

AAUW Mission More Important Than Ever

Since September 11, we have all had a different perspective on life. We've found out that some things just really aren't that important—how many pairs of shoes we have, how big our car is, “Survivor.” We've learned again that the important things in life include our relationships with others, coming together to help one another, and a sense of community. And that makes AAUW branches more relevant than ever.



LaRonnia Williams
SAR Director

Our mission of education and equity is one of those values that make America strong. More than ever, we realize how critical education is, not just in our country but also for the world's women. Every branch has the opportunity to contribute to its community with projects and programs that help women and girls reach their potential and advance the “positive societal change and life-long learning”

of our Mission Statement. AAUW has always had a purpose and mission that has served to make the world a better place for women. That purpose is more important and relevant than ever.

Take a moment to think about AAUW in this new world. Is this a good time for the branch to step back and take a look at how they contribute to the community and its role in making it a better place for women and girls? Are we making sure our branches are warm and welcoming to all our members and potential members as people seek the comfort of relationship with others? Were you always “too busy” to help out with a branch project or take a leadership role? What's important now? Perhaps it is time for us to rededicate ourselves to the AAUW mission of education and equity for all women and girls, positive societal change, and lifelong learning. In these times it is more worthy than ever of our time and service.

AAUW appreciates you and all you do.

Potential for Impact from Grassroots to the World: Dialogues on “Choices for Changing World” Initiatives

Nancy Shoemaker

Association Program Development Committee

A project in the Association's *Choices for a Changing World* portfolio is the Woman-to-Woman Initiative, to stimulate conversations among women at the community level to:

- Help bridge racial and cultural differences
- Generate new ideas and enthusiasm for projects that benefit women and girls
- Unify a community

As part of the Association's continual evaluation of the *Choices* programs, the state program vice presidents (i.e., Grace Knechtel and her counterparts) will discuss the programs on their e-mail list. Woman-to-Woman is the first on the schedule, in November. The other programs (Sister-to-Sister, Transitions, Tech Check, Signposts) will be discussed after the first of the year. Woman-to-Woman was selected to be first because it seems to “fit” best with the changed world we've seen since Sept. 11.

If your branch has held a Woman-to-Woman summit, please drop me a note about the project. What issues arose that you think would be good for the PVPs to discuss? What do you know now that you wish you knew when you started planning the project? Send me the name and contact info (either e-mail or phone) for the person who was most involved in the project, and I'll try to contact them to have them help shape this discussion.

Barbara Ann Hughes is our AAUW NC representative on N.C. Women United, a networking group of like-minded women's organizations. An abbreviated legislative update of end-of-the-year issues for women will be ready for delivery by January 2002. A subcommittee of representatives have formed a Strategic Planning Committee with a goal of producing a preliminary plan for the future. N.C. Women United meets the third Monday of each month.

Women's Equality Summit/Congressional Action Day Postponed

From Ellen Buchman

The National Council of Women's Organizations has made the decision to postpone the Women's Equality Summit/ Congressional Action Day, scheduled for Sept. 24-25. Conditions in Washington D.C., including the continued closure of the airport and security around the conference site, indicate that it would be impossible to go forward with the event as planned. It will be rescheduled for sometime in the Spring. If you had planned to attend the event, please see the web site (<http://www.feminist.org/summit/>) for your options.