science, technology and engineering. The girls first used a Thrill Builders box to develop simple objects such as pulleys, springs, levers and gears. Later they explored a playground and after returning to their classroom, worked in pairs to build playground equipment.

After lunch Hendersonville members Alice Greko and Marian Lowery spoke to the group about entering careers in science and engineering. The students finished their day by building a roller coaster car.

The branch again packed the bus for their annual funding raising trip to a special event in June. Profits from the trip are a major source of scholarship funds for Hendersonville. This year members and guests traveled to see *Mama Mia!*

CHAPEL HILL

Chapel Hill President Bea Keller wrote an article on immigration issues in the branch's spring newsletter. The article traces the history of US immigration policy from its origins in 1790 to 2013. Keller's article set the stage for members to welcome their speaker at the branch's Annual Literary Tea on April 28.

Speaker Stephanie Elizondo Griest, a third generation Mexican-American on her mother's side, did not learn Spanish until she was thirty. She is the author of *Mexican Enough: My Life Between the Border-lines* and other award-winning books.

After reading *Mexican Enough*, Keller concluded her president's essay on this note: "This very limited history shows clearly that our policies toward immigration have always been fraught with prejudice and fear."

Chapel Hill's annual tea is the major fundraiser for the branch, with funds going to support AAUW's Education Opportunity Fund. Last year the event netted a \$1,500 contribution to AAUW that the branch hopes to match or beat this year.

CHARLOTTE

Charlotte branch members took advantage of modern technology recently to invite a former AAUW Selected Professions Fellow to speak at one of their branch meetings. Melissa Guzman, a 2013-2014 fellow, pursued a master's degree in aerospace engineering. Prior to her degree work, Guzman participated in the NASA Academy Flight Center and taught physics in Amman, Jordan.

Guzman spoke to branch members on Skype from California where she works now for NASA. Using Skype offered the opportunity to ask questions and dialogue with the speaker – as if the speaker were physically present.

NOTE: AAUW NC also used Skype at their 2015 annual meeting so incoming president Jean D'Addario could offer welcoming remarks while on vacation. Skype can be a helpful tool for branch programming.

Branch News and Project Updates

BREVARD

This year the branch reached its 60th anniversary. The branch added more than 20 new members during the year and has 163 members, the largest membership ever. Brevard now has an Executive Committee of eight elected officers and over thirty members serving as chairs of various committees.

The branch has established a new endowment at Brevard College which allows even more scholarships to come to the college, regardless of the proceeds from the branch's annual book sale. "It is a concrete way of ensuring that AAUW scholarships will remain in perpetuity at our hometown college," said president Linda Thompson. The endowment was started with a \$5,000 gift from the branch and needs to reach \$25,000 in five years to become fully funded. After only the first eight months, the endowed scholarship is now over 50% fully funded.

This year marks the branch's 47th book sale which was held June 18-23. For the third year in a row, the branch grossed over \$30,000 from the 2016 sale. Proceeds from the book sale are used to fund scholarships at Brevard College, Blue Ridge Community College, Green River Preserve Camp and Clemson University's WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) program. In addition the branch contributes annually to AAUW.

With mini-grant support from AAUW NC, the branch launched a Facebook page which to date has over 1000 hits. Visit the page and "like" their page at <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.Brevard.NC>

Get Out the Vote efforts will focus on using the Facebook page, the branch's website, and a print campaign involving newspaper advertising, posters and "looping" ads at the local theater and on cable television.



Over 1000 bookmarks were given out to shoppers at this year's booksale to promote Brevard's Facebook page.

GREENSBORO

Funded in part by a AAUW national grant, the Greensboro branch sponsored its third Tech Savvy event on Saturday, April 9 at UNCG. Triad Tech Savvy is a daylong STEM&M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Medical) program for girls in grades 6th through 9th and their parents/guardians/teachers. Sponsors include AAUW, Mattel Inc, Evonik, Syngenta, Hondajet, Wells Fargo and others. This year's program attracted 129 girls, 40 parents, and 70 adults who served as volunteers, presenters, and speakers.

Greensboro's spring luncheon on April 23 featured a conversation on the media and its significance in an election year. The panel of speakers included Neill McNeill, senior anchor Fox 8 News, Anna Fester, co-president League of Women Voters Piedmont Triad; and Dr. David Holian, associate professor at UNCG, whose publications include *Candidate Character Traits in Presidential Elections*. Profits from the luncheon enabled the branch to sponsor three young women who attended this year's NCCWSL (National College Conference for Women Student Leaders) conference in Maryland.

At the spring luncheon outgoing officers were recognized and new officers were installed.

Greensboro branch leaders are now completing the paperwork to establish the branch as a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization.



Incoming AAUW Greensboro Branch President Libby Haile (left) presents a gift and plaque of appreciation to outgoing Branch President Cherrie Wheaton.

Branch News and Project Updates

GASTON REGIONAL

During Women's History Month in March, Gaston Regional members sponsored an essay contest. The contest was open to Gaston County students in AP English and/or AP US History classes. Students were invited to submit an essay on a famous woman in history. Extra weight was given to the essay that centered on an important but lesser known woman. Prizes of \$100 first place, \$50 second place and \$25 were awarded to the winners.

Three students from Ashbrook High School took top honors, including one young man and two young women. The branch honored the winners at a dinner in mid March. Both the branch and the contest winners made the Schools News front page in the *Gastonia Gazette*.



Gaston Regional members gathered to plan their Women's History Month essay contest. Front: (from left) Illisa Jenkins, Beth Bolin, Carolyn Stubblefield, B'Ann Vance, Barbara Moore, Brenda Ratchford and Jane Kaylor; Back (from left) Gail Silkstone, Lenise Melton, Candace Case, Cindy Moose, Sylvia Seawell and Bernadine Carpenter

WILMINGTON

In mid April, branch members enjoyed a wine tasting party and raised \$265 to send a woman student from UNCW to NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.) In May a successful handbag and jewelry sale added \$188 more to Wilmington's scholarship fund.

Branch members are continuing to learn more about social media sites as organizational tools for communication. A spring program featured a speaker who addressed how to use social media as a tool to meet membership and communication goals.

TAR HEEL

Under the leadership of Virginia Adamson, this virtual branch recently completed its third member survey. Rather than repeating the questions in 2010 and 2013 surveys, the 2016 questions were designed to find areas for future growth of the branch.

The return response from the membership was extraordinary! Of 92 branch members, 44 responses were returned between March 6 and March 29. The first email netted 23 responses; three email reminders to complete the survey yielded 21 more respondents before the closing date.

Among the findings from the recent survey is that AAUW advocacy was the most frequently selected program in which Tar Heel members were willing to participate. Giving "time" was mentioned most frequently as something Tar Heel members could offer to advance AAUW's mission. More members were affiliated with the League of Women Voters than other groups which share the AAUW mission.

The Tar Heel board will study these results in more depth to recommend future direction for THB programming and member recruitment efforts. For detailed findings from the Tar Heel survey, see www.tarheel.aauwnc.org



(from left) Jane Terwillegar and Lilly Haile chat with Virginia Adamson during a break at the annual meeting.

Branch News and Projects

SALISBURY

“The power of education” and “building a circle of influence” were themes shared by two outstanding women who spoke at the March meeting of the Salisbury branch. Branch Vice President Patricia Trueblood introduced Alma Adams, North Carolina's 12th congressional district representative, and East Spencer Mayor Barbara Mallet.

Adams noted that she began her career as any parent who was concerned with the local school system and today is “... an angry grandparent still concerned about the access to a quality education for all our children.” Adams told the group that her mother cleaned other people's houses in Newark where she grew up so her daughter would not have to do that kind of work.” Adams earned her doctorate at Ohio State University.

Mallett spoke about the challenges for women in local politics. “It takes a circle of influence to invoke change. Don't try to do it alone but reach out and get people to help you...to accomplish something for the community,” she advised.

Each of the speakers received a copy of *Sketches of Old Rowan*, a book of ink sketches originally published by the branch in 1960. Several other female politicians were also introduced at the lunch and thanked for their public service in government and education.

President Carol Cody announced that the Salisbury branch had raised enough funds this year to send two local students from Livingstone College to the annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Maryland.

STEM Challenges to the Branches

Ellen Garbarino, Chair of the STEM Committee, announced that AAUW NC has established the two STEM goals for each branch to reach in 2016-2017.

- The branch will hold one program on a STEM subject at a regularly scheduled branch meeting. The speaker could come from within the branch membership, or from the community. A member of another branch with a successful STEM program might be a good resource. For example, for the last three years, the Greensboro branch has run a very successful Tech Savvy program
- A representative number of branch members will participate in a STEM event. The event could be run by the branch alone, or an event run with the school system, the Girl Scouts, etc. Branch members could volunteer at an already existing event sponsored by another community organization.

The STEM Committee is developing a list of branches with successful track records running one or more STEM programs. This list will be sent to each branch to be used as a resource for branches considering a program. The Committee is encouraging the use of resources found at www.aauw.org, including *How to Host a STEM Program in Your Community*.

BENNETT V

NOTE: As we go to press, several members of AAUW NC are planning to attend the Bennett V conference. The conference promises to be a “cannot miss” activity.

Bennett V is critical to organizing how to get out women's votes in the 2016 presidential election year. Held on July 30 at Bennett College in Greensboro, the Bennett V conference will roll out the *Why? Vote Issues Guide* for women. The conference will also set the stage for the NC Women Matter woman-to-woman letter writing campaign for 2016.

The conference will include great speakers, important learning experiences, and opportunities to network with fellow accomplished leaders and activists.

To keep up with plans for the Bennett V strategies to get out women's votes, follow www.ncwomenmatter.org



**NC WOMEN
MATTER**

WE ARE THE MAJORITY. VOTE.

5th Annual Bennett
Issues and Actions Conference

Hosted by NC Women Matter

ERA-NC Alliance Kick Off

On April 12 at Wake Forest University in Winston - Salem, the ERA-NC Alliance introduced its plan to work on passing the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in North Carolina. ERA-NC is a non-partisan organizational arm of the National ERA Coalition. AAUW NC has joined the alliance as a lead organization that will have two representatives to sit on the Alliance Board of Directors.

The launch event included a press conference, a panel discussion and a reception. The press conference was led by Asheville AAUW member Roberta Madden, co-founder of RatifyERANC. Guest speaker and panelists included Dr. E. Faye Williams, national president and CEO of the National Congress of Black Women, and Gailya Paliga, President of the NC National Organization for Women (NOW). Other panel participants included speakers from NC4ERA and Wake Forest University.

The ERA was first written and proposed in 1923 by Alice Paul. Since then the legislation has had bipartisan support and opposition. In 1972 the ERA passed both houses of Congress and was then submitted to state legislatures for ratification.

In 1977, the amendment received 35 of the necessary 38 state ratifications. Five southern and southwestern states rescinded their ratifications prior to the 1979 deadline. In 1978, a joint resolution of Congress extended the ratification deadline to June 30, 1982. From 1972 to 1982, the North Carolina General Assembly deliberated ERA ratification unsuccessfully six times. No ERA advocacy campaigns took place in the North Carolina from 1982 to 2014.

No additional states ratified the ERA and it died.

In March 2015, using the three-state strategy, supporters of the ERA led by RATIFY ERA-NC and NC4ERA joined forces to have the ERA re-introduced in the North Carolina. Two bills were introduced: HB166 and SB184. The House bill did not make it out of the Judiciary 1 Committee prior to the April crossover deadline, but SB184 was exempt from that deadline. However, it was not taken up in the 2016 short session.

Madden noted that “The formation of the new ERA-NC Alliance is a sign that we will never, never, never give up.” The organization plans on pursuing two routes toward ratification. Contact Denny McGuire, the AAUW NC liaison to the organization, for more information on ERA-NC Alliance future plans. See the directory on page 12 for McGuire’s contact information.



Dr. E. Faye Williams, CEO of the National Congress of Black Women, gave opening remarks to launch the ERA-NC Alliance at the morning press conference in Winston-Salem

Brandy Burnett Receives Community Action Grant



Brandy Burnett

Members of the Raleigh – Wake County Branch are celebrating the news that branch member Brandy Burnett has been awarded one of AAUW’s Community Action Grants for her Smart Girls Smart Choices, Inc. project. The grant will be used for activities in 2016-2017.

Community Action Grants provide funds to individuals, AAUW branches, and AAUW state organizations, as well as local community-based nonprofit organizations, for innovative programs or non-degree research projects that promote education and equality for women and girls.

AAUW chose to fund this project because of the promise it holds for empowering women and girls. The motto for girls enrolling in the project reflects this promise. “As a Smart Girl I choose to be confident, be strong, know my worth, be charitable and inspire others.”

The goal of Smart Girls Smart Choices, Inc. is to provide girls with the opportunity to participate in workshops, field trips, and interactions with guest speakers and innovators. All of these activities are designed to spark the girls’ interests in math, science, and technology, and to broaden their scope of interest and ambitions. According to Burnett, the balancing influences of meeting and interacting with high achieving women can help girls discover and take seriously their own passions. The goals of the project will be met through consistent participation in interactive workshops and monthly face to face contact and engagement with mentors who will include project staff, AAUW members, workshop presenters, community partners, and members of the business and professional sector.

To learn more about the Smart Girls Smart Choices project and follow the progress of these young women, see <http://www.smartgirlssmartchoices.com/index.html>

AAUW NC Financial Statement July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016*

Income	
Membership	\$ 8,518
Expenses	\$ 5,099
Mini Grants	\$ 1,320
Newsletter	\$ 2,351
Total Assets**	\$ 34,625.07

* excludes income and expenses from the April 1-2, 2016 annual meeting

** includes checking and Pay Pal accounts



Participants in the Smart Girls Smart Choices program celebrate the good news of having received a grant from AAUW that will support program opportunities through workshops, field trips, speakers and interactions with community partners.

AAUW North Carolina Remembers Former State Presidents Sandra Champion and Mary Jo Pribble



Sandra Champion

Sandra Faye Champion, 78, passed away January 29, 2016 in Kings Mountain, North Carolina. She resided in the Shelby area for much of her adult life. Champion served as AAUW NC President from 1996-2000.

Champion graduated from Gardner-Webb College in 1958 and received her Bachelor of Science degree in 1960 from Limestone College in Gaffney, SC. She taught kindergarten and first grade for thirty-five years, most of that time at Marion Elementary School in Shelby.

She was involved in several professional organizations including AAUW, Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority, the NC Retired Teachers Association and PEO.

Following her retirement, she traveled extensively and spent time with friends, including many of the members in the AAUW Gaston Regional branch. Champion continued to attend AAUW NC state meetings and conventions, often in the company of friend Becky Hamrick who is also a former AAUW NC president.



At the annual meeting, former AAUW NC president Joanne Hill (right) exchanged ideas with Grace Knetchel (left) and branch advocate Donna Wilson.

Mary Jo Pribble

AAUW NC board members were sorry to learn former AAUW NC President, Dr. Mary Jo Pribble, died August 11, 2015 in Bridgewater, VA. Prior to her leadership at the state level, she served as President of the Hendersonville Branch from 1996-1998.

Pribble attained her BA from Maryville College, an MA from Duke University and a PhD from Louisiana State University. She was a documentation chemist at Ethel Corp. Baton Rouge, LA before beginning a thirty-five year teaching career at Limestone College, SC and later at Glenville State College, WV. While living in Glenville, she was an elder at Glenville Presbyterian Church and was a Folk Festival Belle committee member. She established a scholarship in her name at Glenville State College in 1998.

Pribble was president of AAUW NC from 2002-2004. More than a decade ago, she moved from North Carolina back to the Virginia area where she continued to enjoy working on weaving projects.



Before the annual meeting began, former AAUW NC presidents Millie Hoffler-Foushee (left) and Nancy Shoemaker discussed national AAUW business. Hoffler-Foushee served as AAUW Finance Vice President from 2011-2013 and Shoemaker helped to develop the AAUW Online/Virtual Branch Guide in 2013.

2015 North Carolina Legislative Report Card

NOTE: Following each legislative long session, NC Women United releases a Report Card on the status of priority issues that are key to promoting women’s equality. NC Women United’s member organizations select these priority policy goals. These comments were excerpted from an article by NCWU Board Member Bronwen Wade.

NC Women United’s (NCWU) legislative report card of the 2015 legislative session paints a harrowing picture for gender equality in North Carolina. This report card reviews policy goals in our 2015 legislative agenda and gives each one a grade based on how it fared. NCWU gave 22 of the 35 goals a “Very Bad” grade, i.e., policy goals were completely or largely unmet.

Tar Heel lawmakers have disappointed North Carolinians and taken giant steps backward in their treatment of women, children, and workers. This report should serve as a call to action and a tool of understanding for progressive citizens and organizations invested in women’s rights. For more information and details of the 2015 Legislative Report, see www.ncwu.org

Wade summarized the results at the end of the 2015 long session. In part the report cited these aspects of the work of General Assembly during their 2015 long session:

- failed to pass the Equal Pay Act
- failed to restore funding to the NC Housing Trust
- failed to establish a state-run family and medical leave insurance program
- continued to support structural barriers to women’s economic well being.
- extended the wait period for an abortion
- chose not to expand coverage for those in the Medicaid gap
- provided few legal protections for same-sex partners
- avoided common sense gun safety regulations
- suppressed voting rights
- discriminated against the LGBTQ community.

One bright note: The legislature did make progress in advancing sex trafficking prevention and awareness education of this issue.



NC Women United (NCWU) is a coalition of progressive state and local organizations and individuals working to achieve the full political, social, and economic equality of all women across North Carolina. NCWU works to build women’s power through grassroots activism, community organizing, legislative advocacy, and engagement in the political process. AAUW North Carolina is a member of this coalition.



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Greensboro, NC

2017 Annual Meeting Speaker



Melissa Johnsen, AAUW Board member and liaison to AAUW NC, will be our keynote speaker and presenter at our Annual Meeting on March 31-April 1, 2017 in the Triad area.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Johnsen's background has prepared her to define and address the topic of **Reproductive Justice** – an umbrella term meant to be more inclusive of women's reproductive health care and the communities of color. Johnsen will speak to the landscape of Reproductive Justice in the US and how this topic impacted the General Election in November 2016.