

## MAL Corner

IF YOU'VE RECENTLY graduated from college, AAUW material may have started showing up in your mailbox when a mother, aunt, or friend signed you up for a "give-a-grad-a-gift" at-large membership in the Association. This program is available to all new graduates to introduce them to the work AAUW does for education and equity for women and girls.

You know, we hope, that there are also AAUW branches: 23 in communities across North Carolina. As you settle into your after-college life, you may find these a good support system and connection to what might be a new community. Check with Sue Metz, AAUW NC Membership VP, 336.454.5835, [membership@aauwnc.org](mailto:membership@aauwnc.org) for more information about a branch in your area.

On the other hand, you may also enjoy connecting to the network of AAUW younger members across the country. See the article on the Younger Members Caucus, at right, for details, or check [www.northnet.org/aauwcaucus](http://www.northnet.org/aauwcaucus) for more information.

## AAUW President Among Leaders Set for Regional Conference

Ann S. Terry  
South Atlantic Regional Director

AAUW President Nancy Rustad is among the leaders who will keynote the program and events of the South Atlantic and Southeast Central joint regional conference, June 11-13, in Atlanta, Georgia, at the new Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center.

The conference theme is *Woman Power*. Programs will examine the purpose, power, and progress of women as leaders, advocates, philanthropists, and mentors.

Dr. Rustad will join other women leaders in the arenas of politics, business, athletics, and international issues as a member of a panel of women as leaders. She will provide a keynote address and participate in a leadership workshop for AAUW members on Sunday morning.

### Women Writers of the South

The conference will kick off on Friday evening with a panel of women authors discussing the power of women's words along with an authors' book signing, for which women authors throughout the South are being invited to participate. If you or someone you know is a published author, we would like to extend an invitation to be a part of this event. Send contact information to me at [annsterry@yahoo.com](mailto:annsterry@yahoo.com) or 4882 Stoneridge Road, Catawba, SC 29704, as soon as possible.

### Top Female Athletes

Universities and colleges in both regions are being invited to send their top female student athletes to be recognized with their peers in a special program. The student athletes will join in all of the conference activities, which will give AAUW members the chance to interact with the finest of our future.

### Distinguished Leaders

Other women leaders either confirmed or invited to participate in the conference include Michelle Wetherald, Legal Advocacy Fund president; Jenny Higgins, Educational Foundation Fellowship recipient and student at Emory University; authors Gail H. Evans of CNN, Jill Connor Brown, and Dr. Dorothy Shawhan; Dr. Lynn Hagan of Kuwait; Representative Kathy Ashe of Georgia; and Elaine Hughes and Betty Bayless of AAUW public policy committee.

### Register by May 10

Please note early-bird conference registration is due by May 10; you'll save \$25 by registering early. Registration is \$125 and includes all materials, Friday author event, Saturday breakfast, lunch, and all-day breaks.

Complete program information, schedule of activities, registration form, and hotel reservation information is available on the conference web site, [www.onedomain.com/aauw](http://www.onedomain.com/aauw). Along with links to web sites of all the states in the regions, it also has links to Atlanta attractions and cultural events, in the event you would like to make this a family vacation destination.

### Make Room Reservation by May 12

Room reservations must be made by May 12 in order to secure the conference room rate. You cannot register on-line but can register by calling hotel at 1.800.706.2899, Monday-Saturday, and requesting the "American Association of University Women room rate." Do not ask for AAUW rate, as the rooms are not listed that way.

Bookmark the conference web site so you can stay updated on program plans as they are confirmed. Feel free to contact me anytime for more information or questions, at 803.789.6129 or [annsterry@yahoo.com](mailto:annsterry@yahoo.com). Hope to see you in Atlanta in June!

All of the SA and SEC states are eagerly preparing for the joint regional conference. Many of the states and branches are giving thought to projects to raise funds for EF and LAF. A Sales Room with a limited amount of space will be available at conference for this purpose for one hour. State EF Chairs and LAF Liaisons, as well as branch counterparts, are advised to reserve a table on a first-come, first-served basis.

Date: Saturday, June 12, 5-6 p.m. • Cost: \$30/table or \$15/half a table

Reservations with payment should be sent to:

Theresa M. Merkel, AAUW of VA President, 784 Johnston Court, Winchester, VA 22601

The application should include:

The name of the person making the reservation. The name of the branch, state, and region.

The name of the person who will be responsible for sales at the conference.

A \$15 or \$30 payment by check should be made out to SA/SEC Regional Conference.

A list of the items to be sold.

## Younger Members Connect with Each Other

AAUW IS ABOUT building community and embracing diversity. There are times, however, when members of groups that are underrepresented in the organization as a whole may wish to meet together to talk about their experiences and how to effect change. At the last several national conventions, caucuses for women of color, younger members, lesbians, and members with disabilities have met to address this need.

The Younger Members Caucus is beginning to provide connections for its members beyond the face-to-face meetings at convention. A forum is now devoted to younger members on the AAUW bulletin board. An e-mail list has been established to maintain the network and reach

those who cannot attend the national convention. And a web site supplied by AAUW NY is the "place to go" to find information by and about younger members. Check out [www.northnet.org/aauwcaucus](http://www.northnet.org/aauwcaucus) to learn how to connect!

[For the purpose of determining the diversity of AAUW committees and boards, a "younger member" has been defined as someone who is under 40. Currently, the electronic extensions of the caucus are open to all, and, in particular, the resources listed on the web site may be useful for those who wish to recruit younger members. However, the intention is that the bulletin board and e-mail list will be driven by messages by younger members, not about them.]

## Brevard Plans Voter Guide, Seeks Collaborators

THE BREVARD BRANCH is planning to publish an AAUW 2004 Voter Guide next fall. It will include selected federal, state, and local (Transylvania County) races, including state judicial races.

Please notify us if your branch, your local League of Women Voters, or any other organization you know of in your area—especially those with interests and/or mission similar to that of AAUW—is planning to develop a voter guide. We don't want to duplicate efforts,

especially as we begin the initial research phase of this project.

We are more than glad to share information with any group planning a similar project and perhaps may be able to collaborate on sharing information, developing questions, etc.

Any information you have about this matter should be brought to the attention of Katie Thompson, our voter guide project coordinator, at [katiethom@citcom.net](mailto:katiethom@citcom.net)

## "Get Out the Vote" Tips Planned for Convention

Barbara Ann Hughes

AAUW NC Public Policy Chair

ELECTIONS ARE MORE important this year than ever and AAUW members are preparing to make the effort to Get Out the Vote. AAUW never endorses candidates, but works to inform the public about candidates' positions on issues through forums and voter guides.

Morning and afternoon workshops will be held at Convention 2004 in Charlotte, with two break-out groups:

- "Planning, Promoting, and Holding a Candidates Forum" with June Kimmel, Region Director (Charlotte), NC Council For Women/Domestic Violence Commission;
  - "Planning, Preparing, and Distributing a Voter Guide" led by Brevard Branch members Karla Atkinson, Barbara Wright, Ladene Newton, and Katie Thompson;
- AAUW NC is fortunate to have many members who are committed to voter education and getting out the vote. Please join them!

## Greensboro Branch Earns Gold 21st Century Recognition

Mary Fran Schickedantz

THE 2002-2003 BRANCH project centered around Woman-to-Woman Dialogues. The first event was "Women's Equality Day Dialogues" (with a coalition of women's groups in Greensboro). Other topics were "Women and Money" (coalition activity funded by the state treasurer), "Issues Facing Young Latinas in Greensboro" (based on AAUW's *Si, Se Puede* publication), and "Racism," as portrayed in the book adopted by One City, One Book event spearheaded by the public library and many local organizations, including Greensboro Branch. All dialogues were open to the public and included a diverse community of participants. Through these dialogues, members of the branch felt they were offering leadership to women in the community.

In addition, the branch focused on the *Shape the Future* membership campaign. An added plus was acquiring an emerging leader intern to re-establish our web site. We were rewarded by attracting eight under-40 members, which challenged us further to broaden leadership development strategies. One of our new student affiliates became part of planning for Association and helped lead one of the sessions at both AAUW NC and National Conventions. The officers continue to focus the branch on a high level of commitment for EF and LAF. Each year sees increased usage of technology in carrying forth the work of the branch. Through maintaining a focus on AAUW's recognition programs, Greensboro Branch completes 10 years of being recognized for programming.

The story of Greensboro's recognition project ends the series of articles about AAUW NC branches who received recognition last year. All branches are encouraged to participate in this program, for which the application provides a great strategic plan for branch activities and growth, as well as achievement of the AAUW mission of equity and lifelong education for all women and girls.

### 21st Century Application Must Be Postmarked By April 20, 2004.

Go to <http://www.aauw.org> and click on "Member Center" and "Awards" to learn more.