



**American Association of University Women North Carolina
(AAUW NC)**

Board Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2025

(These minutes are being prepared from the Zoom AI notes on February 16, 2026)

Meeting Date: October 15, 2025

Meeting Time: 5:30 PM

Meeting Location: ZOOM

Board Members Present: Kathy Pearre (Zoom host), Mary Ann Bents, Laura Tew, Pat Ashe, Lena Murrill-Chapman,

Board Members Absent: Tiffany Jacobs, Millie Hoffler-Foushee

Guests Present: None

| Subject | Discussion/Progress/Decisions |
|---|-------------------------------|
| TOPIC Facilitator or Speaker Name, Role | Notes |

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| <p>I. Meeting Opening, AAUW NC President, Lena Murril-Chapman</p> | <p>Lena opened the meeting at 5:32 p.m. with a warm welcome. In reviewing the agenda, Laura and Mary Ann requested that their areas of responsibility be combined into one report each. Mary Ann for Communications and Laura for STEM/BranchAdvocate. After discussion, the agenda was moved and seconded, “with latitude”.</p> |
| <p>II. Meeting Minutes, AAUW NC Secretary or Note-taker</p> | <p>Pat Ashe presented the meeting minutes of the September meeting. The drafted minutes were distributed to the board members prior to the meeting for review. Mary Ann makes the motion to accept the minutes. Laura seconds. Minutes are approved. Thank you Pat</p> |
| <p>III. Treasurer’s Report/YTD/, Millie Hoffler-Foushee</p> | <p>Laura shares the financial report, both the check register and the budget v. actual.. Tab 2 of the check register is the monthly receipts and disbursements transactions from July 1, 2025 through October 5 2025. Checking account balance is \$ 17,651.05. Millie also provided Tab 1 which is the entire prior fiscal year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 both attached. Mary Ann and Pat suggest renaming the tabs with the fiscal year. Kathy points out that the \$5000 from annual meeting registrations will bring us to the \$13,000 to match budgeted income and revenue.</p> |
| <p>IV. Committee Chair Reports (Including Upcoming Events for the Year)</p> | |
| <p>a. Executive Committee Update, Grant. AUW NC President, Lena Murrill-Chapman</p> | <p>Lena presents the Asheville mini grant application which actually is called the request for community action grant. Lena asks Laura to move the budget v actual up to the mini-grant line and to show the Asheville grant request. Other members of the board say they haven’t reviewed the grant request, which Lena sent out October 13th at 5:55 p.m. Laura points out that the request is entitled Leveling the Playing Field for Buncombe County Girls Through STEM.</p> <p>Laura sends the document to Mary Ann who doesn’t seem to have it. Pat points out that only the executive committee needs to approve it. The</p> |

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| | <p>discussion of the budget items continued with clarification of budgeted items for grants (\$1000) and NCCWSL (\$3000). It was moved and seconded to increase the grants budget to \$2000.</p> |
| <p>b. Public Policy, Pat Ashe</p> | <p>Pat reported that she needs to reschedule the monthly public policy meeting due to a conflict with a national webinar. Pat reports that there has been “zero movement” on a state budget.</p> |
| <p>c. STEM Ed, Laura Tew</p> | <p>Laura reported on her upcoming statewide meetings Saturday October 18th - Kathleen Clay Library, Greensboro 10 a.m. to noon + Zoom Greensboro Branch is applying in Round 1 for an AAUW Community Action Grant, as is the Asheville branch. Another possibility is for the Hendersonville branch to apply for funding to cover their work with the Zaniac organization from Asheville. Salisbury and Greensboro applied for a NC DOA grant from the Council for Women and Youth.</p> |
| <p>d. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), Tiffany Jacobs</p> | <p>Tiffany was not available, and she sent her report via email. She is encouraging one member from each of the NC branches to send one representative to the National Equity and Inclusion meetings. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 o'clock. Lena asks those with questions to email her or directly to Tiffany.</p> |
| <p>e. Communications - Website update, Mary Ann Bents Communications - AAUW NC Facebook Account, Mary Ann Bents</p> | <p>Mary Ann - report attached, includes the newsletter statistics, key events such as No Kings, web edits on grants and fellowships. She also updated Work Smart, Start Smart, and Money Smart, and started information for the Atlantic Regional Conference which will be on September 25-27.</p> <p>She posted board meeting notes and the notes from the 2025 annual meeting.</p> <p>Social media - Mary Ann reports 41 postings to date on Facebook. Lena shared information on the literature award and will coordinate with Mary Ann for the website and newsletter. “On Friday, I will be going to Raleigh, and I know Pat has set the stage for us already, be going to Raleigh and</p> |

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| | <p>presenting those awards, and I think it's nothing more beautiful than each of you going with me." AAUW Award for Young Adult Literature, Carol Baldwin's And a second award for Children's Literature.</p> <p>Drafted meeting notes from a special meeting with key board representatives were shared with board members in advance of the board meeting about the key Communications components of the budget. This information will ultimately added to the AAUW NC Guidelines and Procedures documentation. This information will NOT be included in the board meeting minutes.</p> |
| <p>f. Programs, Programs Chair, Kathy Pearre</p> | <p>Our first Empower Her Tuesday is planned for October 28th. The Charlotte branch presented a statewide program. nonprofit Latin Americans Working for Achievement. It was an outstanding presentation about how they mentor students beginning in high school and throughout college, and there's some substantial scholarship assistance for those students.</p> <p>I am recommending that we hold an All State Read with a book that has been selected by one of the Tar Heel branch members in California. There was a brief discussion about Suffr, Tony Award-winning Broadway musical by Shaina Taub that tells the story of the American women's suffrage movement, focusing on the activists who fought for the right to vote, including Alice Paul, Ida B. Wells, and Carrie Chapman Catt. It is being performed by a high school group in Cary.</p> |
| <p>g. Membership, Da'Tarvia Parrish</p> | <p>DaTarvia reported that she is going to contact the membership officers for the branches regarding the 19 free memberships, the branch advocate funds. I'm going to ask them to highlight their events, to connect with Mary Ann, to highlight their events on the website.</p> |

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| <p>h. Branch Advocate, Laura Tew</p> | <p>Laura reported on her upcoming meeting with branch leaders Saturday October 25th - Kathleen Clay Library, Greensboro 10 a.m. to noon + Zoom Laura reported that we have a combined 19 free national memberships that we can award under the Shape the Future program that can be awarded by branches before the deadline. It was moved and seconded for AAUW NC to waive the state dues of \$11 for those 19 free national memberships. That saves the branches from collecting those dues and sending the check to Millie.</p> |
| <p>VI. AAUWNC Spring Conference Update</p> <p>Mid Atlantic Conference Update</p> | <p>Lena asked for input from board members to the conference committee so that they can get started on planning.</p> <p>Lena asked for an update on the Atlantic Regional Conference. Pat reported that the hotel rooms are open for booking in Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square.</p> |
| <p>VII. Upcoming Events</p> | <p>Reported above</p> |
| <p>VIII. Other business</p> | <p>None</p> |
| <p>Next Meeting</p> | <p>DATE/TIME/LOCATION: Wednesday November 19th at 5:30</p> |
| <p>Adjournment</p> | <p>At 7:30 Lena asked for a motion to adjourn. DaTarvia moved and Mary Ann seconded.</p> |
| <p>Notetaker</p> | <p>The minutes were prepared and submitted by Laura Tew Note-Taker(s), AAUW NC.</p> |

Appendix A – Agenda



**AAUW NC Board Meeting
AGENDA
Wednesday, October 15, 2025
5:30 PM/Zoom**

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 Lena Murrill-Chapman
- II. Meeting minutes
- III. Treasurer's Report/YTD/ Millie Hoffler-Foushee
- IV. Committee Chair Reports (Including Upcoming Events for the Year)
 - a. Executive Committee Update/Grant
 - b. Public Policy Pat Ashe
 - c. STEM Ed Laura Tew
 - d. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Tiffany Jacobs
 - e. Connect newsletter Mary Ann Bents
 - f. Website update Mary Ann Bents
 - g. Programs Kathy Pearre
 - h. Membership Da'Tarvia Parrish
 - i. Branch Advocate Laura Tew
- V. AAUWNC Spring Conference Update
Mid Atlantic Conference Update
- VII. Upcoming Events
- VI. Other business

Appendix B – Finance Report

| INCOME * | Budget | Jul | Aug | Sept |
|--|--------------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| Donations | \$100.00 | | | |
| Interest on CDs | None | | | |
| Dues | \$4,800.00 | \$ 1,265.00 | \$ 483.00 | \$ 253.00 |
| Reserves | \$3,696.00 | | | |
| Annual Meeting Registration | \$5,000.00 | | | |
| Total Income | \$13,596.00 | \$ 1,265.00 | \$ 483.00 | \$ 253.00 |
| | | | | |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| Awards & Grants | \$1,900.00 | | | |
| Young People Award, Books,Postage,etc | \$400.00 | | | |
| Mini Grants(2@ \$500) | \$1,000.00 | | | \$ 1,000.00 |

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|--|--------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Branch Initiatives | \$500.00 | | | |
| Subtotal | \$1,900.00 | | | |
| | | | | |
| Administrative and Communications | \$ 2,198.00 | | | |
| Postage, Mailings | \$ 25.00 | | | |
| Add'l Tech Support | \$ 500.00 | \$ 250.00 | | |
| Dream Host & Domain | \$ 275.00 | \$ 5.00 | \$ 24.99 | \$ 5.00 |
| Get You Found (Tech Support) | \$ 510.00 | | | |
| Google | \$ 260.00 | \$ 21.84 | \$ 29.24 | \$ 33.60 |
| Mail Chimp | \$ 318.00 | \$ 26.50 | \$ 26.50 | \$ 26.50 |
| Pay-Pal Fees | \$ 150.00 | | | |
| Zoom | \$ 160.00 | | | |
| <i>Subtotal</i> | <i>\$ 2,198.00</i> | | | |
| | | | | |
| Advocacy and Collaboration | \$ 3,225.00 | | | |
| ERA Alliance | \$ 100.00 | | | |

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|-------------------------------|-------------|--|--|--|
| NCCWSL- Branch Reimbursements | \$ 3,000.00 | | | |
| Donation in Memory & Honor | \$ 100.00 | | | |
| Miscellaneous | \$ 25.00 | | | |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|--|
| <i>Subtotal</i> | <i>\$ 3,225.00</i> | | | |
| | | | | |
| Insurance | \$ 723.00 | | | |
| Liability Insurance | \$ 348.00 | | | |
| D&O Liability Insurance | \$ 375.00 | | | |
| Subtotal | <i>\$ 723.00</i> | | | |
| | | | | |
| Travel and Meetings | \$ 5,550.00 | | | |
| Regional Conference | none | | | |
| NC Annual Meeting-Conference | \$ 5,000.00 | | | |
| Hotel | \$ 250.00 | | | |
| Mileage | \$ 300.00 | | | |

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|-----------------------|--|---------------------|--|--|--|
| <i>Subtotal</i> | | \$ 5,550.00 | | | |
| Total Expenses | | \$ 13,596.00 | | | |
| Total Income | | \$ 13,596.00 | | | |

Appendix C – Asheville Mini Grant Application

AAUW NC COMMUNITY ACTION GRANT APPLICATION

Leveling the Playing Field for
Buncombe County Girls Through STEM

AAUW ASHEVILLE
Branch President;
Jeanne Smolkin 504-606-3579 jsmolkin@gmail.com Project
Leader: Wendy Owen 917-890-4562 wendyowen@mac.com

1. Program Description:

Funding will help incorporate STEM kits into regular science content time in the classroom; and help 4th Grade Girls, for the long-term, to become more engaged with learning and collaborative problem-solvers who are better able to meet ever-changing workforce demands.

2. Specific Long-Term Goals

Long-term, every girl has the support she needs to be competitive and successfully manage hands-on activities and build problem-solving skills that lead to a meaningful and worthwhile love of school and the STEM curriculum.

The vision is to incorporate the STEM curriculum into every classroom; not as an "add-on" or special class. Students will be listened to. Responded to with respect and appreciation.

We also want to alleviate the teachers out-of-pocket costs that are spent every year because there's never enough money in the budget. And, Teachers, Parents, Students and Administration will find a co-equal balance to provide the right STEM opportunity for each classroom that makes better students, better human beings. 3. Specific Action Steps 4th Grade Supply List

The supply list is organized by unit, ensuring teachers have the right materials at the right time to support each part of the Buncombe County science curriculum. This structure removes barriers by making it simple for every 4th grade classroom to provide hands-on STEM learning during regular science content time. With consistent access to resources across the county, students are better prepared to engage in problem solving, collaboration, and critical thinking skills needed for the future.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------|-------|
| | | | |
| Lamp | 6 | 37.99 | 64.51 |
| Inflatable Globes | 6 | 12.99 | |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|-------|--------|
| Tennis Balls | 6 | 8.54 | |
| String | 1 | 4.99 | |
| Tri-colored pasta | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Mineral Samples | 2 | 37.78 | 206.86 |
| Streak Plates | 10 | 15.99 | |

| | | | |
|--|---|-------|--|
| Hand lens | 6 | 14.99 | |
| Sedimentary Rocks | 1 | 19.99 | |
| Metamorphic Rock | 1 | 18.99 | |
| Igneous Rock | 1 | 19.99 | |
| Denture Cleaning Tablets | 1 | 5.99 | |
| vinegar | 1 | 5 | |
| sugar cubes | 1 | 6.93 | |
| cornstarch | 1 | 1.99 | |
| straws | 1 | 1.84 | |
| ziploc bags | 1 | 6.96 | |
| chalk | 1 | 4.45 | |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|-------|-------|
| sand | 1 | 27.99 | |
| plastic containers | 1 | 17.98 | |
| aluminum foil | 1 | 8.19 | 37.51 |
| brass fasteners | 1 | 2.89 | |
| 9 volt batteries | 12 | 14.54 | |
| string of led lights | 1 | 11.89 | |

Each Kit is \$426 or \$10,650.

We have begun a grant writing effort as well as asking our members to volunteer in the classroom, manage materials or donate.

4. Branch Efforts

For the last three years, we have underwritten scholarships for girls who wished to attend the UNCA STEAM Studio Summer Camp.

In addition, we have begun fundraising efforts, recently donating \$795 toward the STEM Kits. We have three members who have committed to major donations before year's end. \$500, \$500 and \$1,000.

And as mentioned, an extensive grant writing undertaking.

5. Why is this money needed?

As stated, we need to raise \$10,650. to pay for the STEM kits for the 4th grade classes in Buncombe County. That is 25 classes affecting 1500 students. See the budget above.

6. Benchmarks

We will know when we meet the \$10,650 goal when all 25 classes receive the STEM kits. Your action steps - to award \$500 - will help us to meet this goal.

7. We believe we can meet the goal before the end of the 2026

school year. Summary:

Working with the Buncombe County School leadership, we will try to help them create a collaborative space for students to research, plan, create, test and re-imagine their projects. We want to encourage critical thinking. A safe place to learn and cooperate with their fellow students and teachers.

Thank you.

Appendix D – Branch Advocate and STEM Reports

October 15th 2025

AAUW NC Board Meeting - STEM and Branch Advocate Report
Laura Tew

Branch Advocate Report:

Branch Advocate Committee - meeting Saturday October 25th - Kathleen Clay Library, Greensboro 10 a.m. to noon + Zoom

Contacted branch presidents to identify Branch Advocate representatives. Goal: Star for Programming

STEM Ed Report

STEM Education Committee - meeting Saturday October 18th - Kathleen Clay Library, Greensboro 10 a.m. to noon + Zoom

Contacted branch presidents to identify STEM representatives
Goal: an event in each community for NC Science Festival April 2025

October 19-25 with the theme "[The Hidden Life of Spices](#),"

<https://www.facebook.com/NationalChemistryWeek/>

<https://www.ncwlookup.acs.org/eWeb/ACSNCWTemplate.aspx?site=NCW&webcode=NCWLupResultMultiLS>

October 2025 Newsletter: [LINK](#)

NCWIT network for High School Girls

1. Encourage a student to apply through our [Encouragement Form](#), and NCWIT will email them directly.

Branch STEM Programs, Grants, Results

Asheville: Budget: \$600?. Need \$10,765 - Leveling the Playing Field Through STEM - 15 Branch volunteers and funding of materials through Buncombe County Schools. Wendy Owen

Note: Asheville Branch will continue to fund a scholarship to the UNC Asheville STEAM Studio;

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|-------|
| | Eco-Lab Foundation | Find Your STEM Request \$1500 | Pending | |
| | Branch Member donations | | | \$795 |

19

| | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| | | Foundations \$3000 - \$5000 | | |
| September 2025 | Community Action | | | |

Greensboro: Budget for existing programs \$7,500; Need expanding programs \$10,000

Note: Greensboro Branch is planning one or more Find Your STEM programs in April which is NC Science Festival Month.

| Application | Organization | Title | Award | Amount |
|-------------|--------------|-------|-------|--------|
|-------------|--------------|-------|-------|--------|

| | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|---|---------------|---------|
| | 4 Eco-Lab Foundation | Summer STEAM camp for 4th through 6th grade girls Request: \$5000 | December 2024 | \$1,500 |
| January 2025 | Women's Professional Forum Foundation | Teen Near Peer Mentor program Request \$5,250 | May 2025 | \$3,500 |
| | 5 Honda Foundation | Find Your STEM sponsor Request \$25,000 | July 2025 | \$2,500 |
| | 5 Eco-Lab Foundation | Find Your STEM Request \$3000 | Pending | |
| September 2025 | AAUW Community Action Grant | STEAM Camp for Girls Request \$10,000 | Pending | |
| | 5 Honda Foundation | Find Your STEM sponsorship and growth Request \$25,000 | Pending | |
| October 2025 | NC DOA Council of Women and Youth | Grimsley Girls in STEM Request \$500 | Pending | |

Hendersonville: STEM or STEAM experience in Henderson County. Princess Ferguson

NOTE: Looking for partners with both non-profits and STEM providers such as Zaniac (Green River Library),

Salisbury: Dr. ChaMarra K. Saner

National Chemistry Week: October 18th, 10 to noon: Students of all ages are invited to a hands-on science experience hosted by the American Chemical Society. Participants will explore the chemistry behind everyday spices through exciting experiments and demonstrations — a fun and educational opportunity for budding scientists of all ages!

Appendix E – Communications Report


Communications Notes for October 2025 AAUW NC Board Meeting

AAUW NC Connect Newsletter

- October 2025 Newsletter stats as of October 12th

Email performance

October 1, 2025 - October 12, 2025 • Includes Apple MPP

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
|  Open rate 31.0% <small>386 opened</small> |  Click rate 1.4% <small>17 clicked</small> |  Bounce rate 1.7% <small>21 bounced</small> |  Unsubscribe rate 0.32% <small>4 unsubscribed</small> |
|--|--|---|---|

- Link info (The first one is for the EmpowerHer Tuesdays. The second is for the No Kings event. The third is the Guidelines and Procedures – Part 1.)

| URL | Total clicks | % of Total clicks | Unique clicks | % of Unique clicks |
|---|--------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/qUFmw14gS... | 5 | 20% | 4 | 22.2% |
| https://indivisible.org | 3 | 12% | 3 | 16.7% |
| https://www.aauwnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/... | 3 | 12% | 2 | 11.1% |
| https://www.ncleg.gov/findyourlegislators | 3 | 12% | 1 | 5.6% |
| https://bannedbooksweek.org/ | 3 | 12% | 1 | 5.6% |

- Due date for articles for the November Connect issue: October 24

AAUW NC Website

- Content updates
 - Replaced Fellowships and Grants image on main page with 2025-2026 recipients; created a new webpage with details about these recipients: <https://www.aauwnc.org/aauw-nc-2025-2026-fellows-and-grantees/>
 - Updated the main page to remove outdated Fellowship and Grant opportunities; replaced with new Community Action Grant info – both AAUW Community Action Grant and State and Branch Community Action Grants
 - Added links for the October STEMEd newsletter on the News and STEM pages
 - Added link for the October Connect newsletter to the News page
 - Added a link on the Events page for the Calendar of Events document
 - Removed older outdated info from the Events page
 - Updated the info about additional dates from October through December 2025 for Work Smart, Start Smart and Money Smart programs.
 - Added info about the new EmpowerHer Tuesdays series
 - Added info about the AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference 2026 in Lancaster, PA
 - Added new page for Mini-Grants Awarded by AAUW NC – 2025
 - Posted Board meeting notes for June and August 2025 and archived on Google Drive.
 - Posted the March 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes to the website and archived on Google Drive.

AAUW NC Facebook Account; please visit and browse posts:

<https://www.facebook.com/aauwnc>

- Views for last 90 days (July 14 – October 11): 5,528
- Facebook Posts to date in 2025:
 - January 2025: 4
 - February 2025: 5
 - March 2025: 2

- April 2025: 4
- May 2025: 7
- June 2025: 8
- July 2025: 31
- August 2025: 60
- September: 58
- October 2025 thru October 12: 41
- Content Sources – (Topics that map to AAUW Mission and Goals; mostly shared FB posts; * means likes, shares and comments)
 - AAUW National FB Posts *
 - A Mighty Girl *
 - AAUW – Texas *
 - AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference *
 - AAUW Greensboro Branch *
 - AAUW NC Connect Newsletter * (6 Posts: 662 views total)
 - AAUW NC STEMEd Newsletter * (5 Posts: 235 views total)
 - AAUW NC Read About 2025/2026 AAUW North Carolina Fellows & Grantees! * (1 Post: 60 views total)
 - AAUW NC Website *
 - AAUW-PA *
 - ACLU of North Carolina *
 - African and Black History *
 - All That's Interesting *
 - Association of Space Explorers
 - Barbie
 - BPW Triangle *
 - Democracy North Carolina
 - DoD STEM
 - ERA Coalition
 - Forgotten Stories *
 - Human Rights Campaign *
 - KDVR (Fox31 Denver)
 - League of Women Voters of the US

- Lean In *
- LILLY
- Ms. Magazine *
- NAACP *
- National Girls Collaborative Project *
- National Organization for Women (NOW) *
- National Women's History Museum *
- NC Budget and Tax Center *
- NC Department of Administration is with Institute for Women's Policy Research
- NC Justice Center *
- Public Schools First NC *
- PBS
- She's So Cool *
- Space.com
- Spacewoman Film *
- STEM *
- STEM-apalooza
- The Female Quotient
- The Inspireist *
- The Two Pennies
- This Will Knock Your Socks Off *
- UN Women *
- Vintage and Iconic African American Everything *
- Women in World History Group
- Women's Resource Center *
- Women's Rights National Historical Park *
- WomenNC *

Other Items

- The high level notes from the Communications Meeting held earlier this Fall with key Board stakeholders were distributed to all Board members for awareness purposes. The document identifies Goals (near term and long

term) related to Communications services used. These services include: DreamHost, Get You Found, Google, MailChimp, PayPal, and Zoom. It also mentions the potential for Tech Support either from Get You Found or other sources to assist with changes or content updates to the website. These categories map to the AAUW NC Budget categories for Communications.