



President's Message

Joanne Hill
AAUW NC

AS THE CYCLES of our lives continue – this is the most challenging column I've had to write – Marty has given me a 48-hour extension to meet the press deadline and I'm still not ready to punch the keys! The cycle of the school year has radically changed this year, since legislation mandates we start no earlier than August 25. Two weeks of classes follow the holidays, then final exams, two teacher workdays and BAM! new semester starts. Please forgive my scattered thoughts in this column.

First and foremost, I hope this finds you and your branches looking forward to the promise of the New Year – the opportunity that comes to renew, refresh and recommit to the values we hold dear. As we reflect on our personal joys and sorrows of the past year, our organizational

successes and setbacks, we have tremendous potential and opportunity. There is strength in our numbers, our diversity and our common purpose, and we strive to further strengthen all three. The synergy is inspiring!

Speaking of values – one of Association's many new initiatives is having a discussion about AAUW values. Please try to do this on the branch level, if possible, between now and April. It should take about 45 minutes and a detailed description of the process is in the tenth issue of *EdEqChange*.

Here on the coast, we are gearing up for Convention in New Bern – we are so excited to welcome you "Down East!"

I am curious how (if?) the changes in membership requirements have changed your branches. Drop me a line or an e-mail and let me know.

Has the national theme, "Education as the Gateway to Economic Security," resonated with your branches? Association has created state "Theme Teams" to launch new theme-based programs – First is the *Building a Harassment-Free Campus* initiative. If you are interested in joining the North Carolina team, please let me know that too.

See you in March!

Say 'Yes' for Fair Courts and Fair Elections

From Democracy North Carolina:

WHEN YOU DO YOUR N.C. tax return this year, you have a chance to support fair courts and fair elections – without it costing you anything! Look hard and find the question about the N.C. Public Campaign Fund on your electronic or paper N.C. tax form.

Saying 'Yes' doesn't change the amount you owe or reduce your refund; it transfers \$3 of your taxes to the Public Campaign Fund and shows support for a program that is the first step for real "voter-owned elections" in N.C. Very important: If you use a tax consultant, be sure to tell them to mark "Yes" on the Public Campaign Fund check-off. They may not ask!

The Public Campaign Fund:

- Pays for a nonpartisan Voter's Guide, prepared by the State Board of Elections, that helps you cast an informed vote in statewide judicial elections (NC Supreme Court and Court of Appeals).
- Gives those candidates a new way to finance their campaigns, if they agree to strict fundraising and spending limits. Fair elections and fair courts go together.

The program won't work unless the public participates. We need "public ownership" of judicial elections to preserve the integrity of our courts and our elections, and to make sure there's no appearance of "justice for sale" in N.C. Please help spread the word to five or 50 others! Small flyers are available for distribution at your workplace, meetings, etc.

AAUW NC: When & Where!

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

July 15 or 22, Sandhills/Southern Pines, date to be confirmed at convention

AAUW NC Fall Board Meeting

October 21 or 28, Statesville

April 20-22, 2007, 2006

AAUW NC Convention

Winston-Salem

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 or 828.884.7648.

Promoting Education & Equity For All Women and Girls

TAR HEEL NEWS DEADLINE

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marty@penstrokes.com

Fax 704.872.3400

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<http://www.aauwnc.org>

866.525.2155 Phone/Fax

'EdEqChange' Is Timely, Easily Accessible Association News

Compiled by Nancy Shoemaker, AAUW NC President-Elect

See http://www.aauw.org/member_center/leader_corner/EdEqChange/EdEqChange.cfm for the EdEqChange memos on what's happening at the national level. The odd spelling comes from the confluence of Education, Equity and Change and to increase information exchange throughout the organization.

The January 10 Issue #10 includes:

- Includes a 5-page handout on the "values" discussions we are all being encouraged to join sometime between now and the end of April. Branch presidents, in particular, should look at this to see if they can schedule time at branch or board meetings. Contact Nancy Shoemaker, shoemaker@acm.org, if you are interested in a conference call discussion.
- Read the introduction of the International Museum of Women's project "Imagining Ourselves" at http://www.aauw.org/IMOW/AAUW_IMOW_intro.cfm. An on-line exhibit and supporting materials focus on celebrating the leadership and dynamism of a new generation of young women. Check it out before International Women's Day on March 8.
- Legal Advocacy Fund notes include the call for nominations for the Progress in Equity award. Is something good happening on your campus? Deadline is March 15. Also see the LAF Update online at <http://www.aauw.org/laf/updates/index.cfm> - this issue of the periodical is the first since LAF became a program of the Educational Foundation. There is still lots of LAF specific news!

The February 3 Issue #11 includes:

- Highlights from the January AAUW board meeting, including an announcement about a special fundraising drive for contributions to cover AAUW's dues to the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).
- A report on the release of the new report, Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus, and the press coverage it garnered for AAUW. A separate section of the memo notes that LAF has launched a new area of the web site on sexual harassment and the law.
- A discussion of all the Membership resources the Association makes available. Membership vice-presidents, in particular, should be sure to review pages 4-6.
- An announcement that the recordings of the Membership and Communications teleseminars have been posted to www.aauw.org. [Raleigh/Wake County participated in these seminars "live," and found them useful. Membership, Communications and Public Policy folks may find them particularly helpful. Two more are scheduled: Development and Program. Listen to from the comfort of your office or schedule a small group viewing where you can pause the sessions and discuss the ideas in the context of your branch.]
- Personal messages on the current status of New Orleans and branches in the area from Eileen deHaro, AAUW South East Central Regional Director and Anne Taylor, president of AAUW LA. [Plan now to attend the joint SAR/SEC meeting in Birmingham, AL, June 2-4, and learn more about AAUW's efforts in the region.]

American Association of University Women

125 Years: 1881-2006

1111 16th Street NW • Washington DC 20036

AAUW HelpLine • Toll Free Number 800.326.2289 • M-F 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. EST

AAUW NC PRESIDENT • JOANNE HILL

2262 White Oak River Rd, Maysville, NC 28555 | 910.743.9996 | 910.451.7593 Fax | aauwncprez@direcway.com

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