

**2004
21st Century Recognition**

- Silver | AAUW NC
- Platinum | Brevard
- Platinum | Hendersonville
- Platinum | Statesville
- Gold | Gaston Regional
- Gold | Greensboro
- Gold | Raleigh/Wake County

- AAUW NC**
Gold 2003 | Platinum 2002
5-Star 2001
7-Star 1996 - 2000

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AAUW NC Website:
<http://www.aauwnc.org>



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE BARTON

WRITING ON THE WALL—members jotted ideas on sticky notes for how to make AAUW NC better, then placed them on the wall, where two groups took turns sorting them according to category. The resulting discussion led to the decision to have a winter retreat.

Winter Retreat Planned To Set Course For Future

For more than two years, the AAUW NC board has taken a hard look at itself, as well as the whole of AAUW in our state, its branches and members, to explore ways to do what we do better. The six goals of the ReConnection Committee have been published on the web at <http://www.aauwnc.org> and in *Tar Heel News*. Ambassadors made visits to 77% of the branches. Discussion, feedback, criticism, and thoughtful ideas have emerged.

Added to the impetus for change is the Association's decision to assign administration of branch recognition to the states and the state board's feeling that a stronger strategic plan for conducting business and speaking to the mission is needed.

ReConnection

As we go to press, Nancy Shoemaker is compiling feedback generated by the ReConnection teams in their efforts to address six goals:

- I. Set a state theme/project
- II. Make the state board more efficient and effective
- III. Improve the state meetings
- IV. Provide more face-to-face contact between state board members and branch members
- V. Identify the "experts" in the branches
- VI. Reevaluate the structure of AAUW NC to improve the capacity to address the mission.

Recognition

Different ReConnection teams have tossed around ideas for a state recognition program for almost a year. At the request of Joanne Hill, AAUW NC president, Schickedantz, Shoemaker,

Phyllis Guberman, and Marty Folsom discussed ideas in depth prior to the Fall Board Meeting. Schickedantz did an analysis of what Five-Star did and did not do, compared it with the accomplishments and shortcomings of 21st Century, and made a list of where both failed to meet the needs of the branches and state.

The five agreed Schickedantz would make a proposal for a new state recognition program. It is presented on page three.

Strategic Planning

Mary Fran Schickedantz began the process for developing a new strategic plan for AAUW NC at the Fall Boarding Meeting in Eden. It was from the ensuing activities and discussion that the consensus for holding a winter planning retreat was reached.

Writing on the Wall

One of the activities involved passing out pads of sticky notes with members jotting down ideas on ways to make AAUW NC better. The notes were posted on the wall. Members were divided into two groups and told to sort the notes according to category. A clear pattern emerged.

Quest for Direction

The discussions about ReConnection, Recognition, and Strategic Planning – whether by e-mail, in person, on the phone, along with the activities at the Fall Board meeting, add up to a quest for direction. The Board decided a Winter Planning Retreat is the best forum to accomplish focused discourse and to create a plan for action. Greensboro and High Point Branches are hosting the event on Friday and Saturday, January 28-29 at the Best Western

Wendover Plaza in Greensboro. Attendance is expressly requested of all officers and board members, which include branch presidents. See page two for information and to register.

Survey

As part of the changes being contemplated, AAUW NC is considering its first major bylaws changes in several years, and we want comments from members throughout the state. A survey will be distributed through the e-mail list and on the web site. If you're not on-line, please contact Karla Atkinson, AAUW NC secretary, for a copy of the survey (506 Stone Drive, Brevard NC 28712-9662, 828.884.7648). Results of the survey will be presented at the retreat in January.



Eden Branch was delightful host for the Fall Board Meeting. From left, Joyce Spear, co-president, Ruth Leeper, EFP chair, and Suzanne Barton, co-president.