

Convention 2006: Inspiration, Information Create Gateway to Future for Women and Girls

HISTORIC NEW BERN, first capital of North Carolina, was the perfect setting for AAUW NC Convention 2006, as nearly 100 women (along with a few men) gathered to focus on the future for women and girls. Hosted by Twin Rivers/New Bern, Jacksonville Regional, Kinston and Wilmington Branches, Mary Peterson and JoAnn Hall were convention co-chairs.

The weekend began early with the panel discussion at Craven Community College. Students studying non-traditional career paths spoke to women from AAUW, the college and community. They listened to Kenneth Wilkins, from the North Carolina Treasurer's Office, to discover if the state owed them money. Barbara Biba spoke about English as a Second Language.

Friday evening, AAUW members packed the upstairs dining room of the Chelsea restaurant to enjoy listening to the Rev. and Mrs. Vernon Tyson, parents of Tim Tyson, author of *Blood Done Sign My Name*.

Saturday was fast-paced. Richard Moore, NC treasurer; the Tysons, Dr. June Atkinson, and Dr. Delores Parker spoke on topics addressing our theme. Workshops led by Wilkins, Ashley Osment and Sara Jones offered information for members to take home and use.

All business meetings were well-attended.

Pages 4 and 5 feature stories about of Convention 2006, as well as the transcript of Dr. Atkins' address.



Raleigh/Wake County women participate in Convention 2006. Seated: Gloria Blanton, 1974-76 AAUW NC president; Grace Knechtel, 2001-03 AAUW NC program vice-president. Standing: Elizabeth Laney, 1992-94 AAUW NC president and co-founder of new High Country Branch; Nancy Shoemaker, incoming AAUW NC president; Dale Strayhorn; Barbara White, incoming AAUW NC membership vice-president; and former AAUW NC presidents – Barbara Ann Hughes, 1978-80 and Leslie Syron, 1957-59.

**AAUW NC
Silver 2005 | Gold 2003
Platinum 2002
5-Star 2001
7-Star 1996 - 2000**

AAUW NC Convention 2006
Richard Moore 4
Rev. and Mrs. Vernon Tyson 4
Sarah Jones 4
Ashley Osment 4
Kenneth Wilkins 4
June Atkinson 5
Delores Parker 5
Show Me the Money 5

AAUW NC
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Diversity 2
Fund-Raising 2
100 Club 2
LAF 3
EF 3
Clusters 3
Join the Leadership Team 6
Budget 6
International (Betty Bayless) 7
President's Message 8
Summer Leadership Meeting 8

Branch Projects and Celebrations
Gaston Regional 2
Charlotte 2
Greensboro 2,7
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Brevard 3,7
Raleigh – Betty Bayless 7

Coalitions
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NCWU 6,7

Partnership
NC Women's Conference 3

The American Association of University Women promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

AAUW NC:
<http://www.aauwnc.org>
866.525.2155 Phone/Fax

Open the Gate to AAUW NC • July 15 • Southern Pines

Nancy Shoemaker
AAUW NC 2006-2008 President

PLAN TO COME to the first AAUW NC meeting under the new structure. If you've been to board meetings/summer conferences in the past, throw away what you've learned about how they were run. If you haven't, but you want to leverage your energies to benefit AAUW across the state, put July 15 in Southern Pines on your calendar now!

First off, this is a "leadership meeting" not a "leadership conference" or "board meeting." The emphasis is on hearing your voices and getting participation from those who may not be able to commit to being on the board, but care about the direction and efforts of AAUW NC. We will air new ideas – from looking at new ways to communicate with members to changing the format of our state meetings. We need broad input.

If your branch president cannot attend, please do take advantage of the new bylaws that allow the branch president to name a proxy who does NOT have to be a member of your branch (see page 8). This person can take your branch's comments to the meeting, report back on what happened and vote for the branch president as a member of the board.

We will explore the pros and cons of DECISIONS the board needs to make. Discussions will help us to understand the goals of the different groups, what resources (time and money) those goals will require, and how the work of the different groups can complement each other. We'll focus on new initiatives and new ideas – please do bring yours. See www.aauwnc.org/newstructure for additional information for the meeting.

Our focus is not on "reports." Officers are asked to submit their reports in writing in advance. Everyone is encouraged to read the reports and get clarifications in advance. Unless there are issues that affect the budget or the work of other groups, we won't need to spend time on those.

The "leadership team" and the "board" will meet together. We expect there will be only a few times when the board members will be asked to vote, but most of the discussion will be open to all. See page 8 for lodging and registration information. We hope to see many of you there!