

Girls Build Computers from Scratch

Susan Bogart, Bryson City Branch President At SWAIN COUNTY High School in Bryson City, NC, eight young women have built computers from "the ground up" and have learned about opportunities for women in fields involving math and science. The computers were assembled and software was installed during a three-week period early this year as part of the Bryson City Branch's "Yes, We Can" project.

Students met on a bi-weekly basis since the beginning of the school year to learn about career opportunities, and participated in team-building and goal setting activities, including an alpine event high ropes course.

Women speakers emphasized the importance of math, science, and computers as stepping stones to rewarding careers. Most girls will be first-generation college students. Field trips to regional community colleges, as well as Emory University and Georgia Tech, were provided.

Other field trips included FernBank Museum of Natural History in Atlanta and Oak Ridge National Laboratories in Tennessee. In Tennessee, they saw the world's largest computer, a nuclear reactor and isotopes, the Everest Laboratory with its 30'x8' screen where global climate simulations are run, and the Human Genome Project.

The federal Workforce Investment Act provided additional project funding. The girls can keep the computers they built. Swain County High School is applying for a larger grant to fund this successful program for the next three years.

Passings

AAUW members who passed away in 2005-2006

Charlotte

Mary Boggess, Barbara Castro, Frances Hamer, Hila Stratton (a 50-year member), Louise Ward

Hendersonville

Kathleen Ehlers, Louise Randel

High Point

Helen Betts

Statesville

Bobbie Edmisten

Note: Statesville Branch named its long-time scholarship for a high school senior entering a non-traditional field the "Bobbie G. Edmisten Scholarship Fund." At press time, \$14,837 had been given in her memory.

Winston-Salem

Joan Kibby, Cordelia Woodruff

Money Matters Seminar Is Successful

Barbara Wolfe, Seminar Committee Chair BREVARD BRANCH, with the Transylvania County Cooperative Extension Service sponsored a seminar, *Money Matters For Women*, last fall, to meet a need in our community for financial education for women. Our enrollment spanned college age women to senior citizens. We had an average attendance of 23-35 participants per night on Thursday evenings over five weeks.

Local business women were our guest speakers, who shared their financial expertise, followed by discussion. We used *Money Talk - A Financial Guide For Women* as our study guide. A \$20 registration fee covered all five classes and the workbook. The seminar was well-received and we hope to repeat it in 2007.

Branches Honored for LAF, EF Contributions

Educational Foundation

Rusty Bradke, AAUW NC EF Chair

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BRANCHES that contributed a total of \$32,028.34 to the Educational Foundation in 2005.

At the convention in New Bern, the following Branches were honored. The top five received certificates for their outstanding performance in fund-raising.

The top ten in total money raised were:

1 Brevard	\$8,057
2 Hendersonville	\$3,368
3 Wilmington	\$3,027
4 Charlotte	\$2,824
5 Kinston	\$2,500
6 Winston Salem	\$2,255
7 Asheville	\$2,235
8 Greensboro	\$2,017
9 Raleigh/Wake Co.	\$1,493
10 Statesville	\$1,274

Also recognized were the highest per capita giving Branches:

1 Kinston	\$108.70
2 Brevard	\$ 76.01
3 Charlotte	\$ 54.31
4 Winston Salem	\$ 51.25
5 Wilmington	\$ 37.37
6 Raleigh/Wake Co.	\$ 35.54
7 Jacksonville Regional	\$ 34.38
8 Statesville	\$ 31.85
9 High Point	\$ 29.25
10 Greensboro	\$ 29.23

Donations were directed to the Ann Chipley fund in the amount of \$6,134, and to the Charlotte Research Fund in the amount of \$4,124. Thanks to all the branch EF chairs who worked so hard to raise money for this important part of AAUW.

Legal advocacy Fund

Lillian Van Order, AAUW NC LAF Chair

LAF NC HAD a better year in 2005. Our goal for several years has been \$10,000 per fiscal year. While we have not met that goal, we earned \$7,818.25, a \$679.56 increase from 2004. Whether your branch raised five dollars or five thousand, each dollar helps raise awareness of equity and we thank all who contributed. In 2005, 19 of 22 branches joined the crusade to make equity a viable part of higher education.

Top Ten by Contribution

1 Asheville	\$1,221.00
2 Hendersonville	\$1,045.00
3 Raleigh/Wake County	\$ 905.00
4 Brevard	\$ 824.00
5 Winston-Salem	\$ 696.75
6 Tryon	\$ 650.00
7 Chapel Hill	\$ 500.00
8 Greensboro	\$ 445.00
9 Wilmington	\$ 369.00
10 Statesville	\$ 273.50

Top Ten Per Capita

1 Raleigh/Wake County	\$21.55
2 Winston-Salem	\$15.83
3 Tryon	\$12.04
4 Jacksonville Regional	\$11.87
5 Gaston Regional	\$11.00
6 Asheville	\$ 8.31
7 Hendersonville	\$ 7.92
8 Brevard	\$ 7.77
9 Chapel Hill	\$ 6.94
10 Statesville	\$ 6.84

Of the 19 branches giving, 11 made the \$5 per capita goal, one more than 2004. Tryon Branch, which has not been in the top ten the past two years, ranked sixth in contributions and third per capita. Congratulations to them with all the others.



Grace Knechtel (left) and Shirley Quisenberry accept recognition certificates for their branches during the awards ceremony at convention banquet.

Looking Forward for LAF

I believe the goal of \$10,000 is within our reach. With 1,079 members, at last count, it means we need to give \$9.26 each. Not all give to LAF, however, that too, could be a goal. Many branches do major fund-raisers for EF. Now that LAF is part of EF and if it is advertised properly, part of this function's profits could go to LAF.

With the new configuration of the Contribution Report Forms from the Association and changes in the state board, we are looking at making a few changes in the way one reports giving. We will keep you aware of these changes as they occur.

Contributions to helping raise awareness of sexual harassment on local campuses in coalition with the universities, searching for programs on local campuses that work toward Progress in Equity, supporting local plaintiffs, and raising money for legal advocacy are ways we can all help LAF. As long as Equity is Still and Issue, it is part of our missions to contribute.

A Special Partnership – The North Carolina Conference for Women – October 19

Charlotte. AAUW NC is partnering with other organizations to make this conference, presented by Wachovia, special. Extraordinary speakers and topics of critical importance to women are being featured. AAUW NC will have an exhibit. Barbara White, AAUW NC membership vice-president, is coordinating AAUW NC participation. The Fall leadership meeting is October 20-21, in Statesville, just 50 minutes from Charlotte – attend the conference and meeting for the traveling expense of one event. Complete information will be available in the near future! Plan now to attend!

Clusters – Optional, But More Than "Just Another Meeting"

Nancy Shoemaker, AAUW NC 2006-2008 President

AT THE RECENT CONVENTION, comments were made, "we don't have clusters anymore." While the board discussed clusters at the summer and fall meetings last year, and made changes in what was asked of the branches, there was no intention of doing away with clusters entirely.

Indeed, since the clusters never appeared in the bylaws there's no way to make them go away. Clusters are groups of branches that are relatively near to each other. They have a history of banding together to do projects like hosting the state convention, as well as rotating meetings around the branches in each cluster.

AAUW NC history tells us there is an ebb and flow of activities like cluster meetings. We're in a period where "meeting for meeting's sake" doesn't make much sense.

At the state level, we've found we can "make do" with three leadership meetings each year instead of four. Cluster meetings have become optional events that branches can plan and host if they wish.

However, that does NOT mean that clusters no longer exist. Every member can find ways to reach out to people in neighboring branches and extend the AAUW conversation in ways that might not be practical if kept within a single branch. Advertise your major events to the nearby branches. [On-line, use the AAUW NC e-mail list to send out the details or post the information under "branch news" on the blog at <http://news.aauwnc.org> so that the public, as well as members, can find it. If your publicity is all in "paper," and can't be e-mailed, fax a copy of your

flier to the AAUW NC toll free number and we'll post it for you.]

Other ideas for "connecting" to the branches in your cluster:

- Connect with counterparts in neighboring branches using the branch/state officer list – available in mid-summer. Experienced officers can help those new to their positions. Corresponding state officers are available to arrange special discussions of best practices and new ideas.
- Banding together with nearby branches for programming. Find ideas in the Association's "Choices" portfolio and in resources related to the new theme of "Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security." Pick up local ideas like doing a "Women's Agenda Assembly" (see www.ncwu.org) or sponsoring a forum or conference on a topic of local importance - perhaps expanding on the topics from the New Bern convention.
- Watch for conferences in your area and share the duties and expenses of having a booth to "advertise" AAUW and its services to that particular community. [Check with AAUW NC if you need help paying the exhibitor fee.]
- Split up the counties near your area but not served by a branch, and check that their libraries have copies of the AAUW reports and the AAUW NC history.

The bottom line is to find ways to connect with members in other branches to help advance the mission in ways beyond the capacity of those in your branch. Together we are stronger. Make the connections and take advantage of those strengths, then share your successes through the on-line tools or *Tar Heel News!*