

Changes Are On The Way – New Bylaws Structure Creates Flexibility

By Nancy Shoemaker
AAUW NC President-Elect

THE LAST ISSUE of the *Tar Heel News* included an article by Karla Atkinson about the changes to the AAUW NC Bylaws. She emphasized that these changes were necessary to improve the organization's flexibility and accountability and to increase participation. The changes (which were mailed to all branch presidents and which you can find on the web site) were approved by the Convention without opposition.

This article is to highlight specific changes that may affect YOU.

More flexibility for branch presidents - with additional accountability

The branch presidents may see the biggest changes in the options they have to participate at the state level. While the branch presidents are still members of the board and are encouraged to participate in person, there are some branches who have not been represented at the state board table in some time. Those branch presidents are encouraged to name a representative of the branch to carry a proxy vote to the board meeting. This person does NOT need to be a member of the branch. Any branch president who needs help finding someone willing to be her proxy is encouraged to contact Joanne or me.

Branches are free, of course, to ignore the invitations to the state board meeting. However, if a branch is absent for two consecutive meetings and no valid excuse is given to the state president, their president's position will no longer be counted when determining if the board has a quorum. They will be reinstated immediately when the branch president or her/his proxy attends, but in the interim their president will not be considered a member of the board (and so will not be subject to other expectations of board members).

Higher expectations for all board members

The rule, "miss two meetings without an excuse and you're off the board," applies not just to the branch presidents, but also to the appointed and elected officers. The board will be working through the definition of "excused absence" in a way that is sensitive to the multiple demands on us all, but this does set an expectation that those who agree to serve on the board will commit their time to the effort. Additional expectations for the board members will be proposed as changes to the Policy Statement, subject to board approval.

Expanded role for those not on the board

The new Bylaws encourage the creation of committees where members around the state, who may not have the time or interest in attending AAUW NC board meetings, can sign up to further the mission in one or more areas. Committee members will be given a vote at convention based on their committee service, and may represent the committee chair at a board meeting.

It is also possible that some of those now holding positions as appointed officers may prefer a "committee member" role - without the requirement of board service and with the support of others on the committee who are working on similar tasks. The new Bylaws give the president, with approval of the executive committee, the authority to reconfigure the board positions to meet the changing needs of the organization. For instance, if a "fundraising" committee is better suited to looking at our needs along with state support for EF and LAF, we can now use that structure. We can satisfy the requirements of the Association Bylaws without using them as a roster for our board. Any reconfiguration will be a gradual process, discussed at board meetings and dependent on the interests of those willing to serve on the board.

More participation by at-large members

These changes expand the voting rights for at-large members, who, for whatever reason, are not members of branches, and encourage AAUW NC to represent all AAUW members in the state.

Financial flexibility to support these changes

The deadline for the presentation of the budget to the membership is now June 1, not Convention. This allows the board to have a substantive discussion of the finance committee's proposed budget at the spring board meeting,

and to resolve any issues of competing priorities without an artificial deadline.

A stronger committee structure also supports more financial flexibility. If three or four officers band together as a "committee," they may have a larger pot of money to put towards their common goals.

The board will be discussing the effects of changes on the financial policies to ensure that the return on the members' investment of their dues is as high as possible.

AAUW NC 2004-2005 To-Date Report and 2005-2006 Budget

Sandra Abromitis, Finance Chair
Millie Hoffer-Foushee, Treasurer • April 2005

	2004-2005	Amt. to Date 7-1-4 to 3-15-5	Difference		2005-2006
INCOME ACCOUNTS					
Dues	\$12,430	\$10,895.00	\$1,535.00	1100 x \$11/member	\$12,100
Interest Income	10		10	1085 members	10
History Book Sales	100		100	Proj. 1166 members	50
3501 (50-50 SAR)		40.00			30
3502 NC State Pins		95.00			
3503 NC State Pins		120.00			
3504 (100 Club)		1,792.50			1,800
Fund Raisers Total	1,500	2,047.50	(547.50)		1,830
3601a (2003) Convention Profit		607.00			
3601b Convention Reimburse		500.00			500
3601c Cash from Checking		2,000.00			2,000
3602 Other		10			
Miscellaneous Total	335	3,117.00	(2,782.00)		
Total Income	\$14,375	\$16,059.50	(1,684.50)		16,490
EXPENSE ACCOUNTS					
President	\$1,500	282.00	1,218.00		1,200
Program Vice-President	800	205.00	595.00		800
Membership Vice-President	100	9.00	91.00		100
Recording Secretary	25	42.00	(17.00)		50
Treasurer	50	20.00	30.00		50
Finance Committee Chair	25		25.00		25
Educational Foundation	50	4.00	46.00		50
Legal Advocacy	50	36.00	14.00		50
College/University Rep	25		25.00		25
Diversity	25		25.00		75
Public Policy-Federal	50		50.00		50
Public Policy-State	50		50.00		50
Technology	100	95.00	5.00		100
Cluster Coordinator	50		50.00		25
EF Fellows Liaison	50		50.00		25
International Relations	25		25.00		25
Other Committee Chairs	100	19.00	81.00		25
Administrative Expenses	3,075	712.00	2,363.00		2,725
2301 Regular Meetings		177.00			
2302 Electronic Meetings		52.00			
2303 State Convention					
State Convention/Meetings	2,650	229.00	2,421.00		2,650
Travel	1,200	247.00	953.00		1,000
Publications	5,700	4,124.00	1,576.00		6,200
2630 Aging					
2650 NC Women United		75.00			
2660 NC Covenant w/Children		100.00			
2670 Juvenile Literature Award		51.00			
Coalitions	450.00	226.00	224.00		400
2701 Association					
2702 SAR		345.00			
Assn. Convention/SAR	1,000	345.00	655.00		1,000
Contingency					
2901 SAR Assessment		500.00			
2903 Convention Seed Money		1.00			
2904 Bank Charges		14.00			
2905 Other		2,000			
2906 Branch Connection Project					
Miscellaneous	300	2,515	(2,215.00)		2,515
Total Expenses	14,375	8,680.00	5,977.00		16,490

13-month CD \$11,869.44; 7-day CD \$1,066.37

Heritage Tea Features National Speakers



From left: Marilyn Cardwell, Amy Fulk (National Office), Patricia Tilley, Joyce Kauffman, Jeanne Rudy. Below left: Rachel Wilkinson, Amy Fulk, Judy Atkinson.

The AAUW National Development Office hosted a tea at the Brookstown Inn in Winston-Salem in March. It was a special opportunity for Winston-Salem Branch members to meet Gloria Benton and Amy Fulk. We appreciated the update of work on



the national level and to learn more about financing AAUW for the long term and the remainder trusts that are offered through AAUW.

Jeanne Rudy (center) receives her 50-year honorary life member certificate from Gloria Benton (right) and Amy Fulk.