



American Association of University Women North Carolina (AAUW NC)
January 15, 2025 Minutes

Meeting Date: January 15, 2025

Meeting Time: 5:30pm

Meeting Location: ZOOM

Board Members Present: Pat Ashe (President), Lena Murrill-Chapman (Vice-President), Millie Hoffler-Foushee (Treasurer), Laura Tew (STEM Ed Chair), Kathy Pearre (Programs Chair), Mary Ann Bents (*Connect* Editor and Webmaster), Tiffany Jacobs (DEI Chair), Sandy Bernard (Carolinas Fund Chair)

Absent: Elizabeth Pou (Secretary)

Guests Present: Catherine Magid

Subject	Discussion/Progress/Decisions
Meeting Opening <i>Pat Ashe, President</i>	Pat Ashe, President, called the meeting to order at 5:35. She asked our guest, Catherine Magid, to introduce herself. Catherine is a member of the Greensboro branch and states she is very interested in Public Policy. Pat asked if she would consider being the state Public Policy Chair and she stated that she would very much like that. Pat appointed her the new Public Policy Chair with the concurrence of the board. Pat will follow up with Catherine to discuss the role and determine with her next steps.
Minutes from the Last Meeting <i>Elizabeth Pou, Secretary</i>	The minutes from the November 20, 2024 meeting were provided to the Board members by email for review prior to the meeting. Correction of Millie's name requested. Minutes accepted as distributed with this minor change.
Executive Committee <i>Pat Ashe, President</i>	No meeting

Public Policy <i>Pat Ashe, Interim Chair</i>	<p>Congratulations to Catherine Magid in her role as new PP Chair. Pat reported that there was sparse attendance at the PP meeting held on December 3, 2024. There was good discussion with Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director for Policy and Membership Advocacy. She indicated we would likely see changes in Title IX, especially related to LGBTQ+; many changes in public education, e.g. vouchers, removal of Pell Grant from 2 & 4 year schools, and a move to more workforce development; and the continuing need to pass the Paycheck Fairness bill that's in Congress. The proposed biannual AAUW Public Policy Priorities are currently out for comment and will be voted on this spring. Laura reported that she commented that they were more narrow and less inclusive than current ones.</p>
Treasurer's Report <i>Millie Hoffler-Foushee, Treasurer</i>	<p>Millie gave a report on the issues surrounding our Pay Pal Account. She indicated that the issues have been resolved and substantiation that the account is working with the help of Mary Ann. Thank you, Mary Ann, for your donation to the state as part of this verification process. The YTD budget reveals an under budget income due to fewer membership dues than anticipated and expenses running under budget. See Appendix D.</p>
President Nomination	<p>Pat stated that she had appointed herself as Chair of the Nominating Committee and that Vice-President Lena Murrill-Chapman agreed to be a candidate for President. Unfortunately, no candidates for Branch Advocate have been identified. Elections will be held during the Business Meeting on March 22, 2025 as part of the Annual Meeting agenda.</p>

STEM Ed, <i>Laura Tew, STEM Chair</i>	See Appendix B. Laura asked that the goal of communicating national information to the branches be removed as there is nothing coming from national related to STEM.
Diversity, Excellence, and Inclusion (DEI) <i>Tiffany Jacobs, DEI Chair</i>	Tiffany stated that the national committee name will be likely changed, removing diversity. The committee anticipates the potential of pushback for female only fellowships. The DEI Act will be dismantled with federal employees likely being laid off from their jobs. The discussion of possible changes by the incoming Administration has been emotionally challenging and the Inclusion and Equity Committee has been struggling as there is anticipated backtracking on ground breaking work we've done. There is an upcoming webinar on January 29th at 7:00 pm on handling difficult conversations. These recurring webinars are recorded and the link will go into the newsletter. Tiffany asked that she and Catherine work together to address the many public policy issues that will come up.
Connect Newsletter <i>Mary Ann Bents, Editor</i>	See Appendix C
Website Maintenance <i>Mary Ann Bents, Webmaster</i>	See Appendix C
Programs <i>Kathy Pearre, Chair</i>	Kathy reported that there is a state sponsored program on Climate Change to be held on February 24th at 7:00 p.m. and encouraged board members to attend. She has also received verification that our Keynote Speaker for the Annual Meeting will be Ajla Glavasevic Laussegger, speaking on "Artificial Intelligence."

AAUW Carolinas Fund <i>Sandy Bernard, Chair</i>	Sandy reported that giving by NC members to AAUW Funds surpassed last year's. Laura, Mary Ann and Sandy have asked several times about getting the list of Fellowships and Community Action Grants' recipients for 2024. She finally received the data and finds there are 11 NC recipients with none being science or STEM focused. Sandy stated that more work needs to be done to get candidates for Fellowships and Community Action Grants in WNC.
Membership <i>Lena Murrill-Chapman, Chair</i>	No report as Lena needed to leave to attend a planning meeting for the 2026 Atlantic Regional Conference.
NCCWSL Update	Pat attended an AAUW Board Liaison meeting last evening. Some state Presidents, including NC, asked for any information about NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) and whether there will be a college student leadership conference this year. The board members stated they have heard nothing on this issue and advised to continue to check the website for updates.
Other Business	Pat and Kathy will be working on the agendas for the Annual Meeting and will come back to the board with a recommendation as to whether monetary door prizes will be awarded this year to encourage attendance.
Notetaker	Pat Ashe and Kathy Pearre

APPENDIX A - AGENDA

AAUW NC Board Meeting

January 15, 2025

AGENDA

AAUW Mission: Advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy

Strategic Goal of AAUW NC: To develop program planning, communication, and advocacy to advance the climate for women's equity in North Carolina

- I. Meeting opening (Pat)
- II. Meeting minutes November 20, 2024 (Elizabeth)
- III. Treasurer's YTD Report (Millie)
- IV. Committee Chair Reports (including any update on 24-25 goals)
 - a. Executive Committee (Pat)
 - b. Public Policy —still need new Chair
 - c. STEM Ed (Laura)
 - d.. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (Tiffany)
 - e. *Connect* newsletter (Mary Ann)
 - f. Website update (Mary Ann)
 - g. Programs (Kathy)

h. AAUW Carolinas Fund Chair (Sandy)

I. Membership (Lena)

V. President Nomination, Lena Murrill-Chapman (Pat)

VI. Update on Annual Meeting (Pat and Kathy)

a. Do we have monetary door prizes this year? (Kathy)

VII. Other business

Next meeting: February 19, 2025

Appendix B
STEM Ed: Laura Tew, Chair

Brief AAUW NC STEM Ed Report January 2025

Committee: Laura Tew (chair), Andrea Alemanni-Grunwald, Precious McKoy, Stephany Ghotbi-Teheri, Lena Murrill-Chapman, Tiffany Jacobs, Princess Ferguson

Tiffany - International STEM Women's event at JSNN, National Apprenticeship Week - Women's Apprenticeship Day

Precious - FIRST robotics enrollment; Community Action Grant

Lena - Education leader, esp for parents

Andrea - bookmarks for Find Your STEM; mentoring our Girl Scout GOLD student;

Stephanie - for paying our bills and keeping our 501c3 compliant.

Princess - Henderson/Mills River Scout program for STEM badges

December: NCDOA Mini Grant Greensboro Branch - Smriti Verma senior at Early College at Guilford \$342.00

EcoLab Foundation Award \$1500 Greensboro Branch

To be applied to 4th through 6th grade STEM camp program.

President's Volunteer Service Award Program

We are proud to announce our first two President's Volunteer Service Awardees nominated by AAUW Greensboro for their participation as Teen Near Peer Mentors for STEM Education for Girls. Janiya Shah, photo on left, 2024 Silver awardee, is a freshman at Southwest High School. Jasmeh Gill, photo on right, 2023 and 2024 Gold awardee, is a junior at Grimsley High School. Congratulations!!



Saanvi Rao Girl Scouts Gold award project - Andrea Alemanni Grunewald and Laura Tew are serving as mentors for Saanvi who is a student at Atkins High School in Forsyth County

Hendersonville/Mills River Girl Scout troop - January 20th, troop completed web design and will start app lab design on Monday 27th.

Stephanie Donnelly - troop leader

Troop 12937

704-659-9280

352-425-0887 stephaniemdonnelly@gmail.com

Hendersonville contact Princess Ferguson will write an article for the Hendersonville branch newsletter

fletcherprincess8@gmail.com

AAUWNC STEM Ed [Newsletter](#)

Aspirations in Computing Recognition Awards - Results pending

Janiya Shah	Freshman at Southwest Guilford	National Honorable Mention
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Harshini Veeraraj	Sophomore at Cabarrus Early College of Technology	
Suchitra Kannan	Sophomore at STEM Early College at A&T	
Suhitha Kannan	Sophomore at Early College at GTCC	
Jasmeh Gill	Junior at Grimsley High School	
Giana Lee	Junior STEM Early College at A&T	

(Update 2-9-25: Seven Aspirations in Computing 2025 awardees were recently announced. Recognition awards will be presented in both Charlotte (sponsored by Bank of America) and Greensboro in April. A representative AAUW NC Board member may attend the Charlotte luncheon (at UNC Charlotte date to be announced but will likely be Saturday April 12th) as a guest of one of the student attendees. We have one student from Concord NC which is in the Salisbury Branch district.)

Find Your STEM Conference Saturday April 5th 2025

[Registration Link](#) - UNCG team and high school intern Kavya Donepudi are providing input

NC Science Festival <https://ncsciencefestival.org/> Morehead Planetarium Science Center The mission of the Science Center is Science for All

Grants pending

Women's Professional Forum Foundation - Greensboro
Honda Community Event Sponsorship -

Appendix C

Newsletter and Website Updates: Mary Ann Bents, Editor and Website Manager

Connect Newsletter

- December Issue:
 - Open Rate: 52.5%
 - Click Rate: 1.3%
 - Highest Clicked Links:
 - <https://www.amightygirl.com/holiday-guide>
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZYscOqtqjMqEtSvX4D6RPyexEjwlq35nSRY?os=ipad#/registration>: (Jane Austin Zoom event)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GK6qTJRUDCA>: (Wild Girls video on YouTube)
- January Issue (thru January 12th):
 - Open Rate: 51.1%
 - Click Rate: 1.6%
 - Highest Clicked Links:
 - <https://www.aliciadwilliams.com/my-books> (Alicia D. Williams, YPLA author list of books written)

AAUW NC Website Updates Since Last Board Meeting

- Posted December and January AAUW NC STEM Newsletters
- Updated Events Page with:
 - Save the Date for AAUW NC Annual Meeting in March
 - REMINDER: Charlotte Area Branch – January 16, 2025 Lifelong Learning Program
Register Here for January 16 – Jane Austen, Abolitionist Zoom Event
 - SAVE THE DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 10:30 AM – NOON; ODC Branch LogoODC Branch Sponsored Event – The Fragile States of America: An Exploration of State Fragility and U.S. Disaster Preparedness
 - The Science of Climate Change – Monday, February 24th, 7 pm – Via Zoom
 - Taped Versions of Recent Virtual Events
 - Poverty & Opportunity Status of NC Women - Nov 9, 2024 10:30 AM - ODC Branch

- Securing the Future: A Post-Election Conversation on Women's Economic Security - November 19, 2024 AAUW Event
- Reviewed 7 AAUW NC website Posts with Category of: NC College/University Partners. I believe that they can be removed. As a test sample, changed the category to: Items to be Deleted. One had a second Category so the NC College/University Partners category was removed and the 2nd Category was retained. Will have Pat Ashe confirm that the Posts marked for deletion are OK to remove. This will provide a manageable approach to review other Post content on the website to remove older/obsolete content and also to identify any that may need to be archived to Google Docs.
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AAUW NC State and Branch Websites

Summary of New Logo Adoption for State and Branch Websites [Note: Only the Hendersonville branch attempted to customize the image for the new website template; image appears as theme banner image but also smaller before page content - Mary Ann will request help from site-resources. Suggest request to National for a webinar to help branches with this change.](#)

- Asheville - yes
- Brevard - yes
- Charlotte Area - yes; [however the logo still uses 'Charlotte' rather than 'Charlotte Area'. A help request was initially submitted on December 2nd to address this update request. We have not had a reply. A follow up request for status was sent by Mary Ann Bents on January 10th with copies to site-resources, Angie Cooper and others.](#)
- Gaston Regional - branch does not have website
- Greensboro - yes
- Hendersonville - yes; [custom image applied by branch webmaster; still some display issues; help request submitted to site-resources and connect.org on Jan 13th. Site-resources corrected the problem. Other branches had this same issue. A new feature image for the branch website will need to be identified.](#)
- Jacksonville Regional - branch does not have website
- ODC - yes
- Raleigh-Wake County - yes
- Salisbury - yes
- Tar Heel - website does not use AAUW website hosting and WordPress
- Western Carolina University - website does not use AAUW website hosting and WordPress
- Winston Salem - branch does not have website
- AAUW NC State - website does not use AAUW website hosting and WordPress

Appendix D
Treasurer Report – January 2025

AAUW FINANCIAL BUDGET REPORT JULY 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025										
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL		
	2024-2025	8/1/28	9/1/28	9/30/2024	11/1/28	12/1/28	1/1/29	Mid-Yr Totals	NOTES	
Income *										
Mbr dues June 2023		\$1,705.00								
Existing mbr dues 7/1 forward		\$44.00	\$462.00	\$330.00	\$374.00	\$110.00	\$165.00			
New Member dues										
Dues Paying Members Subtotal	\$5,038.00	\$1,749.00	\$2,211.00	\$2,541.00	\$2,915.00	\$3,025.00	\$3,190.00			
Interest on cd(s)					\$617.35					
Donations										
Other Income										
Total Annual Income	\$5,038.00	\$1,749.00	\$2,211.00	\$2,541.00	\$3,532.35	\$3,642.00	\$3,807.35	\$3,807.35		

Close out/Purchase CD					\$10,000.00	\$10,459.43			October , November CDs (renewed for 6 months@ 4%)
Operational Income	\$7,353.00								
Total Income	\$12,391.00								
Expenses									
Conferences	\$3,000.00				\$3,000.00			\$3,000.00	
Conference Ads	\$150.00								
Subtotal	\$3,150.00								
Young People Literature Award								\$78.09	
Books	\$350.00								
Bookplates, mailing, etc	\$30.00								
Trophy for Author	\$100.00						\$78.09		
Subtotal	\$480.00								

Administrative Expense								\$258.83	
Postage, etc	\$50.00				\$7.30				
Travel-hotel	\$200.00						\$208.97		
Travel-mileage	\$200.00		\$42.56						
Subtotal	\$450.00		\$42.56						
Branch Outreach	\$100.00								
Communications								\$528.47	
Technical Support	\$1,500.00								
Dream Host (1)	\$257.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$32.99	\$37.99	\$234.87	\$239.87		
Tech Triad Get You Found (2)	\$510.00								
Zoom (3)	\$160.00								
Google (4)	\$216.00	\$21.60	\$43.20	\$64.80	\$86.40	\$108.00	\$129.60		
Mail Chimp (5)	\$318.00	\$26.50	\$26.50	\$79.50	\$106.00	\$132.50	\$159.00		
Subtotal	\$2,961.00	\$53.10	\$79.70	\$177.29	\$230.39	\$475.37	\$528.47		
Insurance									

Liability Insurance	\$375.00								
D&O Liability Insurance	\$350.00								
Subtotal	\$725.00								
Advocacy and Collaboration									
Annual Meeting 3/16/24	\$325.00								
AAUW/NCCWSL	\$3,000.00								
ERA Alliance	\$500.00								
Donation in Memory	\$100.00								
Donation in Honor	\$100.00								
Subtotal	\$4,025.00								
Mini Grants	\$500.00								
Total Expenses	\$12,391.00							\$3,865.39	
ENDING BALANCE	-								

*Total Dues paying Membership is approximate and will be refined with additional HUB & Branch research										
1) Dream Host	Maintains the domain names									
2) Tech Triad Get You Found	Maintains our NC website									
3) Zoom	Annual fee									
4) Google	Monthly fee for cloud storage									
5) Mail Chimp	Email service									