

AAUW Wilmington News

June/July 2009



Message from the President

Well, it is hard to believe, but my term as president will be over in just a few days and you will be receiving messages and emails from our new president, **Jean Schaefer**.

I have really enjoyed my experience as president of AAUW Wilmington Branch. AAUW Wilmington is an exciting, devoted, and hard-working group of women dedicated to equity for women and girls. We have had great programs, a successful service project, and an excellent educational fundraiser.

One of the first ventures I was introduced to by AAUW Wilmington was our service project **Eyes to the Future**, led by **Jeri Graham** and **Loretta Metzger**. I am always amazed at the scope of this project and how important it is to the young people of New Hanover County. Thanks to all of you who participated. We start again with training on August 17. The project is usually completed by the end of October. Starting in August, we are changing the name to the **School Vision Screening Team**. Be sure to join this team if you can.

An ongoing event of AAUW Wilmington is our Educational Foundation Fundraiser, **Lunch with Carolina Authors**. It has been a tremendous success for many years, thanks to **Phyllis Leimer**, **Brooks Preik**, **Jean Schaefer**, and many others. The date has already been set for this event for the upcoming year. It will be held on November 7th at the Warwick Center on the UNCW campus. **Phyllis Leimer** and **Jean Schaefer** are in charge. They have already lined up several impressive authors. Mark your calendar and start thinking who you can sell tickets to. Let's make this the biggest fundraiser ever.

One highlight of the past year was AAUWNC convention that was held in Wilmington on March 27, 2009. **Phyllis Guberman** and **Lill Van Order** and their team received "rave reviews" for the local arrangement for the convention. We thank them so much for their hard work.

I am sure the next year will be an exciting year with our new officers in charge, President, **Jean Schaefer**; co-VP's for programs, **Janet Petty** and **Lois Fox**, VP for Membership, **June Creamer**; Secretary, **Ava Bevins**; and Treasurer, **Ann Skiba-Sherman**.

I will see you at the first meeting in September.

Sandra McLaurin, President

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Membership

Let us welcome our new members:

Stephanie Tress de Pue Murphy

E-mail: stephaniedepue@bellsouth.net

College: Cornell Univ. AB

Bernard Baruch College of Cuny MBA

Michelle Scatton - Tessier

E-mail: scattonm@uncw.edu

College: U of Iowa Ph.D.

Ohio State U MA.

Penn State U BA



Jo Howell at Prospective
Members Luncheon

Jane P. Cowles

College: Middlebury BS

Parsley Woods was a beautiful setting for our annual reception for our new members and prospective members on April 19th. We are most grateful to our member Lillian "Billie" House for her gracious hospitality. Thank you to our speakers: Jo Howell, Sandra McLaurin and Jean Schaffer who expressed the purpose of belonging to AAUW. A question and answer period followed. My thanks to our hostess, Sue Wood, for all her help and delightful presentation of food and beverages, and thanks to Janet Petty. Last but not least, thank you to Helen Bolles for the printed invitations.

Remember to fill out your membership form. Dues must be paid by June 30th.

June Creamer, Membership VP

Legal Advocacy Fund

This has been a year of change for the Legal Advocacy Fund. We have broadened our base to support the cases of working women in all fields, not just in a college/university setting. Previously LAF could not support discrimination cases like that of Lillie Ledbetter because it did not arise in academia.

LAF now offers financial and moral support for strategic workplace and campus sex discrimination cases. This support includes offsetting legal fees and court related costs, signing amicus briefs, and writing statements of support for plaintiffs. Legal information is made available by LAF online and through a network of experienced lawyers and social scientists serving as consultants to victims of sexual discrimination.



Thanks to our branch members who contributed to our LAF drive this spring, and those who supported the Carolina Author's fundraiser, we were able to contribute \$650.00 to the fund this year.

Jean Schaefer, LAF Chair

Convention 2009

Dozens of AAUW members from around North Carolina gathered at the Blockade Runner in Wrightsville Beach on March 26-27 for the 2009 annual state convention. The weather was rainy, the format was streamlined, and the main activity was on a Friday, but those attending had a good time.

The weekend began on Thursday with a trolley tour of historic Wilmington, enjoyed by about 30 people. This was followed by dinner at Sweet and Savory Restaurant, which drew about 25 people. Approximately 40 people enjoyed "Nightcap and Networking" in the hospitality room.

The formal convention program began on Friday with a welcome from Branch President Sandra McLaurin, Wrightsville Beach Mayor Stephen Whalen, and State President Millie Hoffler-Foushee. Wilmington Branch member Barbara Fleming, a certified financial planner, presented a workshop on women and finance. Barbara fielded many questions from the audience. Linda Lorah (Wilmington) then led us in a memorial service honoring the work of women's hands. Twelve members of six branches were remembered.



The luncheon included an informal celebration of 50 years of the Educational Foundation, which supports post-graduate education and research for women across the United States. We "got down to business" in the afternoon with the state president and Carol Newnam, South Atlantic Regional Director. Incoming officers elected included Lill Van Order of Wilmington and Karla Atkinson of Brevard ("the best of the east and the west") as Co-Vice Presidents for Program. Mary Fran Schickedantz (Greensboro) was re-elected treasurer. The office of president-elect remained unfilled; therefore, the co-vice presidents for program will have an expanded role for the upcoming year. Newnam led a discussion on bylaws revisions to be voted on at the national AAUW convention in June. Look for details in future newsletters and other AAUW publications.

Over 90 attended the evening banquet, including eleven past state presidents, as we celebrated 100 years of AAUW in North Carolina. The Raleigh/Wake County Branch, founded February 12, 1909, was the first branch in the state. Our history was reviewed and state presidents were honored for their service; the new officers were installed. The banquet speaker was Dorothy DeShields, a member of the New Hanover County Board of Education and retired educator. Ms. DeShields shared her story of overcoming the struggles for a sound and equitable education for all people.



Both the luncheon and the dinner were buffet-style meals, which allowed considerable variety while keeping costs down. Nearly all the refreshments in the hospitality room were donated by Wilmington branch members and thoroughly enjoyed by all the convention attendees during "down times" and at the First Timers Reception.

On Saturday morning, member of the state board and branch presidents gathered to discuss a variety of business matters, as well as new and ongoing projects. Elaine Ostrowki (Greensboro), state public policy chair, gave an extensive and enthusiastic report.

While the one-day format received mixed reviews, our branch was showered with compliments from the 80+ who attended the convention. Some excerpts: "thanks...for giving us a warm welcome and providing a wonderful and successful convention"; "a successful convention requires the coordination and time commitment of many members...congratulations on taking such good care of us..."; "can't say enough good things about our hostess chapter—hospitality was extraordinary"; "Wilmington branch, you were superb—super!!"

Kudos to all in the Wilmington Branch for a job well done! We especially want to thank Sue Wood (registrar), Carol Tutton (treasurer), Harvin Quidas (hospitality); Jean D'Addario (banquet), Jean Schaefer and Georgia Polhemus (transportation); Barbara Fleming (workshop); and Linda Lorah (memorial service) and their committees for making the AAUW NC 2009 convention a success.

Lill Van Order and Phyllis Guberman, Convention Co-Chairs

Are you looking for some new, stimulating conversations?

If so, you'll want to join our new Discussion Group that will meet monthly in homes. Spouses and friends are welcome to participate; the more the merrier. The group will select the topics. Here are some possibilities:

- Should farm subsidies be abolished?
- Should unhealthy foods be banned in schools?
- Do advertisements do more harm than good?
- Should the Electoral College be abolished?
- Should negative political advertising be banned?
- Should the two-party system be changed?



Everyone will have an opportunity to express their opinions and be heard and respected.

To join us, call Enid Bellows at 399-7593 or email at suthrbell@ec.rr.com

Green Tip of the Month



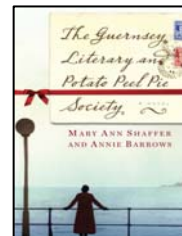
Volunteer vacations are becoming popular, but don't overlook opportunities to make your own community stronger and greener. Connect with your local [Sierra Club chapter](#) or consult [VolunteerMatch](#) to find programs in your area. Staying local keeps your carbon footprint smaller and it's a great way to meet friends with similar interests.

Book Club Information

Monday Afternoon Book Club

Meetings held at 1:30pm. We welcome new members. For more information, contact June Creamer (791-4612) or Pat Noonan (256-0297, pqunoonan@yahoo.com).

July 6th The Guernsey Literary and The Potato Peel Pie Society
by Mary Ann Schaffer and Annie Darrows
Reviewer: Mary Codd (910) 791-5882
Hostess: Georgia Polhemus (910) 452-7666



SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

"Lunch with Carolina Authors": Saturday, November 7, Warwick Center Ballroom, UNCW



Phyllis H. Leimer

FINANCIAL ISSUES FOR WOMEN - WHAT ARE YOUR CONCERNS?
SOME DEBT CONTROL SUGGESTIONS FROM CNN MONEY 101 LESSON 9

In our February Newsletter, I discussed the subject of debt in our country. However, I felt with the new laws coming about regarding the credit card company practices that I would give your "food for thought" from CNN. For more valuable information go to www.cnnmoney.com and then go to Money101.

1. GOOD DEBT VS BAD DEBT- DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THEM.
2. BAD DEBT IS SOMETHING YOU CAN CONSUME.
3. WRITE DOWN ONE MONTH'S SPENDING OUT OF POCKET AND CHECKS.
4. CALL ALL CREDIT CARD AND MORTGAGE COMPANIES AND NEGOTIATE A REDUCTION IN THE INTEREST RATE.
5. LIST CREDIT CARDS HIGHEST INTEREST RATE FIRST.
6. PAY OFF HIGHEST INTEREST RATE FIRST.
7. CONTINUE TO PAY THE MINIMUM AND ADD MONEY TO HIGHEST INTEREST RATE UNTIL IT IS PAID OFF.
8. ADD WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN PAYING ON THE HIGHEST INT. RATE TO THE NEXT HIGHEST INTEREST RATE.
9. WATCH WHERE YOU BORROW THE MONEY FROM- DO NOT USE HOME EQUITY LINE OR 401K (IF YOU LOOSE YOUR JOB YOU MUST REPAY THE LOAN WITHIN THREE MONTHS. IF NOT IT MAY BE CONSIDERED A DISTRIBUTION AND YOU MY HAVE A 10% PENALTY IF YOU ARE UNDER 59 ½ PLUS INCOME TAX DUE ON THE DISTRIBUTION.
10. HAVE A CASH CUSHION OF THREE OF SIX MONTHS GROWING IN A MONEY MARKET.
11. DON'T PAY OFF YOUR MORTGAGE EARLY UNLESS ALL DEBTS ARE PAID.
12. KEEP DEBT BELOW 36% OF YOUR GROSS INCOME NOT INCLUDING YOUR MORTGAGE AND 1 CREDIT CARD.
13. BEWARE OF 0% INTEREST FOR A PERIOD OF TIME. SOME CREDIT CARDS ADD ALL THE BACK INTEREST IF YOU DO NOT PAY IT OFF WITHINTHAT TIME FRAME.
14. IF YOU NEED HELP, BE CAREFUL OF WHOM YOU SELECT AND REMEMBER DEBT DIDN'T GET THAT HIGH OVER NIGHT. BE PATIENT AND CONSISTANT.
15. CHECK THE NEW LAWS THAT HAVE BEEN PASSED RECENTLY REGARDING CREDIT CARD COMPANIES AND THEIR CURRENT PRACTICES.
16. MAKE YOUR SUMMER PRODUCTIVE AND GET YOUR DEBT UNDER CONTROL.



TRY IT THE "OLD FASHION" WAY - SAVE BEFORE PURCHASING AND USE CASH RATHER THAN CREDIT CARDS OR THE ATM.

HAVE AN ENJOYABLE AND RESTFUL SUMMER. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE CALL BARBARA AT 367-3293.

School Vision Screening Team



It is time to mark your calendars for vision screening training. Carla Turner, School Health Nurse Supervisor has advised me of a Prevent Blindness North Carolina training date for us. Our date is August 17th, 1 p.m. at the New Hanover Country Health Departments auditorium. Please also remember that if you did not get your certification renewed last year, you should do so this year (every two year requirement).

Please let me know as soon as possible if you will be able to attend the training.

Jeri Graham, School Vision Screening Team Co-Leader

Photos of Recent AAUW Events



Prospective Members Luncheon 2009:
Barbara Edwards, Karen Holbrook, Billie House



Prospective Members Luncheon 2009:
Stephanie de Bue Murphy and Sandra McLaurin, President



Prospective Members Luncheon 2009:
Mary Busbee, Janet Petty, Sue Wood, Mary Codd



AAUW NC Convention 2009:
Wilmington branch members enjoying lunch



AAUW NC Convention 2009: Past State Presidents, including
Wilmington's own Mimi Cunningham (4th from the right)

2008 – 2009 AAUW Wilmington Board of Directors

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Thank you
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