



# Tar Heel News

American Association of University Women of North Carolina

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

Winter 2009 | Vol. 55, No. 4

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[www.aauwnc.org](http://www.aauwnc.org)

**866-525-2155 Phone/Fax**

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

*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.*

## FALL THN Corrections:

In the Fall THN, page 4, Betsy Miner (3rd from left in photo) was incorrectly identified as Denny McGuire.

Also in the Fall THN, page 6, the Hendersonville president is Peg Holmes, 43 Hollybrook Drive, Asheville, NC 28803; (828)274-9280.

E-mail: [skitennisquilt@aol.com](mailto:skitennisquilt@aol.com). Please note this correction on your presidents list.

## AAUW NC 2010 Convention

*"Honor the Past and Serve the Future"*

Friday and Saturday April 16-17, 2010 | Charlotte, NC

Mark your calendar for a packed weekend of fun, networking and learning! We are still at the development stage, but we would like to share some of the plans we have so far for this weekend.

### Friday:

Board Meeting 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

*Please note the time change*

A night at the movies "Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority"

We're going to the movies- in the hotel for a private showing of this AAUW movie about Patsy Mink and her fine work.

This will be a good chance to learn more about Rep. Patsy Mink, Title IX, and network with your fellow AAUW NC members –perhaps a possible program for your branch?

### Saturday:

Workshops are back and better than ever!

These are still not set, but here are some ideas we are tossing around.

NC Education –community training- what is happening in the field?

Connect with the UIN Commission on the

- Status of Women

- Issues affecting seniors
- Support network for business women
- Update on the WAGE project

A "Leader on Loan" is coming from AAUW "St Louis and Our New 'Lean' Machine".

This is basically an overview of AAUW financial "health" today; the new structure with 501(c) 3 status, contributions to LAF and EF, membership data, etc. This will include why "philanthropy" was added to the mission statement.

NC Juvenile Literature Award presented and a chance to meet the author.

*A dinner celebration with presentations and toasts*

### The annual meeting:

Come early and go home rejuvenated! We will keep you posted as aspects of the program gel, but we want to be sure you save these dates. Plan to join us in Charlotte. Check out the next article regarding the accommodations in Charlotte

### Comments, and Questions?

Email: Lill at [lillvo@earthlink.net](mailto:lillvo@earthlink.net)

### See you in April!

Lill Van Order AAUW-NC, Co- VP for Program

## State Convention Accommodations

*The AAUW NC State Convention will be held at the Hilton Charlotte University Place Friday, April 16th and Saturday, April 17th, 2010.*

The Hilton is located at 8629 J.M. Keynes Drive, Charlotte, NC 28262, next to the I-85 exit and just 6 miles from I-77. It's a 100% non-smoking, lakeside property, whose meeting rooms and guest rooms have been recently renovated.

There are a total of 12 floors and nearly 393 Guest rooms in this full-service hotel which has many amenities to make your stay a pleasurable one, including a fitness center, concierge service, a restaurant and car rental on the premises.

There is complimentary self-parking available, as well as valet parking.

Check-in time is 4:00pm and check-out time is 11:00a.m.

The room rate is priced at \$109.00 per night for double occupancy.

You may book your reservation now. The number to call is: 1- 800-HILTON. Ask for "AAUW" and anyone answering can help you. You may also call the hotel reservation desk directly at 704-547-7444.

The deadline for making a reservation at the convention rate of \$109.00 is March 17th, 2010. Please book your room early to be assured of availability.

If you have questions or need further information, please call Diane Schneider, Charlotte Branch President, weekday evenings, at: 704-598-6268.

## President's Message



*Expanding  
Our Horizons*  
Millie Hoffler-Foushee  
AAUW NC President

I am so excited about the wonderful turnout for the Fall Meeting in Boone. Homecoming for Appalachian State and crowded roads did not affect us too much. Of course it took us a time to get to the Inn, but once there, it was wonderful. The High Country branch was efficient and gracious. The food was wonderful. I wish to commend any branch that steps up to the plate to host our meetings. It is not an easy task, but it is rewarding.

Now to get to some issues that are floating around in my head. We have to look at how we want to run the state. Some at the Fall Board meeting want to leave our state structure as is. But let's think about this for a minute. The nominating committee is having a hard time getting members to volunteer for the vacant positions. It's fine to say that you want a president, president-elect, vice presidents for program and membership, secretary and treasurer. But where do we find these people? We had no one for president-elect last year, so there is no one to follow me. Last year, we had an opening for a treasurer. No one came forward, so our treasurer is serving a second term. To fill the current officer list, we need a president, membership vice president and a secretary for the next term. Who is willing to serve? I am stretched and cannot serve another term as state president, so who will take my place? We have an opportunity to change our structure. The executive board suggested that we have a president and treasurer and appoint others as directors-at-large. Suggestions from you are most welcome.

I really need you to think outside the box. AAUW is trying to make it easier for us to serve while not getting bogged down with structure. We are trying to make our mission our focus. That's why we dropped the rule about number of members to make a branch. We can now form the State or Branch in any way we like.

Our convention this year is in Charlotte, in the center of the state. I need as many of you as possible to attend. We are changing the format to show that you don't have to do the same thing over and over again. We will have a leader-on-loan from national who is very dynamic. We will also meet our Juvenile Literature Award winner. Two nights of fun are planned to give you the opportunity to meet others from other branches and to network. The program and workshops will be extremely informative and exciting. And remember that we are in the one-member-one-vote system, so every member who comes can vote. I look forward to seeing you in Charlotte.

Doris Bernlohr, President, Tar Heel Branch (left) congratulates Nancy Shoemaker for being recognized in a resolution of appreciation for her countless contributions to AAUW. Nancy, who now serves as AAUW NC Webmaster, is also Immediate Past President of AAUW NC. She was presented the resolution at the Fall Leadership Meeting in Boone in October.



Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo educates attendees at the WAGE Project: From Thought to Action workshop in Boone at the Fall Leadership meeting. Nancy Shoemaker, Mary Peterson, Sonya Stafford and Sheila are currently the only trained WAGE workshop facilitators in AAUW NC.

## Seeing the blackboard in Wilmington

Learning can be easy or difficult depending on a host of factors, eyesight being one. For over ten years the Wilmington AAUW branch has addressed the problem of identifying school children in New Hanover County who need help seeing the blackboard or the printed page. The project was organized by our member Helen O'Connell and has become a community service project of which we're proud. In recent years we have partnered with the Ladies Concordia Society of the Temple of Israel and other volunteers.

Every August our project leader, Jeri Graham, and her assistant leader, Loretta Metzger, arrange a training session for volunteers. By the end of the month we're ready to tackle the job of screening over 6,000 students in the first, third and sixth grades. About 10% of the students are turned over to the school nurses for further screening and possible referrals to an eye doctor.

We have received words of praise and appreciation from school nurses, teachers, and parents alike. We feel this is a grass-roots effort to improve education and would recommend the project to other branches.

Jean Schaefer  
Wilmington AAUW Branch President

# AAUW Partners with Democracy North Carolina to Increase Youth Civic Engagement

Democracy North Carolina thanks the AAUW for its role advocating for a bipartisan Pre-Registration bill adopted by the General Assembly this summer! The new legislation, which takes effect January 1, 2010, could add thousands of young people to the voter rolls and boost voter education and voter turnout in North Carolina.

The bill allows 16 and 17 year olds to fill out a form to pre-register to vote when they take the required civics course in the tenth grade or sign up for a driver's license. Shortly before the teenager reaches voting age, registration will be automatic and the board of elections will contact the voter to verify the information on the form, following the same process used for all first-time voters.

"This legislation takes advantage of two settings when 16 year olds encounter the role of government – in civics class and at the motor vehicles office," said Adam Sotak, organizing director of Democracy North Carolina, the nonpartisan election reform group that coordinated advocacy for the bill's passage. "This

is one new way to introduce young people to voting and to help teach them that registration is the ticket to first-class citizenship."

The bill received bipartisan support and was initiated by four sponsors, including Rep. Tricia Cotham (D-Mecklenburg), the youngest Democrat in the General Assembly, and Rep. Justin Burr (R-Stanly), the youngest Republican, along with Rep. Angela Bryant (D-Nash) and Rep. Pearl Burris-Floyd (R-Gaston).

Representatives of the NC associations of principals, school boards, and teachers approved the legislation and Democracy North Carolina led a variety of nonpartisan organizations, including the AAUW, Action for Children, FairVote NC, League of Women Voters, NAACP, NC Center for Voter Education, and the UNC Civic Education Consortium in advocating for its passage.

"We look forward to implementing this bill with these partners across the state," said Sotak. "A few other states have similar pre-registration laws for 16 year olds, but those states aren't yet taking full advantage of opportuni-

ties for hands-on civic education and increased youth participation. This is another chance for North Carolina to be a model for the nation."

The ratified bill requires county boards of elections to conduct registration drives at high schools each year. It also broadens existing requirements for civics teachers to teach students about voting and the registration process. Sotak hopes that groups like the AAUW will partner with Democracy North Carolina in a variety of ways to reach out to local elections officials and educators about the new law. "Democracy NC is looking for people interested in conducting voter registration drives for teenagers, meeting educators and elections officials and brainstorming ideas for innovating projects or programs in the schools to help highlight this new opportunity for the civic engagement of young people."

Anyone interested in helping implement the pre-registration legislation should contact Adam Sotak of Democracy North Carolina at 919-286-6000 x11 or email to: [adamsotak@democracy-nc.org](mailto:adamsotak@democracy-nc.org)

## 2009-2010 AAUW Fellows in North Carolina

[www.aauwnc.org/2009/10/28/2009-2010-aauw-fellows-in-north-carolina/](http://www.aauwnc.org/2009/10/28/2009-2010-aauw-fellows-in-north-carolina/)

*Contributed by Nancy Shoemaker*

AAUW awarded more than \$3,000,000 in fellowships and grants this year and North Carolina is fortunate to have eight recipients of AAUW Fellowships and Grants in the state for 2009-2010:

*American Fellowships:*

**May May Leung**, Ph.D., Public Health UNC-Chapel Hill

**Hollie Mann**, Ph. D., Political Theory, UNC-Chapel Hill

**Rosemarie Stremlau**, Postdoctoral research, American History, UNC Pembroke

**Emily Potter**, M.P.H, Public Health, UNC-Chapel Hill

*Community Action Grant:*

**The Achievement Academy**, Gayle Erdheim, Durham

*International Fellowship:*

**Kimberly Francis**, Ph.D. Music History, Musicology and Theory, UNC-Chapel Hill (from Canada)

*Selected Professions Fellowships:*

**Peggy Charneco**, M.B.A, Duke University

**Neeta Kirpalani**, M.B.A, Wake Forest Univ.

Donations from AAUW members in North Carolina and around the country have made these fellowships and grants possible. Here is how the endowments of special interest to North Carolina are being used:

**Elizabeth A. Colton** endowment is supporting Yvonne Empson, M.S. Engineering, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

**Ellen Black Winston** endowment is supporting Neeta Kirpalani.

**Shirley S. and Karl S.** Quisenberry endowment is supporting Hollie Mann.

**Sandy Bernard/Alice Ann Leidel** endowment is supporting **Shilarna Stokes**, Ph.D., Drama/Theatre Arts at Columbia Univ. **Rosalynd Nix Gilliat International Fellowship** is supporting Kimberly Francis.

**L. Adelaide and M. Elizabeth Johnson, Beth Norris, Enola G. Rethford, Stine J. Schaffmeyer** and two other research and project endowments are supporting Emily Potter.

**The North Carolina Golden Annivesary** and four other research and project endowments are supporting the grant to the Achievement Academy.

## American Association of University Women

**125 Years: 1881-2006**

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M-F 10 a.m.-5 p.m. EST | [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

## AAUW North Carolina

**Theme:**

### Expanding Our Horizons

Look beyond your own branch in pursuit of our mission.

### Millie Hoffler-Foushee President

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## When & Where!

April 16-17, 2010

AAUW NC Convention

University Place Hilton, Charlotte

## Tar Heel News

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View the sidebar on the right side of most pages. Current AAUW headlines are reposted in the "What's new at AAUW section." Click on links to view special articles at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

## Tar Heel News

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## AAUW Public Policy Initiatives Need Member Support

As AAUW launches its new Public Policy Program for 2009-2011, two issues on its policy agenda are now before Congress and AAUW members are urged to voice support.

The Healthy Families Act (H.R. 2460/S. 1152) would provide full-time employees with seven paid sick days a year to be used for their own medical needs or to tend to the medical needs in the family. This legislation is taking on new significance as the current outbreak of the H1N1 virus is forcing many workers to stay at home. AAUW NC recently approved a letter AAUW will send to U.S. Senator Kay Hagan and U.S. Representatives from North Carolina to request them to cosponsor the bill.

AAUW is also seeking support for two bills, the High School Athletics Accountability Act (H.R. 2882) and the High School Information Collection Act (S. 471), to improve compliance with Title IX, the landmark legislation which brought gender equity to academic

athletic programs. The proposed legislation would require high schools to report gender equity data, including participation rates and expenditures for high school athletes, data which are already required to be reported by colleges. AAUW hosted a Webinar on October 29 to explain how branches can help monitor Title IX compliance in their local high schools and take action if violations are found. The Webinar will be posted on AAUW's website in early November.

To contact your congressional delegation to urge their support of the two sets of legislation, use AAUW's Action Alert at [www.aauw.org/advocacy](http://www.aauw.org/advocacy) (follow the Public Policy link). AAUW's 2009-11 Public Policy brochure is now available from branches' Public Policy Chairs or from AAUW-NC Public Policy Chair Elaine Ostrowski at [etoostrowski@earthlink.net](mailto:etoostrowski@earthlink.net). The brochure can also be viewed online at the above website.

## Tar Heel Branch Issues Invitation to Members-at-Large

The new Tar Heel Branch Without Borders invites members-at-large to join them.

For \$16/year, get all the issues of this AAUW NC newsletter, support AAUW's efforts across the state and connect to other members as you see fit.

A membership in the Tar Heel Branch also makes a great gift.  
Check out <http://tarheel.aauwnc.org/> or contact Doris Bernlohr at: [dbernlshr@bellsouth.net](mailto:dbernlshr@bellsouth.net) or call 336-586-7001.