

Searching for Gold!

THE AAUW NC Nominating Committee is gearing up for its search for nominees for the following elected board positions: President-elect, program vice-president, and treasurer. We continue to find gold in our wonderful, experienced leaders...and the story goes on!

Linda Sarkis, committee chair and president of Greensboro Branch, invites branches to send written nominations to lsarkis2003@yahoo.com or 3742 Greener Crossing, Greensboro, NC 27410.

Committee members Pat Abell, Statesville; Judy Atkinson, Winston Salem; JoAnn Hall, Jacksonville, and Carol Kaiser, Hendersonville, are also available to answer questions you may have about the process. See page six for contact information.

Resolution Against Patriot Act Supported in N.C. Communities

THE RALEIGH CITY COUNCIL recently became the 332nd community in the nation and the eighth in North Carolina to pass a resolution showing concern that some aspects of the PATRIOT ACT may violate several constitutional rights.

The Raleigh/Wake County Branch was a member of a coalition led by ACLU-NC Raleigh Chapter, which asked the City Council to pass a resolution in support of the Bill of Rights.

Other N.C. communities which have passed similar resolutions include Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Greensboro Durham, Davidson. Durham and Orange Counties have passed resolutions also.

Contact ACLU-NC executive director Jennifer Rudinger at aclunccd@z-wave.net or 919-834-3466 to learn more.

Middle School Program Under Way

GREENSBORO BRANCH IS working with Bennett Middle College to develop a project to benefit their student body. Bennett is a single-sex public school for at risk girls predominantly ninth and tenth graders who are no longer mainstreamed in regular classes. It has a day care center across the street for their children, as 33% of the girls are either parenting or pregnant.

The program is located on a historic single-sex college campus. Bennett's president, Dr. Johnetta Cole, was formerly president of Spelman College. She is quite a mover and shaker. Our branch was involved in the process of recruiting Bennett back into corporate membership.

Carolyn Taylor, Greensboro Branch

N.C. Women's Agenda Assemblies Now Underway

FOR MORE THAN a decade, N.C. women have gathered in each even year to share information on public policy issues apt to come before the next session of the General Assembly. Their efforts result in a "Draft Women's Agenda," published in late summer as an educational tool.

These issues are then discussed at "Women's Agenda Assemblies" across the state. Summaries of the discussions are presented to the Legislature at the start of the session in the odd year.

This process is now underway for 2004. Information on where Women's Agenda Assemblies are scheduled for this fall has been posted to the NC Women United web site. Please check <http://ncwu.org/2004/AgendaAssemblies/wherewhen.htm> for up-to-date information on where assemblies are already scheduled, and if you know of others, please fill out the form at <http://ncwu.org/2004/AgendaAssemblies/registerevent.php> so they can be listed on that page.

Wilmington Focuses Books

WILMINGTON BRANCH WILL discuss banned books on September 11 at 10 a.m. at the Northeast Branch of the New Hanover County Library. Phyllis Smith, librarian, will focus on the history of the American Library Association's "Banned Books Week" and on the many books (Harry Potter is one of the most famous) that have been consistently challenged in schools and libraries.

The Book and Author Breakfast, an annual author fund-raiser for the AAUW Educational Foundation, is Saturday, November 20, at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort. Four N.C. authors will speak about their work and sign copies of their books, with Bristol Books donating a portion of sales to AAUW. This year's authors include radio commentator Judy Goldman; UNCW Creative Writing professor, Sarah Messer; memorist, Virginia Holman; and Wilmington AAUW chapter's president, Hope Cusick.

Maggie Parish, randallparish@ec.rr.com

Vision Screenings Continue

Wilmington branch of AAUW will once again assist school nurses as Vision Screenings take place in 30 New Hanover County elementary schools. Branch members attend a training session before participating in "Eyes to the Future." All children in grades 1, 3 and 4 are tested for vision problems, and then referred if problems are detected. To learn more, contact Phyllis Vogel at 910.270.2597 or phylstan@bellsouth.net.

AAUW ¡Adelante! Book of the Month Club (2004-05)

THE !ADELANTE! BOOK selections for 2004-05 are now available on AAUW's web site at: http://www.aauw.org/community_programs/adelante/index.cfm. It will feature a new book each month!

Since 1996, ¡Adelante! book groups have been a fabulous success and continue to be just one of many Association programs that engage AAUW members to explore new ideas and perspectives. Discussion groups have been established in cities and towns across the country. While the book groups originated as a program for AAUW members, it now includes non-member women and men, and is a great membership recruitment and retention tool, as well as an important way for AAUW to reaffirm its commitment to diversity.

As a component of the ¡Adelante! book of the month club program, AAUW also provides a listserv for continued discussion of the books. This on-line discussion group is open to members and non-members to participate in a "virtual" book group. We are also bringing back suggested questions and topics for discussion for the ¡Adelante! selections, which will be posted to the listserv and the AAUW web site throughout the course of the year to help facilitate group and on-line discussions. Readers are encouraged to bring their perspectives to the community through on-line sharing.

Resolutions Requested

Persons planning to propose resolutions for consideration of the AAUW NC Board should send a copy to Elizabeth Laney, resolutions committee chair, at ejlaney@boone.net, so the committee can consider it in advance. The committee will present the proposed resolution at the next meeting. Then a member of the proposing group will be invited to speak for it, explaining why it is important.

GAO Gender Issues Report: Possible Tool for Local Programs

THE US GENERAL ACCOUNTABILITY Office has released a report on Gender Issues, "Women's Participation in the Sciences Has Increased, but Agencies Need to Do More to Ensure Compliance with Title IX," GAO-04-639, July 22, 2004.

It may be a good resource for branches planning programs with reference to the new AAUW report on women in the sciences or Title IX in general. Find it at <http://www.gao.gov/docsearch/abstract.php?rptno=GAO-04-639>

Sally Ride Festival Set for October

THE SALLY RIDE Science Festival will be in Raleigh on Sunday, October 10. This event is for fifth - eighth grade girls and interested adults. Advance registration costs \$18 (lunch included). It includes a keynote speech by Sally Ride, Discovery Workshops for girls, a drawing for prizes, and workshops for adults. The street fair is a good place for organizations to set up tables and hand out information about their programs and events. Last year, Raleigh Astronomy Club displayed telescopes and Triangle Amateur Robotics Society had a replica of Sojourner for girls to control. The table where girls could mix up slime was popular!

Raleigh/Wake County Branch plans to teach a workshop. People can also sponsor girls' attendance. I attended last year, but didn't volunteer to do anything. It was fun, and people came from all over North Carolina. Details at <http://www.sallyridefestivals.com/>

Registration for ToyChallenge 2005 opens in September. This is a national contest where teams which must be at least half girls design a toy or game! Participating children will be in grades 5-8. Branches can get involved by coaching a team. See <http://www.toychallenge.com/>

Esther Lumsdon, Raleigh/Wake County Branch

Foundation Announces Changes

Rusty Bradke

AAUW NC Educational Foundation Chair

THE FOUNDATION BOARD has made several changes in the fellowships and grants program, beginning July 1, 2004.

- The amount needed to complete an American or International Fellowship has been increased to \$200,000. The time to raise these funds has been shortened to 15 years.
- Research and Project Grants have also been increased, to \$75,000. Funds must be raised in 10 years.
- Fellowships and grants in process before July 1, 2004 will not be affected by these changes.

In a memo to state presidents, Mary Ellen Smyth, EF president noted, "In order for the Foundation to remain competitive in seeking and funding the very best women scholars and maintaining the high standards these awards have always held, it is necessary to increase our funding amounts. In order to make that increase, we need to raise the amount needed to produce that income."

The Board approved the discontinuation of the Named Units program, since many had been started but never completed. The Foundation has asked that any that have reached the \$10,000 or \$5,000 levels be converted into fellowships or grants. Newly-established Named Units should raise the funds necessary to convert into grants or fellowships by June 30, 2007.

The Board also put the Eleanor Roosevelt awards on hold for a year to assess the program and see how it might become more viable. It has not been self-sufficient for several years, and the number of applicants has been disappointing.

North Carolina has two funds that need additional funding: #4051 in honor of Ann Shipley (a former NC President), and #1429 Charlotte Branch's Research fund. I hope that all our members will see the need for generous contributions to the Educational Foundation.

The Sandhills/Southern Pines Branch of AAUW held a luncheon meeting and installation of officers on May 13, at Weymouth Center in Southern Pines. Mary Peterson (left) AAUW NC program vice-president, gave an entertaining and informative talk, "Hats Off to AAUW," in which she outlined the history of the organization. She is shown with Lois McCarthy, branch president, and Bea O'Rand, AAUW member and Weymouth board president.

During the meeting, it was announced that six Moore County eighth grade students were presented with \$25 checks and certificates by the branch for their selection by their school staff as 2004 Sally Ride Award winners. They were selected for outstanding achievements in mathematics and science. This local award was created by the branch to honor Sally Ride, the first U.S. woman astronaut. In addition, the branch awarded a full tuition scholarship at Sandhills Community College to Julie Shook for the 2004-2005 school year.

