

American Association of University Women
Fall Board Meeting Minutes
Holiday Inn in Chapel Hill, North Carolina
October 29, 2005 9 AM

Branches Present/Representation:

Brevard
Chapel Hill
Charlotte
Franklin County
Greensboro
High Point
Jacksonville Regional
Raleigh/Wake
Sandhills/Southern Pines
Statesville
Wilmington
Winston-Salem

Officers and Committee Chairs Present: J. Hill, M. Hoffler-Foushee, K. Atkinson, L. Jackson, M. Folsom, L. Van Order, N. Shoemaker, MF Schickedantz, J. Atkinson, J. Hall, BA Hughes, M. Stephens, Q. Thompson, S. Jenkins, E. Lynge and L. Ward.

President Joanne Hill called the meeting to order at 9:09 AM. She thanked everyone for taking time on a weekend to attend the meeting. She thanked members of the Chapel Hill branch for their hospitality. Mary Paterson of the Chapel Hill Branch welcomed the group, indicating she was pleased with the turnout for the meeting.

Those attending were asked to introduce themselves, identify their branch, and indicate if they were officially representing a branch. These introductions served to call the roll. No coalition representatives were in attendance.

Karla Atkinson, Secretary, moved that the minutes of the July 30, 2005 Spring Board Meeting in Raleigh/Wake be approved. These minutes were approved by consensus.

A reading committee was appointed, including Lois Ward, Phyllis Guberman and Etta Alston.

Parliamentarian Lois Ward read the meeting rules which were adopted.

The agenda was adopted with the addition of two items under New Business: action item from Gloria Blanton re. NC Board of Education requirement for diversity training and new Association program grants presented by Esther Lumsdon.

President's Report

This item was deferred until later in the day.

President Elect's Report

Nancy Shoemaker reported that Michele Wetherald, former LAF President, has agreed to serve as the Interim Executive Director until the search for a new Association ED has been completed. Nancy noted that Michelle's experience will give Association needed stability until a new Association ED can be appointed.

New Association efforts to address sexual harassment on college campuses will be

funded by campus action project grants. Ten grants will be funded for \$5000 each.

The Raleigh Wake branch will be working with Association in their efforts to expand and improve Association's electronic communications with branches throughout the US. Association President Ruth Sweetser has emphasized the importance of using technology to improve communications at all levels, and the Raleigh Wake branch will participate in giving feedback to Association on these efforts.

The number of staff/employees at Association has decreased, shifting more responsibility to volunteers and branches to bring about change through better communications with members, other branches, state AAUW officers and Association.

Nancy presented Association's new power point presentation which is designed to introduce this year's theme, "Education as Gateway to Economic Security," to the public. The presentation is available on the Association web site, www.aauw.org.

Treasurer's Report - Millie Hoffler-Foushee

Millie H-F asked that all branches confirm the number of branch members (as of July 2005) and identify the branch treasurer's contact information, so that she can verify this information with her records. This information must be forwarded by November 30, 2005 so that Joanne Hall, Chair of the Finance Committee, and Millie can begin addressing budget issues for next year.

Membership dues to date have generated \$7788 in income. Total income to date is \$9277.32. Membership dues from the Hendersonville, Franklin County, and Eden branches have not been forwarded as yet.

Expenses to date are \$ 2604.06 which include disbursement of two, \$ 500 mini grants to Brevard and Greensboro branches. The biggest expense continues to be the publication of the Tar Heel News. Millie noted that expenses are historically low until spring, when expenses for the state convention are received.

The checking account has a balance of \$18,996.58.

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented and filed for audit.

Program Report - Vice President Judyth Atkinson

Plans for the state convention in New Bern, NC on March 31-April 2, 2006 are proceeding well. Judyth and Mary Peterson of the New Bern branch met recently with staff at the New Bern Sheraton Hotel. Judyth announced that Dr. June Atkinson, newly elected State Supt. of Public Instruction, will be the luncheon speaker at the convention. Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue has also been invited to speak at convention.

Judyth asked for recommendations for a banquet speaker at convention.

Delores Parker, VP for NC Community Colleges, will conduct one of the convention breakout sessions. Queen Thompson of the Charlotte branch will present a program on equal credit opportunities. Another breakout session will focus on the equality of women on college campuses. Another session will focus on Hispanic and Asian students in educational settings.

Judyth reported that Pepsi is donating refreshments for the convention.

Covenant with North Carolina's Children

Joanne Hill introduced Crystal Hopson, intern with the Covenant with North Carolina's Children. (AAUW NC is a member of this coalition.) Crystal reviewed the legislative progress which the Covenant has made this year in North Carolina, especially on legislation which protects children from the dangers of ATV and meth labs.

She reviewed the process which the Covenant undergoes to identify and prioritize issues for which they lobby. Currently there are eight work groups which recommend legislative priorities to the Board which in turn presents these ideas to the general membership which in turn adopts two issues/priorities for a particular legislative session. Crystal urged AAUW NC, as a member of the Covenant, to become involved in this process. Barbara Ann Hughes, AAUW NC State Public Policy Coordinator, is the AAUW

NC liaison to the Covenant.

More information about the Covenant is available at www.nccovenant.org.

Finance Committee - Joanne Hill

Joanne reported that her committee will soon be working on the budget for next year. Millie is making arrangements to have the financial statements audited

Bylaws Committee - Joanne Hill

Joanne announced that Swannetta Fink has resigned as chair of this committee and asked for a volunteer replacement. The major task facing this committee is aligning the policies with the new bylaws. This work should begin soon.

Diversity Report - Queen Thompson

Queen challenged board members to ask what their branches are doing to embrace all issues of diversity. She questioned whether AAUW NC should be conducting a study of diversity issues impacting women. She noted that her branch (Charlotte) had worked in cooperation with an educational television station in her area to study issues of African American students in public schools. She asked the board to define three - five diversity issues which AAUW NC could study.

Educational Foundation - Joanne Hill

Joanne reported for Rusty Bradke that \$5566.51 has been collected to date for EF.

International Committee - No report

Legal Advocacy Fund - Lill Van Order

Lill reported that she has applied for a travel grant to bring an LAF plaintiff to speak at convention this spring. She is in the process of reconciling branch and state contribution figures for LAF. She urged branches to increase their contributions to LAF, noting that 10 of 14 branches making contributions to LAF have 5 or fewer members contributing. To date \$4031 has been received. The AAUW NC goal is \$10,000. All contributions should be sent to Lil by the end of the year.

College University Relations - Lola Jackson

To date fourteen colleges/community colleges have affiliations with AAUW throughout the state. Lola reported that Nancy Shoemaker has participated in conversations about grants available to colleges to deal with issues of sexual harassment. Board members questioned the fees for affiliation which are based on the number of students enrolled at the institution. Lola will check Association regulations to see if a sliding scale fee might be more "attractive" in recruiting more colleges/community colleges to join AAUW.

Federal Public Policy - Mary Stephens

Mary reported that she had recently had a conversation with Association's Seth Chase wherein Association staff were gathering information from state federal PP chairpersons on what kinds of information would be helpful to promote public policy action in North Carolina. Association also wanted to know what was planned to address public policy issues at the next state convention and what AAUW NC was planning to do for a "Get Out the Vote" campaign.

She noted that educational vouchers were being tied to Katrina hurricane relief efforts -- a position AAUW opposes. She reminded the board that efforts to weaken Title IX continue at the federal level.

State Public Policy - Barbara Ann Hughes

Barbara encouraged state and branch members to become involved in the work of

the NC Children's Covenant. She announced that Dr. June Atkinson, new NC Superintendent, will be speaking at convention. She urged AAUW members to run for public office, especially local and county Boards of Education, and to become involved in policy issues in their communities.

21st Century Recognition - Mary Fran Schickendantz

Mary Fran reminded the Board that a new recognition program for branches was instituted last year which asked each branch to identify their "best project." She has heard both both praise and criticism of this program. She believes there may be a "halfway" approach to recognizing branches and asked those interested in the topic to meet with her at lunch.

Corresponding Secretary - Evelyn Lynge

Evelyn is looking for a branch to host the summer 2006 board meeting and asked anyone interested in doing so to contact her at 910-353-4213. Please reference AAUW in your message.

Tar Heel News - Marty Folsom

Marty reviewed the history of the costs of publishing the Tar Heel News, noting that printing costs have not increased significantly. She explained the rationale for using a mailing service and the requirements for publishing if a periodical mailing permit is used.

A few board members expressed concerns with bundling which Marty said can easily be addressed. The board agreed that sending the THN to MALs is a good idea and a way to keep in touch with potential members, especially younger MALs.

The THN is being published on line on the AAUW NC web site. Other issues of publishing the newsletter on line were discussed. Marty commented that we need to begin to make the transition to publishing THN on line but it would be a 4-5 year process to do so. She will look into what other states are doing with web publishing of their newsletters. Nancy Shoemaker questioned whether "e bulletins" would serve the purpose of keeping members up to date and informed.

The deadline for the next issue of THN is November 16.

Historian - Sandy Jenkins

Sandy has had to resign her position as historian.

Nominating Committee - Grace Knechtel

Grace reported that Karla Atkinson, current Secretary, has agreed to run for another two-year term. The committee will be nominating Barbara White, a member of the Raleigh/Wake County branch and former president of AAUW West Virginia, as Membership Vice President.

Resolutions - Lib Laney

Lib reminded the board of the process and timelines for submitting resolutions, and invited anyone to contact her with questions about resolutions.

Branch Representation at State Board Meetings

After a brief discussion board members agreed by consensus that branch presidents have the option of determining who will represent them at state board meetings if they cannot be present (as provided in the new bylaws). A branch president's representative can be a current elected or appointed member of the AAUW NC board. In other words a currently elected or appointed member of the AAUW NC board can represent both her office/committee and her branch at a board meeting.

Mini Grants - Nancy Shoemaker and Doris Bernlohr

Two mini grants (total of \$900) were awarded in this cycle to the Greensboro and Brevard branches. Both were community action projects. The scoring sheet which is used to judge projects is available on our web site. As a judge Doris noted that defining and determining "branch capacity" presented a problem for the judges.

Another \$11000 will be available for a second funding cycle. The deadline is December 12 for all types of projects -- community action, branch capacity, and travel grants.

AAUW NC Phone Number - Nancy Shoemaker

Nancy posed the question of whether AAUW NC wanted to have an 800 number available for those outside the organization wanting information about AAUW. She explained the process for monitoring and responding to phone calls. Those people monitoring calls would need to be connected to a high speed internet service.

The motion "to approve, in principle, subscribing to an online phone service providing voice mail and fax capability, providing financial resources and volunteers are available" was offered, seconded and approved.

Follow Up to Summer Board Discussions

1) board/committee restructuring. Karla Atkinson reported that no additional meetings or discussion on this issue had transpired since July. She noted that the recommendations are not cut in stone and subject to further discussion and change. Barbara Ann Hughes recommended that the public policy committee be an independent committee, not a subdivision of the program committee, arguing that public policy is an important centerpiece of AAUW which needs to be recognized in and of itself. The issue of board/committee restructuring was referred to the Executive Committee for continued discussion and action.

2) recognition program. Mary Fran Schickendantz pointed out the need to continue reconciling the state's strategic planning with the current Association theme, "Education as Gateway to Economic Security."

The board discussed whether AAUW NC wanted to be recognized by Association and what the focus of its recognition program might be. Nancy Shoemaker briefly reviewed the criteria and timelines for Association's recognition program. The board agreed that diversity should be the focus of continued efforts at the state level. The motion that "Queen Thompson and the Diversity Committee will work on developing a statewide diversity initiative which will be presented to the membership at the 2006 AAUW NC Convention as an item of business" was offered, seconded and approved.

3) strategic planning goals and strategies. Lola Jackson summarized some of the ideas which came out of discussions in the summer. These included a "sisterhood" pin as a fundraiser, graduate schools promoting AAUW membership, a videotape and public service announcements. The board agreed that these ideas could be folded into the statewide diversity initiative which the Diversity Committee will be developing.

Cluster Discussion

Several board members offered their experiences/impressions of clusters for the last few years. The motion "to acknowledge that the cluster will no longer be considered a formal structure of AAUW NC. Instead branches are encouraged to network with other branches to present joint projects or programs" was offered, seconded, and approved.

New Branch Update

Lib Laney announced that she is meeting with people to form a new branch in the Boone area. Board members wished her well in her organizing efforts. Mary Paterson (Chapel Hill) reported that she had tried to contact Chalane Jones who was trying to organize a branch in Durham but had heard nothing.

Campus Action Project - Nancy Shoemaker

Following LAF research on sexual harassment on college campuses, LAF will be awarding ten, \$5000 grants to colleges to address these issues. Duke University, which has an equity office on campus, is planning to apply for a grant. Mary Paterson has been invited to serve on the committee which is developing the grant application for Duke. NC Central has also expressed an interest in applying for this grant.

NC Board of Education Requirements - Gloria Blanton

Gloria updated the board on the state Board of Education efforts to require diversity training of all kinds for school counselors and social workers. These efforts have been temporarily stalled. Gloria urged AAUW NC to take a position on this issue and communicate with the BOE as soon as possible. The motion "that AAUW NC will send a message to members of the NC Board of Education to assure them that they have the full support of AAUW NC to require standards for school counselors and social workers to receive training in all kinds of diversity" was offered, seconded and approved.

Upcoming Meetings

The board agreed that no full meeting of the board would be necessary this winter. However, the Executive Committee should meet. The possibility of the EC meeting via a conference call(s) was raised.

The following committees were asked to be prepared to meet by February 15: (1) statewide diversity initiative committee, (2) convention program, (3) board/committee restructuring and policy alignment and 4) executive committee.

Miscellaneous and Announcements

Esther Lumsdon noted that the Society of Women Engineers will be recognized February 19-25, 2006 and encouraged branches to become involved in supporting this effort.

Pinkie Byrd asked if branches had AAUW Research and Project Grants that need funding. Charlotte replied that they do.

A question arose regarding who has been/will be named as EF fellows in NC.

Greensboro invited all branches to their April 29, 2006 meeting at Bennett College when Dr. Johnetta Cole will be the guest speaker. Greensboro also asked for children's book donations for a section of the library they will be establishing for the Middle School Project at Bennett College.

The Juvenile Literature Award will be presented November 18 in Raleigh.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karla Atkinson, Secretary