

PROPOSAL TO HOLD THE 2020 AAUW NC ANNUAL MEETING IN ASHEVILLE

Board of Directors Meeting August 9, 2019

Please accept this proposal as an indication of AAUW Asheville affiliate's desire to host the March 2020 Annual Meeting in our city. The following comments represent areas of our current thinking and investigations. They include advantages of holding the meeting in Asheville, a potential meeting schedule, possible program topics and speakers, a spreadsheet of hotel comparisons and hotel details, and typical costs for an individual to attend the meeting.

Due to the in-town location and many amenities for attendees outlined in the hotel details section, our recommendation is the DoubleTree by Hilton venue. The prices of the DoubleTree and the Crowne Plaza are significantly lower than they will be starting in April through December because of our long tourist season.

Your consideration of our proposal is much appreciated. We are a vibrant affiliate and would be proud to provide the logistics and on-site people as well as collaborating with AAUW NC for programming, speakers and other arrangements to make this annual meeting successful.

I. ADVANTAGES OF HAVING THE MEETING IN ASHEVILLE:

AAUW Asheville has enthusiastic, supportive and capable officers

Asheville is a "destination" vacation spot with great restaurants, shopping in locally owned stores, music and art venues, museums, a veritable plethora of breweries

There is the potential for significantly increased Western North Carolina attendance due to proximity. WNC affiliates make up approximately half of the AAUW NC membership

Our large Asheville branch (168 members) will help do the planning/tasks/speakers

There is the potential for Tryon, Hendersonville, Brevard, Bryson City, and Western Carolina University affiliates to participate in planning, tasks, speaker recruitment, etc., which encourages connection, communication and collaboration for the future

We have established a link with the Asheville Convention and Visitors Center for give-aways and assistance with planning of the event

The two hotels identified as viable alternatives have updated and modern facilities; each has reward points

Long standing relationships with local businesses are already in place with our sister affiliate GEM Scholarship Fund and have the potential for sponsorships and/or vendor participation

Difference	\$2,357.58					
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II. POTENTIAL SCHEDULE:

Friday

Morning	Possible tours of area attractions
10:00 to 2:00 pm	AAUW NC Board of Directors meeting
1:00 to 2:00 pm	Public Policy Chairs, Tarheel affiliate meetings
2:00 to 3:00 pm	1 Break-out session
3:00 to 3:30 pm	Break so people can check into the hotel and visit vendors
3:30 to 4:30 pm	1 Break-out session
4:30 to 5:00 pm	Break for short rest, visiting vendors, bidding in Silent Auction
5:00 to 6:00 pm	Cocktail reception for socializing/networking
6:00 to 9:00 pm	Dinner and speaker?, watchfire activities?, film?, other?

Saturday

8:30 to 10:00 am	Annual meeting
10:00 to 10:30 am	Visit vendors, bid on Silent Auction items
10:30 to 11:30 am	3 break-out sessions
11:30 to 12:30 am	3 break-out sessions
12:30 to 2:30 pm	Lunch, keynote speaker—possibly AAUW officer
2:30 pm	Adjourn
Afternoon	Possible tours of area attractions

III. PROGRAM and SOME SPEAKER POTENTIALS for BREAK-OUT SESSIONS:

Legislative activities nationally and in NC—North Carolina Justice Center

Membership recruitment, especially younger women and women of color, and affiliate sustainability—maybe a panel or AAUW national representative

2020 Coalition for the Women’s Right to vote centennial celebration

What agencies around the state are doing for the 19th Amendment centennial—Christy Agner of the Department of Administration or someone from the NC Department of Cultural Resources

Using “meet-ups” with Work Smart to attract working women, possibly Kathy Peare

How to assure your branch remains “nonpartisan” during a year of intense politicking—maybe a League of Women Voters representative (Kitty Schaller, AAUW Asheville Public Policy Chair) or AAUW national representative

ERA ratification in NC—ERA NC Alliance, possibly Marena Groll

Women’s Health—NC Council for Women and Youth Involvement, Mary E. Stover or WNC region representative

Lillian's List and electing more women

Use of social media for marketing your affiliate and your message—Jen Jones of Democracy NC

Use of AAUW website resources

Publishing a state-wide online newspaper, the Carolina Public Press—Angie Newsome, Founder and Editor (located in Asheville)

North Carolina Supreme Court cases affecting women and girls—Jurist Anita Earls (lives in Durham)

Sharing affiliate accomplishments and successful programs/activities—Judy Balsanek, Branch Advocate, to take the lead

A total of 8 Break-out Sessions is being proposed, 2 on Friday (consecutive use of same room) and 6 on Saturday (consecutive use of 3 rooms). Should additional sessions be desired, there are rooms at the DoubleTree for \$325 each; no additional rooms available at the Crowne Plaza

IV. HOTEL DETAILS:

DoubleTree by Hilton

Quotes are for March 27 and 28, 2020

Same room rates for two nights prior to March 27th and two nights after March 27th

Regularly scheduled shuttles to Biltmore Village and downtown Asheville (\$5.00)

Walk to Biltmore Village for shops and restaurants

Stop for Gray Line Trolley that travels throughout Asheville (on and off capabilities)

Indoor pool and fitness center

Complimentary airport transportation

Lovely courtyard for breaks and possibly reception

Several other hotels in walking distance

3 miles to Asheville center and 1 block from entrance to Biltmore Estates

Crowne Plaza (IHG facility)

Quotes are for March 20 and 21, 2020

Same room rates for two nights prior and two nights after March 20th

Regularly scheduled shuttle to 3 downtown stops in Asheville (\$5.00)

Fitness center, tennis court, outdoor swimming pool on property

1.5 miles to center of Asheville

Lake Junaluska

Methodist retreat and convention center on the Lake, plus year-round residents
 No alcohol on campus, but Board meeting in October to potentially allow beer and wine in meeting rooms
 30 minute drive beyond Asheville on I-40

Kanuga Conference Center (just outside of Hendersonville)

Not available any weekend in March
 Rooms are \$140 for double, \$175 single. Three meals served buffet style/day included
 No charge for meeting rooms

There is a potential for any of the hotels to experience adverse weather. March 2019 had spring bulbs blooming and mild weather

All the hotels have free registration area; Silent Auction items can be placed there if desired. DoubleTree has locked closet for storing auction items overnight

All the hotels have space for vendors in hallways near meeting rooms and where other hotel guests will see and may purchase items

V. HOTEL COSTS FOR ROOMS AND FOOD/BEVERAGES (see accompanying spreadsheet)**VI. TYPICAL COST FOR ATTENDEE:**

- (\$207)** Someone **sharing a room** (\$75); dinner on Friday (\$50); lunch on Saturday (\$37.00)—includes taxes and service charges; registration fee (\$45)
- (\$280)** Someone in a **private room** (\$149), dinner on Friday (\$50), lunch on Saturday (\$37), registration fee (\$45)
- (\$132)** Daily attendee, no overnight stay, dinner on Friday, lunch on Saturday, and registration fee
- (\$18)** Per person continental breakfast on Saturday or breakfast on own

Forty-five dollars as the registration fee has been utilized for these calculations. Obviously, the real fee will be determined by the Board as part of income calculations

Many of the items designed last year, e.g. buttons and folder stickers, could be again utilized with minor alterations. Silent Auction items should be more plentiful due to the attendance of members of other WNC affiliates.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Ashe, President, AAUW Asheville