

## Convention Celebrates Purpose, Power, Progress



PHOTOS BY MARY FRAN SCHICKEDANTZ

*“Be aware of what is going on in the world...be willing to share your stories.”*

Karen Ballard  
Keynote Speaker

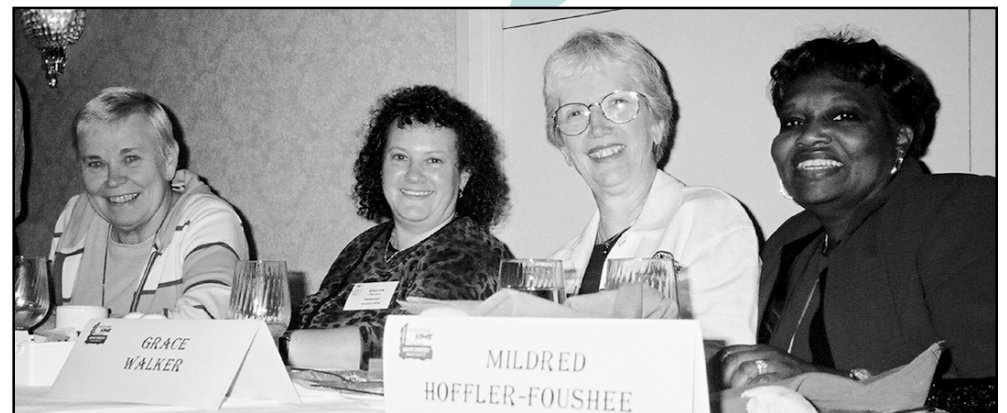
### 2005 AAUW NC Branch Recognition

All 22 Branches were recognized at the Convention in Asheville for submitting reports. This is the first year all branches have participated.

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

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Bright smiles were the order of the day, as AAUW NC members celebrated a year of work and prepared for another. At the banquet, from left: Joanne Hill, president; Evelyn Mercer, membership vice-president; Lena Epps Brooker, speaker; Mary Peterson, program vice-president. Below, from left, Karla Atkinson, secretary; Gailya Paliga, president of Raleigh NOW; Grace Walker, convention chair, and Millie Hoffer-Foushee, treasurer. Special note: President Joanne Hill has an affinity for AAUW teal, her color of choice for suits and dresses during official events.



ASHEVILLE BRANCH, along with Mary Peterson, program vice-president and the program committee, pulled out all the stops for the 2005 AAUW NC convention, “Purpose, Power, Progress.” Held at the Renaissance Hotel in April, 86 women from 17 branches gathered with over two dozen speakers and presenters to learn, do business, network, give and receive recognition, raise money, and have a good time.

The event included an intergenerational conference at UNC-Asheville on Friday. Mary Fran Schickedantz, 1994-1996 AAUW NC president, remarked, “I was particularly impressed by the Intergenerational Panel. Hearing the presentations gave insights into how to approach marketing for AAUW depending upon the age groups. I also was struck by how many of the speakers demonstrated the lifelong learning aspect of our mission statement. UNCA needs to be commended for their curriculum for seniors.”

### Keynote Address

Karen Ballard, an energetic training consultant with who partners with her husband, Ron, at Productive Consulting Resources, LLC, was the keynote speaker. In talking about “Capitalizing on the Positives of Change,” she said, “Be aware of what’s going on in the world.” Other points she made include:

- There are not enough women in the business world
- Cope with the changing times to have impact
- The involvement of more younger women is needed

- Older women are good role models
  - Not enough people are volunteering
  - A way to communicate with younger women is through the willingness to share your stories.
- Karen shared a poem, “Options.” It is published on page four, with the titles and authors of books she recommends.

### Diverse Programming

A high spot of this year’s convention was the diversity in the program. Members felt there had not been this much diversity in convention programming in the past and they want to see it continue.

Workshop featuring outstanding speakers focused on Social Security, the March for Choice, collaboration with colleges and universities, equity, and technology.

New this year was the ticket method of bidding on baskets for the EF fund-raiser, instead of the silent auction method. Branches supplied beautiful theme baskets. Raffle tickets were sold for \$1. Members placed their tickets in envelopes in front of the baskets which they hoped to win. The winning tickets were drawn during the banquet.

See pages four and five to learn more.



Judith Schmidt was in charge of registration.

PHOTOS BY CATHRYN WHITE



Priscilla Lloyd obtained the delightful packet favors and Rosey Bily served as secretary of our convention planning meetings and assisted with physical arrangements.

*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 Website:**  
**<http://www.aauwnc.org>**