



President's Message

Joanne Hill
AAUW NC

Our VISION. Well, even the best laid plans...or "Now I know why we don't do state meetings in the wintertime."

This column was originally written with all the enthusiasm and excitement of going into our strategic planning winter retreat meeting in Greensboro. The meeting was cancelled by the executive board when the weather forecast was for ice and sleet for most of Saturday and Sunday morning. My "tunnel" vision applied to the coast where I live – we were only supposed to get a little rain and 40-50 degree weather. The decision was appropriate and I thank them for their monitoring in my absence. My sincere apologies to those of you inconvenienced by the late decision. Please do not worry. This set-back will

not derail our strategic planning process, and may provide the opportunity for more involvement by you, our branch members, members-at-large, and our state officers.

Exploring SWOT

The "Top" of the agenda for our strategic planning was our "SWOT" analysis. For those of you unfamiliar with this tool, it is a way to look at where we are now. Looking at the state organization, what are our Strengths? Our Weaknesses? Our Opportunities? Our Threats? If you would like to join the conversation, please drop me a line or send an e-mail to the list. This is our opportunity to take a look at where we are now, and just what is our place in the world.

ReConnection Creates Vision

The work of our ReConnection Committee has been ongoing for three years now, creating a vision for our 21st Century organization. Please stay tuned as they report the findings on each of the goals and we decide our course direction.

Come to Convention!

The planning for Convention 2005 has been incredible! Mary Peterson, her programming committee, and the Asheville Branch have been hard at work creating a program in concert with the theme, "Purpose Power Progress." The speakers, workshops, and programs are dynamic

and exciting! A trip to the western part of the state this spring needs to be at the top of your agenda!

Intentional Change

Our national association is undergoing major changes as well. If you are interested in following the Radical Change Agenda, our state web site has the link to the (almost) weekly newsletter *EdEqChange*. The title reflects our mission—lifelong Education, Equity, and positive societal change. Please look at these—as I write this, eight memos have been posted since the effort began last November. Nancy Shoemaker has been converting these files to .pdf to download faster.

Hats Off to Teachers!

And finally, I want to tell you my respect for all of you teachers has grown exponentially! I took a new job in January – teaching Health Occupations in High School! It is certainly allowing me to "Live the Mission" of AAUW and definitely has its challenges. The downside is I am not as free to join you throughout the state for your week-day meetings and functions, but weekend meetings and those close to the coast are still possibilities! I am not sure I have ever worked this hard... keeping today's children engaged in the education process is not easy! It is not the same process as it was many years ago when I was there.

100 Club

Thanks to everyone who donated \$100 or 100 hours to AAUW NC. At press time, our treasurer had received more than \$1,600. The value of the hours is priceless.

2004

Pat Abell, Statesville
Sandra Abromitis, Asheville
Gregory Alcorn, Salisbury
Clara Allen, Chapel Hill
Karla Atkinson, Brevard
Doris Bernlohr, Chapel Hill
Sydney Elstran, Chapel Hill
Marty Folsom, Statesville
Jean Green, Chapel Hill
Joanne Hill, Jacksonville Regional
Millie Hoffer-Foushee, Greensboro
Joyce Horni, Asheville
Lou Dean Howard, High Point
Lola Jackson, Greensboro
Priscilla Lloyd, Asheville
Bonny Marsh, Hendersonville
Martha McMullen, Asheville
Evelyn Mercer, Charlotte
Roxanne Newton, Statesville
Virginia Palmer, Statesville
Mary Paterson, Chapel Hill
Mary Peterson, Twin Rivers/New Bern
Mary Jo Pribble, Hendersonville
Laura M Rumbley, Jacksonville Regional
Mary Fran Schickedantz, Greensboro
Nancy Shoemaker, Raleigh/Wake County
Sandy Smalley, Chapel Hill
Lillian Van Order, Wilmington

AAUW Brevard
AAUW Raleigh/Wake County (Gloria Blanton)

Honorees

Gloria H. Blanton (AAUW Raleigh/Wake Co.)
Greensboro CCG Volunteers
(Mary Fran Schickedantz)
Marty Folsom (Sandra Abromitis)
Laura Rumbley (Joanne Hill)
Nancy Shoemaker (Doris Bernlohr)

Memorials

Ruth B. Bost (Pat Abell)
Phyllis Rogers (Mary Jo Pribble)

From AAUW Action Network: Support Data Collection on Women in the Workforce

GAINS IN LEARNING, Gaps in Earnings for Women: This action alert ties in with a recent AAUW EF research report – see http://www.aauw.org/newsroom/presskits/earnings_011305.cfm.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the

Department of Labor announced that after May 2005, they intend to stop collecting data on women in the workforce as part of the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey. This means there will no longer be a reliable source of infor-

mation about female workers across industries and business cycles to provide us with a timely and accurate picture of the successes and challenges facing women in the workforce. The deadline for comments is February 22. Contact BLS. Tell them gender-disaggregated data collection should continue. Learn more about the ongoing disappearance of government data on women at the National Council of Research on Women's Misinformation Clearinghouse <http://capwiz.com/aauw/utr/1/LTMHEEEBBM/LWJLEELDT/>.

AAUW is a longtime member of NCRW.

AAUW NC-Affiliated Coalitions Work on Legislation

Barbara Ann Hughes

AAUW NC Public Policy Chair, State Issues

Covenant on North Carolina's Children:

I have been attending and participating in the Education Subcommittee. This group is working to obtain sponsors for a bill (both houses) to "support the ruling of the NC Supreme Court in the Leandro case. The Covenant believes the state must quickly implement comprehensive remedies that provide every child with a meaningful opportunity to receive a Sound Basic Education as required by the state constitution. Additional funding that may be necessary in order to comply with the Leandro decision should not come from existing children's programs but from new revenues or other discretionary spending programs. Further, the

State must end the racial achievement gap, ensure that students are not excluded from the education process, and implement policies that reduce high stakes testing of students."

NC Women United

Many Women's Agenda Assemblies have been held across the state. It is not too late to arrange an event for women in your community to discuss the issues of the Draft Agenda and determine the key issues for you locally. The WAA format is a powerful one that engages women and prepares them to voice their concerns to their legislators.

Plan now to come to Raleigh for Women's Advocacy Day, March 30. See <http://www.ncwu.org> or subscribe to the NCWU Alerts list at <http://www.rtpnet.org/mailman/listinfo/ncwu-alerts>

AAUW NC: When & Where!

March 30, 2005

Women's Advocacy Day, Raleigh

April 2, 2005

Triangle Cluster, Sandhills Community College, Southern Pines. Topic: "Women's Health—A Creative Approach"

April 15-17, 2005

AAUW NC Convention, Asheville

June 24-27, 2005

AAUW Convention, Washington, DC

AAUW NC Summer Board Meeting & Leadership Conference: At press time, a hostess was still needed. See page 3.

TAR HEEL NEWS DEADLINE

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For All Women and Girls

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