



## President's Message

Joanne Hill  
AAUW NC

FALL IS FLYING by! One thing I love about AAUW – it's always moving onward and upward! There is never a dull moment! Every day we have the opportunity to make a difference in lives everywhere! It seems there is always "the next big thing."

Our fall board meeting in Chapel Hill was a wonderful "meeting of the minds" and much was done to move us forward. Convention planning is in high gear, and we are hoping that many of you will head east to New Bern in March. It was announced that our highly

energetic and dedicated Lib Laney has been busy in the northwest part of our state, creating a new branch, "High Country AAUW!" We do have a couple unanticipated board vacancies due to resignations, so please let me know if you are interested in By-Laws or Historian. Work is moving forward on our unified theme/project surrounding the Association program theme of "Education, the Gateway to Women's Economic Security," branch recognition, and diversity.

In November, I was able to present the AAUW North Carolina Juvenile Literature Award to Carole Boston Weatherford for her book, *Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins*. The story of this momentous event in the civil rights movement is told from the perspective of an eight-year-old girl. I love Ms. Weatherford's dedication in the beginning of the book, "To the courageous students who stood up by sitting down, so we could all have a place at the table." It is a reminder about how far we've come, but still how very far we have to go for equity. Special

"Thank You's" to Sandra Champion from Gaston for procuring the cup, to the Raleigh Branch for fellowship prior to the award, and Grace Knechtel for her company and transportation! I relish opportunities such as these – to address an audience who may not be familiar with AAUW, tell them who we are and about our past successes (I stuck with Madame Curie and the one about debunking the theory that higher education was hazardous to women's health!) and our hopes for the future.

So – what is "the next big thing?" The Executive Committee is contemplating a winter board meeting – perhaps a committee or group who needs to meet, perhaps a "virtual" meeting that won't be weather dependent. Contact us with your thoughts and needs. Our "balancing act" is this: As we streamline and become more efficient, we still want everyone to feel they have "a place at the table" so please contact us with your thoughts feelings and concerns.

Have a wonderful, warm, safe holiday season!

## Board Approves Phone Line

Nancy Shoemaker  
AAUW NC President-Elect

AT THE FALL board meeting, approval was given to explore getting a toll-free, Internet-based voice-mail and fax line for AAUW NC. This addresses the strategic goal to use technology sensitively.

Unlike our previous experiment with an 800 number, this "phone" won't live in someone's home, but rather in cyberspace. The phone calls and faxes will be converted to e-mail messages that can be sent to a couple of people so we can "share the work" of responding to messages.

While having a phone number would, presumably, make it easier for the public to contact us, the toll-free line may also be a service to our members. Check any issue of *Tar Heel News* and see how many articles stated, "see web site." What if you are not on-line or are a member-at-large without a friend in a branch who can check the web site for you? How would you get that information? Would you like to be able to pick up the phone and request additional details?

The next step is to identify a few people willing to "answer the phone." You'll need to be comfortable with e-mail and opening e-mail attachments (pdfs to monitor the fax line, WAV, i.e. sound, files to monitor the voice mail, or both).

If you're interested in helping with this project, contact me at [shoemaker@acm.org](mailto:shoemaker@acm.org) or 919.773.1340, and we'll configure the "phone line" and handle details like reimbursement for outgoing calls and mailings early in the new year.

## AAUW Reaches Out to Women in Costa Rica, Russia

Mary Jo Pribble  
Former AAUW NC President

### Costa Rica Celebrates Anniversary

IN APRIL AND May, many AAUW NC members met Thais Cordoba from Costa Rica when she spent three weeks in North Carolina. The Costa Rica Association of University Women is a Bina Roy Partner with AAUW NC. The Summer and Fall 2005 editions of *Tar Heel News* featured photos and reports of her visits to various branches.

On November 17, the Costa Rica Association of University Women celebrated their 50th anniversary with a program at the School of Education of the University of Costa Rica in San Jose. Emma Gamboa, who was dean of education at the University of Costa Rica, founded the Association in 1955. Thais Cordoba was honored as the first recipient of the Emma Gamboa Gold Medal which is given to recognize a member's contributions to the Association.

### New Partnership Hosts Russian Women

AAUW is partnering with the National Peace Foundation to offer branches an opportunity to host a group of professional Russian women visiting the United States. The visit lasts eight days, and funding is available to defray expenses. Hosts will provide daily work experiences, participation in community and cultural activities, and home stays. Since 1999, the Open World Center for Leadership Development at the Library of Congress has brought more than 6,000 Russian leaders to the United States to see firsthand how American democracy works and how American citizens conduct their daily lives. More than 40 percent of the delegates have been women.

Twelve AAUW branches have already participated in this stimulating program. If your branch or a group of branches is interested, contact Jeanne Smith at 202/783-7030 ext. 14 or [jusmith@nationalpeace.org](mailto:jusmith@nationalpeace.org). For information

about this program, visit Open Door.

The International Corner on the AAUW Web Site has a listing of the issues that AAUW follows at the United Nations. Since 2000, Carolyn Donovan has served as AAUW's representative at the United Nations. Mary Purcell, former IFUW and AAUW president, is the head of IFUW's representatives and serves as the co-chair of the steering committee of the NGO.

## Technology Usability Advisory Group Formed

The Association has formed a Technology Usability Advisory Group, chaired by board member Betty Bayless of South Carolina. This group will work to ensure that AAUW uses technology (especially the web site) to meet members' needs and that members have information to improve their skills to utilize these opportunities. One of their tasks is to comment on plans for member access to the AAUW contact database—for instance, to allow members to verify/correct their contact information, branch officers to download listings for all branch members, and EF chairs to get contribution reports "on demand." Nancy Shoemaker serves with Bayless and two other members of the committee.

## American Association of University Women

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## AAUW NC: When & Where!

### AAUW NC Winter Meetings

Executive Committee and some individual committees will meet, possibly with conference calls.

### March 31-April 2, 2006

### AAUW NC Convention

Sheraton Grand New Bern

### South Atlantic Region Conference (SAR)

June 9-11, 2006, Birmingham, Alabama

### AAUW NC Summer Board Meeting

TBA

### AAUW NC Fall Board Meeting

Statesville

### Note to Branch Presidents:

Have a conflict for a state meeting date? Our revised by-laws allow you to designate another person, even someone from another branch, to represent you and your branch. AAUW NC has been restructured to help our members participate. Want to know more? Contact Karla Atkinson, AAUW NC secretary, [bardofb@citcom.net](mailto:bardofb@citcom.net) or 828.884.7648.

### Promoting Education & Equity For All Women and Girls

### TAR HEEL NEWS DEADLINE

Winter Copy Deadline: January 12

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Send to Marty Folsom, THN Editor

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### New Feature! See page 7!

Opportunities for branches get together for outings, events, special meetings and projects. Some are plain fun; others are educational and inspirational.

## Tar Heel News

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