

AAUW NC Fall Leadership and Board Meeting
Minutes of October 20, 2006
Statesville, North Carolina

President Nancy Shoemaker called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

On behalf of host branch Statesville, branch president Pat Abell welcomed the group to the meeting in their area and thanked other Statesville members for helping to host the meetings.

The roll was called.

Branches Present/Representatives

Asheville/Mary Lasher and LaDean Peterson, CoPresidents
Brevard/Geri Hambley, President Elect
Charlotte/Diane Johnston, President
Franklin County/Etta Alston, President
Gaston Regional/B'Ann Vance, President
Greensboro/Sue Mengert, President
High Country/Leota Cloyd, Proxy
Jacksonville Regional/Connie Ocshe, CoPresident
Raleigh/Wake: Janet Weber, Proxy
Salisbury, Becky Hammill, President
Sandhills/Southern Pines/Lois McCarthy, President
Statesville/Pat Abell, President
Tryon, Barie Baker, President
Twin Rivers/New Bern, Mary Peterson, Proxy
Wilmington/Phyllis Guberman, President
Winston Salem/Pat Tilly, Proxy

Total Number of Branches Represented: 16

Total Number of Branches NOT Represented: 7

*Total Number of Branches NOT INCLUDED in Final Count: 4

Total Number of Branches INCLUDED in Final Count: 19

* These branches have not been represented at the last 3 Board meetings and therefore will not be included in future Board meetings to determine a final count for a quorum: Bryson City, Cherokee County, Eden and Kinston. Any of these branches that are represented at future Board meetings will then be included in the quorum count.

Officers and Committees Represented:

Nancy Shoemaker, President
Joanne Hill, Past President
Millie Hoffler-Foushee, Treasurer
Karla Atkinson, Secretary
Lois Ward, Parliamentarian
Judy Atkinson, Events
Barbara White, Membership VP
Pat Abell, Nominating
Shelia Bassoppo-Moyo, Membership/CU
Evelyn Lyng, Fundraising/EF & LAF
Lill VanOrder, Fundraising/EF & LAF
Mary Peterson, Advocacy

Marty Folsom, Communications
Pat Tilly, Convention Local Arrangements (proxy)
Queen Thompson, Diversity

Total Number of Officers/Committees Represented: 15
Total Number of Officers/Committees NOT Represented: 0

A reading committee was appointed which included Pat Abell, Phyllis Guberman and Lill Van Order.

Lois Ward briefly reviewed the Meeting Rules which were formally adopted at the last Board meeting.

The minutes of the July 15, 2006 summer leadership and Board meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report - Millie Hoffler-Foushee

Millie presented YTD financial figures. Income is \$8,822 which included dues and other fundraising monies. Expenses are \$2,448. The check balance as of 7/01/06 was \$12,498. The checking balance as of 8/31/06 was \$18,872. Millie commented on the new format being used to present the treasurer's reports.

Nancy commented that AAUW NC is trying to build its reserves to benefit the branches through the mini grant program which now has an open enrollment period.

Adoption of Policy Statement for AAUW NC - Karla Atkinson

On behalf of Millie Hoffler-Foushee, Lois Ward and herself, Karla briefly reviewed the proposed changes to AAUW NC Policy Statement. These changes were designed to align the Policy Statement with the Bylaws, especially those sections dealing with the new structure of the organization and the accompanying changes in budget/finance operations.

One amendment was made to the document, changing the word "years" to "terms" under Section V: Appointed Officers (C) 5.

The motion to approve the proposed Policy Statement as amended was offered, seconded and approved without any dissent. The document will now be printed and formatted in final form, then made available on our web site.

Public Policy Statement - Mary Peterson

Mary presented the proposed public policy statement which will guide AAUW NC for the next two years. The statement will be presented in a brochure format and distributed to legislators when the General Assembly convenes in January 2007.

She noted that the broad principles were taken from Associations Public Policy Program documents. The biennial priorities for AAUW NC are divided into three sections: public education, economic self sufficiency and civil rights/social justice. She then entertained questions/comments on the proposed policy statement for AAUW NC.

Public Education

No changes were made to this section. Some comments were offered re: charter schools and the current cap on the number of schools currently chartered.

Economic Self Sufficiency

One change was made to this section: The phrase "state workers" was reworded to read: "employees of the State of North Carolina" in the section addressing a pay equity study commission.

Civil Rights/Social Justice

A few changes were made in the section addressing health care. The sentence now reads (change in capital letters): "Increased access to AFFORDABLE health care, INCLUDING TREATMENT OF MENTAL ILLNESS, and expansion...."

Also the phrase "to be" was inserted in the section citing the Aging Study done by the NC Center for Public Policy Research.

The motion to adopt the AAUW NC Public Policy Statement, as amended, was offered, seconded and approved. Mary noted that this is a "fluid, working document" which was intentionally left open to permit other future changes in language.

She also announced that the petition submitted to address affordable health care issues in the UNC health care system was forwarded and generated a point-by-point response from the system's administrator. She urged everyone to monitor the reforms and changes that were addressed in the administrator's letter.

2007 Convention Update - Pat Tilly

Pat noted that several Winston Salem committees are now at work in planning for the state convention next spring. The program has yet to be finalized, though Ann Gustafson (Association Membership Chairperson) and Leslie Henderson (Association Regional Director) will be attending/presenting. Lunch and banquet speakers have also been confirmed. Four workshops are planned, including a workshop tailored for C/U representatives who will be encouraged to attend.

A first mailing regarding convention is scheduled to be sent to the branches in December 2006.

Pat reviewed some of the contents of the registration packet, as well as the proposed budget for convention. The budget includes anticipated expenses of \$4,000. Pat stated that the branch is seeking vendors for the convention whose fees may help defray some of the convention costs.

A motion to approve the 2007 convention budget as presented was offered, seconded and approved.

Convention Format Discussion - Nancy Shoemaker

Nancy distributed a short questionnaire concerning convention. "What's in it for me?" and "What changes would you make?" were the questions posed. Individuals completed the questionnaire; group discussion followed.

To emphasize that we need to look at things in a different way, everyone received a pair of glasses with a decidedly "rainbow tint" to one's perception of anything she viewed.

Membership - Barbara White

Barbara reported that Association Membership Coordinator Ann Gustafson will be at convention as part of the Leader-to-Leader program. Also two NC branches appear to be disbanding: Kinston and Franklin County.

Public Policy - Mary Peterson

Mary distributed a public policy package to each of the branches represented at the Board meeting and outlined the process which will be used tomorrow to develop the AAUW NC Public Policy Statement.

The meeting was adjourned until 1:00 pm on the next day, Saturday, October 21, 2006

President Nancy Shoemaker reconvened the Board meeting at 1:00 pm.

Women's Assembly Agenda

Nancy noted that her past involvement with North Carolina Women United and the Women's Assembly Agenda had been helpful in looking at the possibilities of other branches hosting an Assembly. She asked branches to consider hosting such.

Wake County and Charlotte branches will be doing the Assembly soon. Buncombe County has already sponsored an Assembly. She stressed that the format for an Assembly could be flexible and did not have to model exactly the format used in the morning program. The key thrust to the Assembly is to get the agenda out to the public and seek input from those attending.

Advocacy day in Raleigh is scheduled for sometime in March 2007.

Membership - Barbara White

Barbara underscored the importance of branches talking to state AAUW NC and AAUW NC talking to branches.

The branch recognition program is designed and information has been made available to all AAUW NC branches.

She asked for comments on what emphases should guide the membership workshop which will be held at Convention in 2007. Comments will guide Association Leader-to-Leader Ann Gustafson who will lead and design this workshop. Comments included these ideas or questions:

- 1) Retention is a priority. We need to know "who we are" and "where we are going" if we expect to maintain/retain branch members.
- 2) How do we get branch members to be state leaders?
- 3) How can branches appeal to younger women to join AAUW?
- 4) Success stories are important to hear. What worked well for other branches?
- 5) How can branches better connect with universities/colleges in their area?

Nominating Committee - Pat Abell

Pat announced that the Nominating Committee will be presenting a slate to fill the two-year terms of President Elect, Treasurer and Program Vice President. Attendees were urged to contact any member of the Nominating Committee with names of potential candidates. Current treasurer Millie Hoffler-Foushee volunteered to work with the candidate proposed to fill this position.

Fundraising - Lill Van Order

Lill reviewed various options for raising money by selling items on the internet. Evelyn Lynge displayed scarves with AAUW logo that could be sold. Coffee mugs, visors, glasses, hats and tee shirts with the AAUW NC logo could also be sold to raise funds.

Nancy noted that certain items could be given as gifts as a "thank you," e.g., for donating to the 100 Club.

By consensus everyone agreed that a variety of sale items should be purchased and sold on the Cafe Press web site. Items should be available for purchase at convention. A straw poll was taken regarding what items might be popular buys.

The branch-basket raffle will be continued again at convention to raise money for EF.

Miscellaneous Announcements

Contributions in memory of Nancy Shoemaker's sister-in-law are being accepted. The AAUW NC petition to address better access to the UNC health care system

received a response from the Chancellor of the UNC Health Care System. Mary Peterson urged follow-up and monitoring of the Chancellor's letter which promised attention to the petition.

Anyone who wanted an "Equity is an Issue" sticker for their car windows was welcome to take one.

The Charlotte branch is continuing to fund a Research & Project Grant and welcomed contributions from all branches and AAUW NC members.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karla Atkinson, Secretary