

Legal Advocacy Fund  
Convention Report 2005  
Asheville, North Carolina

LAF- North Carolina and National went through some difficult times this past year. For the past several years we have had a goal to raise \$10,000 in a fiscal year. Many branches worked hard and did raise quite a bit of money, however, we fell short of our goal. The total earnings for the LAF, NC were \$7138.69, which is a \$2344.81 drop from 2003. Perhaps we can improve our giving for the fiscal year 2005.

Our state fundraising went well and the various branches contributed on a fairly steady basis throughout the year. By the end of 2004, 18 out of 22 branches had contributed. At the banquet we will announce the top 10 ranked branches by contribution and per capita. They are listed below. On the attached sheet is a listing of all branches, their total contributions and rankings by total contributions and per capita. (+ = an increase from last year)

**Top Ten by Contribution**

Asheville \$1155 (1)  
Hendersonville \$1035 (2)  
Raleigh/Wake \$931 (3)  
Chapel Hill \$803.50 (4)  
Brevard \$580 (5)  
Wilmington \$556 (6)  
Winston-Salem \$448.19 + (7)  
Greensboro \$405 (8)  
Statesville \$285 + (9)  
Franklin County \$200 (10)

**Top Ten by Per Capita**

Raleigh / Wake \$18.25 + (1)  
Franklin County \$9.52 (2)  
Winston Salem \$8.96 (3)  
Chapel Hill \$8.83 (4)  
Hendersonville \$7.90 (5)  
Statesville \$7.70 (6)  
Asheville \$7.36 (7)  
Jacksonville Regional \$6.67 (8)  
Wilmington \$6.47 (9)  
Brevard \$5.86 (10)

**All branches per capita giving are listed below.** Ones that made the goal of \$5.00 per capita are in bold print; 10 of 22 made the \$5.00 per capita goal.

Asheville \$7.36  
**Brevard \$5.86**  
Bryson City \$2.88  
**Chapel Hill \$8.83**  
Charlotte \$0  
Cherokee \$0  
Eden \$0  
**Franklin County \$9.52**  
Gaston Regional \$4.50  
Greensboro \$4.82  
**Hendersonville \$7.90**

High Point \$3.18  
**Jacksonville Regional \$6.67**  
Kinston \$2.32  
**Raleigh/Wake \$18.25**  
Salisbury \$4.71  
Sandhills Southern Pines \$2.88  
**Statesville \$7.70**  
Tryon \$0  
Twin Rivers \$1.00  
**Wilmington \$6.47**  
**Winston Salem \$8.96**

**LAF Plaintiff Travel Grant:** We applied for this for the third year in a row and did not get one. In the midst of finding this out one of the staff members in DC offered to help us find a speaker. We are so fortunate to have the LAF Director, Leslie Annexstein. It should be a very interesting breakfast. We are very grateful to Leslie and the national organization.

#### **National LAF and the year 2004**

There have been many changes throughout 2004 and into 2005. The bottom line is that LAF has merged into the Educational Foundation. According to a memo that I received,

“both Boards and LAF staff have been working diligently during the past 20 months to assure that LAF programs are administered in the most cost effective and efficient manner. More importantly, all member of the AAUW family have demonstrated a cross-corporate commitment to the shared goal of insuring that the LAF mission not only survives but thrives in its new home. ...[There is] a new vision being developed for LAF activities. ...The LAF Advisors will assist the transition on a wide range of LAF program activities including fundraising, but will also make recommendations concerning ongoing operational structures following the transition period which ends June 30, 2005.”  
–EF/LAF Merger Report #2 3/10/05

I will try to keep you posted as to the progress. Attached to this report is some of the documentation from National in regards to this merger.

#### **Looking Forward**

Perhaps, with the changes at the national level, and our donations being down along with the number of donors, it is time for AAUW- NC to look at making some changes. I believe that a goal of \$10,000 is still within our reach.

I hope that branches can focus some on this much needed fund raising. The branches that have a woman willing to commit some time to LAF seem to have a good record of giving. Please make it a goal of all branches to give some to LAF. Remember we would like all to contribute. Let us, with a new phase at the national level, follow in their footsteps and make some changes in our thinking and giving. I do not have specifics at this time but with your help we can make some changes. I propose that we all think of ways we can involve our members to make LAF one of their priorities. It is a time for some changes and North Carolina could be some of the forward thinking women.

Lillian B. Van Order, AAUW-NC LAF Liaison