



Rivers Meet in New Bern! So Does AAUW NC! AAUW NC Convention • March 31-April 2, 2006 Sheraton Grand Hotel, New Bern NC

Twin Rivers/New Bern, Jacksonville Regional and Kinston Branches invite you to come "Down East"! Mark the dates on your 2006 calendar!

Judy Atkinson, program vice-president, tells us the theme will focus on "Education: Gateway to the Future for Women and Girls."

Mary Peterson is convention chair.

Lodging

The hotel features free high-speed internet access in all guest rooms, concierge service, outdoor pool, marina, 24 hour fitness facility and free parking. Airport to Hotel shuttle is available. The hotel is located within walking distance of antique and specialty shops, restaurants, historic homes and churches. You will make your own reservations at the New Bern Sheraton Grand Hotel: Phone: 252.638.3585, Fax: 252.638.8112, or <http://www.sheraton.com/newbern>. Room rates are \$109 (plus 13% tax) per room per night. Make sure you ask for the AAUW group rate when making your reservations. The cut-off date for guaranteed room reservations is March 1, 2006. After this cutoff date reservations will be accepted on a space and rate available basis. In other words, after March 1 the room rate will increase.

New Bern is North Carolina's second oldest city, located at the merger of the Trent and Neuse rivers. It was the first capital of NC under Royal Governor William Tryon, and was a major port and trading center in the 1800's. While you are here take time to see the restored Tryon Palace on a 13 acre garden complex as well as taking the Trolley Tour of the Historic District. *The winter issue of the THN will have more on tours.*

Covenant Celebrates Legislative Victories for North Carolina's Kids

The Covenant for North Carolina's Children made intensive lobbying efforts to improve the lives of children and their families. Two Legislative Agenda items made significant movement: S189 All-Terrain Vehicle Regulation was ratified by both chambers, while H20 Health Insurance Credit/Minimum Wage passed the House 62-57. H20 raises the minimum wage in NC to \$6 from \$5.15.

The Covenant is very fortunate to have Crystal Hopson as an intern for the next year. Chriss is an MSW student at UNC. She has made a huge impact with the Covenant by lobbying for the ATV bill and writing a policy analysis of the Meth Lab Prevention Act.

S189 (All Terrain Vehicle Regulation) passed

the House on Thursday after Rep. Bill Owens (D-Pasquotank) successfully, but unfortunately, amended the bill to grandfather any ATV's purchased before January 1, 2006. Translation: Any age child can ride their 90cc ATV across a highway with their 3-year old sister on the handlebars, speeding 65 MPH, both with no helmets on, no brakes and no lights if their ATV was purchased before January 1. The Senate will not concur with the House on this bill and the Covenant will encourage that the loophole created by the amendment be closed. The amendment passed 67-44 and the bill went on to pass 77-33.

A special thanks goes to Rep. Mary McAllister and Rep. Jennifer Weiss for handling this bill so

well on the House floor. Both fought back two gutting amendments and one attempt to postpone the bill in addition to attacks and misrepresentations of the bill by anti-child-safety legislators.

The Covenant for North Carolina's Children is in alliance with AAUW NC. Barbara Ann Hughes, Raleigh/Wake Co. Branch, keeps a close eye on their activities.

Sally Ride Science Festival: Duke University, October 15

The Festival is geared towards girls in grades 5-8 with many parents and educators also in attendance. This year's festival will include a key note speech by an inspiring scientist, Discovery Workshops for girls, parents, and educators, and the Street Fair with booths, exhibits, food and music. Tracy Busse (tbusse@sallyridesience.com or 215.822.6713) said, "We are currently recruiting exhibitors for the Street Fair which begins at 11 a.m. If you would be interested in joining us again this year, please contact me. Raleigh/Wake County's Esther Lumsdon has been involved with this event."

Research Grant Honors Ann Terry

For those of you who have had the pleasure of Ann Terry's enthusiasm as our South Atlantic Regional Director, you may be interested to know South Carolina voted to begin an endowment for EF in Ann Terry's name. It will be a Research and Projects Grant. They are within \$700 of the goal of \$5,000.00 to begin the endowment. To contribute to this effort, put your branch number on the check and you will get credit for the contribution. This will make it tax deductible, as well, since you will make out the check to the Educational Foundation, not South Carolina. Mail it to Patricia Johnson, 745 Tyson's Forest, Rock Hill, SC 29732.

State Speakers Bureau Offers Variety of Programs

In addressing Goals IV and V of the AAUW NC ReConnection process, the AAUW NC board has formed a speakers' bureau to share expertise of our members, as well as making more contact with the branches. Please do consider these volunteers when you are planning your 2005-2006 programs!

- Linda Sarkis, Greensboro: Passion and Personal Development
- Mary Fran Schickedantz, Greensboro: Upside of attending Association Convention/SAR
- Karla Atkinson, Brevard: Flexible in her topic
- Joanne Hill, Jacksonville: State-branch relationships, what is happening at state, national (now constrained by the school calendar)
- Marty Folsom, Statesville: "How to" - newsletters and PowerPoint with two PowerPoint presentations that branches can customize; "Can you hear what I see?" - perceptions on hearing loss, how to

overcome, resources. (Available Jan., Feb.)

- Queen Thompson, Charlotte: Schoolhouse Secrets "Why we continue to leave children behind"; The Carl Perkins Act
- Mary Peterson, Twin Rivers/New Bern: Public Policy - why is it important; Networking with coalitions; What's hot - What's not
- Elizabeth Laney, Raleigh/Wake County (but homes east and west): Flexible
- Sandra Champion and Becky Hamrick, Gaston Regional: Counsel branches with problems, membership, etc.
- Nancy Shoemaker, Raleigh/Wake County: NC Women United overview; ReConnection; Repeat of membership/booth building workshop from Summer 2002; Technology issues - either an overview or could schedule a longer session with one or two people to work through particular branch issues.
- Barbara Ann Hughes, Raleigh/Wake Co., "Your role in developing public policy"

ReConnection...

For almost three years, AAUW NC has been working within the context of the ReConnection goals. Here's a quick status report on where we are.

Goal I. Statewide focus

"Actively Encouraging Women and Girls to be Lifelong Learners."

Goal II. Improve the functioning of the board

A work in progress! Expect some concrete changes to the policy document to be presented at the Fall meeting.

Goal III. Improve the content at the state meetings.

AAUW NC 2006 Convention, New Bern, March 31 - April 2! Be there!

Goal IV. More state/branch interaction

Ambassadors, more flexible branch representation at state meetings, the speakers' bureau, travel grants!

Goal V. Recognize the expertise in the branches

AAUW NC 100 Club, State sponsored branch recognition program, Mini-grants!

Goal VI. Restructure the state board

Changes for flexibility, accountability and increased participation!

What's next? How can we build on our increased connections to increase our impact for the women and girls of North Carolina? Bring or send your ideas to the Fall AAUW NC Board meeting!

Policy Changes Are in the Works

The AAUW NC Policy Statement documents how we work with each other to accomplish the goals of AAUW within North Carolina. Since we changed the bylaws last spring, some sections of the Policy Statement are now out of date. [See the web site for the current version, dated October 3, 2004.] The board will consider changes to the Policy Statement at the fall board meeting. Information on some of those changes will be posted on the web site and announced to the e-mail list in September. If you want more information on those changes, please contact your branch president or Swannetta Fink, AAUW NC bylaws chair.

Branch Recognition Continues

The new "mini-grant" program will enhance the way AAUW NC recognizes its branches, but even if you're not applying for a grant, AAUW NC will want to hear about your branch and its successes in 2005! Expect the format to be similar to last year with a report due early in the year. Once the board reviews the 2004 and 2005 reports, it will be looking at a new program, taking into account the suggestions from the 2005 summer board meeting.