



## AAUW Winston-Salem News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Winston-Salem Hosts State AAUW Convention**

The Winston-Salem branch will host this year's convention of the American Association of University Women of North Carolina, April 20-22, 2007. The convention theme, "Open the Gates: Our Mission in Action," builds on the Association's position that education is the gateway to women's economic security. National, state and local AAUW leaders will address several issues affecting the lives of women and girls during the weekend.

A Saturday morning workshop centered on the AAUW NC public policy program, will include NC Senator Linda Garrou. Other speakers at the event include Jane Stephenson, originator of the New Opportunity School for Women at Lees McRae College in Banner Elk, and the Honorable Denise Hartsfield, District Court Judge.

Three Winston-Salem residents, Judy Atkinson, AAUW NC program vice president, and the convention co-chairs, Ellen Morris and Rebecca Pfaff, have had primary responsibility for arranging this event that will bring about 100 AAUW members and guests to the city.

National AAUW leaders, Ann Gustafson of Wisconsin and Leslie Henderson of Florida, will be bringing fresh perspectives on building membership and leadership within the organization. Gustafson is chair of the Association's membership committee and Henderson serves as Director of the South Atlantic Region.

Saturday workshops will offer updated information on public policy issues with special emphasis on educational equity and a panel discussion on issues being considered in the NC legislature. The Winston-Salem branch will present a workshop on their two year project working with middle school girls at Winston-Salem's Salvation Army's Boys and Girls Club. The branch received a \$10,000 grant from the AAUW Educational Foundation to fund that project.

Convention attendees will have time to enjoy the Winston-Salem community. Kicking off the convention will be a walking tour of Old Salem led by Winston-Salem branch president, Pamela Kahl. The Saturday evening gala will introduce the attendees to the unique environment at the Enrichment Center. Winston-Salem branch members will host Friday evening dinners in downtown restaurants.

During the convention business meeting attendees will hear updates on the new organizational structure of AAUW NC, modeled around seven leadership teams with representatives from many of the twenty-one AAUW branches in North Carolina. Branches will be share information about their service projects in their communities and be recognized for

Nancy Shoemaker, AAUW NC president, notes that the convention is open to anyone who is interested. Members of the public are especially invited to the workshops on Saturday morning, April 20, and onsite registration will be available. For more information, see [www.aauwnc.org](http://www.aauwnc.org), or by call or fax 866.525.2155.

The American Association of University Women advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. 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.