

What's inside this issue?

- **Student leader shares conference experiences** – page 1
- **Chance email brings books to a SC classroom** – page 2
- **Aiken Branch celebrates 60th Anniversary** – page 3
- **Hilton Head Branch develops summer science camp for girls** – page 4
- **Advocacy Training going on the road** – page 5
- **Get ready for next sessions of SC General Assembly** – page 5
- **Membership matters** – page 6
- **Using Pay Equity issue as a Branch program** – page 7
- **AAUW of SC Calendar of Events** – page 8

Erksine Student represents SC at NCCWSL conference

For the last several years, AAUW of SC has supported a student to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, which is cosponsored by AAUW annually.

This year, the Due West Branch nominee **Rachel Whitmire** was chosen for the scholarship. She joined more than 700 women student leaders from throughout the nation in the three-day event with the theme “Finding Your Voice.”

Rachel went up a day early, began networking with other students, and helped package meals for 3,000 HIV AIDS and cancer patients through the “Food and Friends” program outside Washington.

She participated in “group networking,” in which women “found and shared their voices” on such topics as balancing their time, whether they have experienced stereotypes, and their opinions on electing a woman president.

Through such national women leaders as Donna Shalala, she heard such useful advice as: “Network, network, network,” “Learn to listen, listen to learn,” “If you haven’t failed, you haven’t done anything,” “You have to take the risks; that’s when you grow,” and “Have a passion for what you believe in.”

In the workshop, “Leadership, True Colors,” participants identified their leadership styles. She found this invaluable in helping her to understand herself and to be open to those who think differently. She volunteered to share this information with AAUW members and on campus. The final evening participants were on their own, and she and others enjoyed touring Washington at night. The closing session the next morning summed up the conference, “Learn, Lead, Network, Act.”

“I’m grateful to AAUW for enabling me to attend this conference,” Rachel said. “I would recommend it for any student.” A chemistry major, she plans to attend pharmacy school following graduation.

“This is one of the best things the Due West Branch has done,” Due West AAUW President Jan Haldeman said. “AAUW must start building with youth.”

Rachel has already taken advantage of free e-membership in AAUW and plans to actively encourage Erskine students to join.



A personal letter to you, the members of AAUW of SC



In April 2011, members of AAUW of SC voted in a new structure for our state organization. The reorganization was designed to streamline the number of leaders needed at the state level as well as better manage the time resources of those leaders.

We only have three elected officials – president, financial officer and past president. The other leaders at state level are chairs of committees for AAUW Funds, Advocacy, Member Support, Communications, State Meetings, and Nominating.

Here we are 18 months later and the positions for State Meetings and Nominating remain vacant despite repeated efforts to fill those slots.

Why? Branches requested that we continue to maintain a state organization when we began examination of possible restructuring, but branch members and leaders cannot expect the state to continue

without not also committing to service at the state level.

This is the second time I have served as state president and I was willing to do so again to provide leadership during the transition to the new structure. But I will be stepping down in June 2014 and I worry every day that there is no one stepping forward to ensure that our state organization continues.

I am asking each of you to give careful consideration of service to AAUW at the state level. With modern technology, much of our work is done by conference calls and emails. In 2012-13, we only had one face-to-face meeting and 2013-14 will follow the same pattern. I would be happy to talk in detail with anyone interested in service at the state level.

Our state has a tremendous reputation for leadership and service to AAUW. Let's not fail that reputation now.

Ann Scott Terry, President (annsterry@yahoo.com)

A chance email yields gifts to help SC students

Recently state president Ann Terry received an email regarding **Vincent Amendolare**, who is teaching in Bennettsville, SC. Vincent is teaching English literature through an organization called *Teach for America*. He was looking for books to use in his high school classes because he had none.

This is his second year teaching high school students. He currently has four classes of 35 plus students in each class and no books for them to use in their reading.

He was hoping to secure 35 to 40 books of as many of these titles as possible. This way he can rotate them throughout the classes during the school.

The list included *1984* by George Orwell, *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder, *Mother Knight* by Kurt Vonnegut, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey, and *The things they carried* by Tim O'Brien.

Ann offered to send an email to our branches in the event that some branches or some individuals might want to help round up the copies he needs. And in usual AAUW fashion, members and branches have already sent books and Amazon gift cards to Vincent.

Recently Vincent sent the following message:

Dear AAUW Branches and Members,

I cannot begin to thank you enough for your generous donations to my students and classroom. I am teaching students who are severely below reading level in a school with no class book sets. In room D135, we look our academic challenges in the eyes every day and know we have to make big changes immediately in order to

graduate with the skills necessary for college and the real world.

My students are extremely driven and so much has been made absolutely possible for them thanks to your collective efforts. This means Tawahn, a senior on the 6th grade reading level, will read and finish his first chapter book, ever. Joneesha, one of my tenth graders, will have the chance to leave high school on or above grade level.

As you can see, your donations are game changers for my students. From your hands to ours, these books and supplies will give them access to the opportunities they desperately want and deserve. Thank you so much for helping to correct an injustice in our education system and for believing in my students. Your efforts are impacting our class every day! We are so appreciative of your support and generosity.

With sincere gratitude,

Vincent Amendolare

To date, he has received:

- \$200 to complete a class set of *The Things They Carried*
- 4 copies of *1984*
- 6 copies of *Mountains beyond Mountains*
- 2 copies of *One Flew Over the Cuckoos Nest*
- 3 copies of *Mother Night*

If you wish to help, contact Vincent directly at vcamendolare@gmail.com. Best way to give is via Amazon gift cards, but be sure to let him know you have sent such a gift so he can thank you directly. He received several such cards but no information on the donors.

News Around the Branches

Aiken celebrates 60th Anniversary

The Aiken Branch of the American Association of University Women reached a milestone in its history during the spring. March 25, 2013, was the organization's 60th anniversary. On September 7, an anniversary luncheon was held to celebrate.



The celebration was led by Branch co-presidents (*seen to left*) **Linda Hook** (left) and **Martha Ebel**.

The *Aiken Standard* newspaper did a feature story on the Branch and here is an excerpt:

“We’ve been talking about it all year,” said Martha Ebel.

The Aiken Branch is known locally for its wildly popular *Books 'n' Things* sale. Held the first weekend in March, the event attracts scads of people who enjoy reading and love to find bargains.

“This year we raised nearly \$40,000,” Ebel said. But while *Books 'n' Things* attracts a lot of attention, it isn't the only notable item on the Aiken Branch's long list of activities and accomplishments.

“We were instrumental in establishing USC Aiken,” Ebel said. “Some of our members began the Monday night music program (the Hopelands Summer Concert Series) at Hopelands Gardens. We established a teen pregnancy prevention program in Aiken, and during the 1970s, we sponsored a group of women that came over from Russia to learn about education and women's issues in America.”

The Aiken Branch held its first meeting on March 25, 1953. Twenty women representing 18 universities attended that inaugural gathering. Today, the Aiken Branch has approximately 50 members, including one man.

“Our branch is a leader in South Carolina in contributing to the national AAUW Educational Foundation,” Ebel said. “We have a scholarship at USC

Aiken, and we give money to Aiken Technical College. We also give money to organizations in Aiken that promote women and are important in education.”

“We’ve been so busy doing other things that we didn't have time to stop and celebrate until now,” Ebel said.

AAUW of SC president, Ann Terry, attended the celebration and shared a letter of congratulations from national president Patricia Fae Ho.

Charleston Activities planned

Our programs for the fall include a luncheon with Dr. Jocelyn Evans, Chair of the Finance Department at College of Charleston, speaking to us about *Women in Business and the Changing Demographics at the College*. and a dinner meeting in Mt. Pleasant featuring Mr. Ashley Pennington speaking about How Women are Protected in Charleston County Detention, and an AAUW Funds Holiday Dinner featuring Nathalie Dupree, a chef, cookbook author and Food Network Star.

Members **Joanne Simson** and **Penny Travis** have recently published books and will be at the Spring SC AAUW meeting with their books available to purchase. Dr. Simson's book is about her years in Korea teaching United States Army personnel and Ms. Travis's book is about her time in Afghanistan.

Charleston AAUW co-presidents **Pat Wolman** (right) and **Melinda Hamilton** (center) present a named gift to AAUW Funds in honor of Dr. **Carol Tempel**, who ran for the SC House. Dr. Tempel is branch treasurer and served on the AAUW of SC Board last year.



**More branch stories on next page –
Don't see your branch's information – then be
sure your branch president sends it in next time,**

WEBSITE - AAUW-SC.net

Please check out your state website. We have updated contact information for the branches but need the individual branches to send us the information about your programs and any special events for the year. It's easy - send the information to **Pat Batten** at pbatten@aol.com and she will forward it to our webmaster for posting. If you have special scholarships to offer we can highlight them on the front page. The website is updated on a regular basis with national events. We just need your input!!

AAUW of Hilton Head develops new summer program for middle school girls

For more than 15 years, the Hilton Head Branch has awarded scholarships to adult women students attending local colleges. The scholarships have been supported through various fundraising activities, such as a spring fashion show and luncheon. This past year, in order to make donations tax deductible, the Branch established the AAUW-Hilton Head Scholarship Fund for Women and Girls as a 501(c)(3) component fund of the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry.

Inspired by AAUW's mission of supporting education and equity for women and girls, two of our Branch officers, **Donna Bafundo**, Funds Chair and **Cynthia Smith**, Scholarship Committee Chair, proposed that we broaden our outreach to include young girls as well as adult women students. They envisioned a summer educational enrichment program for middle school girls, to be funded by the Hilton Head Branch. The Branch's Board strongly supported the concept, but quickly realized that we would need a partnership with other community organizations to make the concept a reality.

Our first step was to seek out an organization that could help us identify an appropriate group of middle school girls to benefit from the summer program. We turned to the Hilton Head Island Boys and Girls Club, which offers summer and after school programs for approximately 600 children aged 5-18. The great majority of these children qualify for the school lunch program. With the support of Director Kim Likins, the Boys and Girls Club selected a group of 14 middle school girls aged 11-13 who they felt would benefit from a science-infused educational program. The Club viewed participation in the summer program as a reward for the girls' active participation and adherence to Club core values.

Our next step was to enlist the partnership of two local cultural institutions, the Coastal Discovery Museum and the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina. These two organizations have strong resources in education and community outreach, and were well positioned to provide a unique educational experience for our group of girls. The result was a week-long program, "The Art and Science of Lowcountry Nature," that



offered hands-on experience in art, science and local ecology for the participating girls.

The girls spent the mornings exploring the beach and salt marsh environments of the island under the tutelage of staff from the Coastal Discovery Museum. In the afternoons they carried their experiences into the world of the arts. The Art Director at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina taught the students to use the visual arts to interpret and express their new knowledge of the environment.

Each of the girls created a "lowcountry field journal" to record their experiences throughout the week.

Donna Bafundo, Cynthia Smith and **Pat Batten** of our Branch accompanied the girls throughout the week, joining in on all their activities. It's a toss-up who had more fun—the young girls or the "old girls!" A staff member of the Boys and Girls Club drove the girls to each session in the Club's small bus and provided an additional chaperone, thus resolving potential issues of parental consent and liability.

The program ended on Friday with a display of the girls' art work and a "graduation" ceremony attended by parents and representatives of the four cooperating organizations. Each girl received a personalized certificate of completion and a T-shirt that proclaimed "Girls Are Awesome" with the new AAUW logo incorporated in the design. The smiles and pride displayed by this group of youngsters were so heart-warming that all of our partner organizations have committed to repeating the program next summer, funds permitting.

The summer program cost approximately \$1,000 to reimburse the three partner organizations for their staff time and resources. AAUW-Hilton Head raises money to support its scholarship programs through various fundraising events. The next event, planned for October 6, 2013, is titled "Old Friends, New Bags; New Friends, Old Bags." It will feature a live and silent auction of designer, vintage, new and gently-used bags of all types, plus refreshments and a speaker and the proceeds will benefit the scholarships for adult women as well as next summer's program for girls.

For more information, please contact: **Lois Schuhrke**, AAUW President, schuhrke@hargray.com (843)681-4062) or **Donna Bafundo**, AAUW Funds Chair, dbafundo@hargray.com (843) 342-7572.

Lobbyist Advocacy Training State Tour: AAUW of SC partners with LWV, SC ACLU and SC Equality

We are excited to announce our partnership with three great organizations here in South Carolina – the League of Women Voters of South Carolina, the SC ACLU, and SC Equality on an exciting new program! Together, we invite you to join us.

Citizen Lobbyist Advocacy Training State Tour

Learn how to effectively get your message across to elected officials about ALL the issues that matter to you.

Hear first-hand from state representatives about the importance of getting involved in the legislative process in South Carolina and the *real* impact you can have in state policy making.

Stop 1: Columbia

November 9th

10am-3pm

The USC School of Law, 701 Main St, 29208, Rm. 231, Columbia, SC

Stop 2: Greenville

November 16th

10am-3pm

The Greenville County Hughes Main Library
25 Heritage Green Place, Greenville, SC

Stop 3: Charleston

12pm-5pm

December 7th

Charleston YWCA

106 Coming St., Downtown Charleston

The trainings are free and a light lunch will be provided.

Spaces are limited, reserve your spot today!

Visit <http://bit.ly/scadvocacytour> to register for the training closest to you.

Don't forget to invite your friends by forwarding them this information!

Advocacy is at the heart of AAUW actions and activities ***by Ellie Setser (Charleston), AAUW of SC Advocacy Committee Chair***

The South Carolina Legislature will be in session again in January of 2014. South Carolina has a wonderful website that you can access at www.sc.gov. The site has a wealth of information about all kinds of things going on in our state, including recreation opportunities, government programs, laws, where to get a driver's license, etc.

If you want to track legislation you click on the government section and you will be able to access a directory and go to [legislature](#). You will need to establish a user ID and a password to look up legislation, but even without that you can view calendars and find out contact information for your senator or representative. They can now be reached by e-mail.

There are a number of ongoing issues that we support through our public policy. You may want to review those by obtaining copies of the Public Policy Program Brochure. The policies were adopted at the National Convention in June of this year. Each member should have a copy or you can read the policies at www.aauw.org. The AAUW main phone number 202-785-7793 will also get you in touch with someone who can mail you some brochures for your branch.

AAUW supports a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity and diversity. SC Legislators

continue to introduce legislation to put tax dollars into private schools while cutting funding for public schools.

AAUW promotes self-sufficiency for all women and advocates pay equity and equal access to employment advancement.

We are very supportive of voting rights and in SC have worked to oppose voter ID laws.

We support choice in reproductive life and hope to work with Planned Parenthood to increase awareness of the efforts to limit women's ability to control their own reproductive lives.

SC AAUW strongly supports ethics legislation which did not pass last year. We expect that legislation to be reintroduced this year. Ethics reform would help to break the habit of appointing political cronies to boards and commissions controlled by the legislature

We will again be participating in **Legislative Advocacy Day on February 18, 2014**. Please plan to attend that program we sponsor jointly with the United Methodist Women.

Membership Matters

by Jan Haldeman (Due West), AAUW of SC Member Services Chair (haldeman@erskine.edu)

The AAUW Membership Committee's e-newsletter, "Membership Matters," is a great source of materials for branches. The newsletter tells how to access online links packed with information.

The first link is a reader friendly site that answers the question "What is AAUW?" Most of us have had to answer that question a number of times, but may still need some help! So just go to <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/> for a readable, concise and complete answer with many additional links. If you prefer to have a hard copy that first link, a two page handout can be fashioned by copying and pasting into a document and reducing font size to fit 8 ½ by 11 paper to use as a handout. Contact me and I will be happy to forward email it as a document or print and send a hard copy.

Second, information about Leader Essentials materials sent to each Branch President and Membership VP is provided. Brochures for General Membership, College/University Membership and Student e-membership were included. The General Membership brochure includes applications for National and Branch Membership. Just fill in Branch information for prospective and new members.

If you have a connection or contact with any SC College or University that is not a corporate member, provide that school with information and copies of the C/U brochure, and encourage them to be added to our C/U partners, which presently include the following schools: **Benedict, Clemson, Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, Columbia College, Erskine College, Limestone College, Medical University of SC, The Citadel, University of SC, and Winthrop University.** These eleven represent only about twenty percent of South Carolina schools that are eligible for AAUW corporate membership. We should shoot for one hundred percent!

The Student Membership brochure describes benefits of AAUW for undergraduate and graduate students. But there's a big bonus for students of C/U partner schools. These students are eligible for free e-membership and a year's free full membership upon graduation. Register at: https://svc.aauw.org/RECore/wMembership/join_esaf_member.asp

Undergraduates from eligible schools that are non C/U partners can join for \$17.00.

Let's encourage undergraduate students to take advantage of AAUW's leadership opportunities. Young women of promise as members will assure AAUW's future. If needed,



more hard copies of brochures can be ordered from AAUW. These are also on line as PDF files that can be downloaded. Just Google "AAUW Membership Brochure" and select them from the list.

Third, the newsletter provided contact information for AAUW leaders and members. Again, when you Google "AAUW Leadership Directory," it is at the top of their list and you just click on it! And be sure to use the Membership Services Database (MSD). The following is quoted from that site, telling how it works:

"Individual Members can use the MSD to update their member record and contact information (except name changes) contact connect@aauw.org , make a contribution and track their membership and giving history for tax purposes. Additionally, branch members can view their branch member roster and leader contacts.

Branch and State leaders have the same rights as individual members, plus they can maintain branch membership records, including updating contact information for members, submitting dues and contributions, and accessing the national membership list for recruitment efforts! The chart below shows the additional rights available to all members and select branch and state leaders."

Finally, "Membership Matters" encourages us to contact the National Membership Committee for help, on line or in person, at: to 800.326.2289, Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. AAUW's website has been improved considerably in recent times. It is attractive and easier to navigate! So visit www.AAUW.org often and take advantage of its resources.



Reminder: AAUW Funds due by December 31

Each year, branches work hard to generate support for the various AAUW Funds programs all of which help to carry forward AAUW's mission at the branch and national level.

This year's donations are due in Washington by December 31. This is the deadline to have donations count for this calendar year.

Thanks to the branches that designated contributions to the *Betty Bayless Research and Projects Grant* last year. **Branches are encouraged to designate this year's funds to the Bayless Endowment**, thereby ensuring that it will be fully funded soon. We are about \$30,000 from completing the endowment.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact **Mildred Finch** (AAUW Funds Chair) at mildredf@charter.net or 864-542-8959.

Consider a Lifetime Gift to AAUW

Have you considered making a legacy gift to AAUW? Your gift will help ensure that the work of AAUW continues long into the future. By providing for AAUW in your estate plans, you can become part of the distinguished **AAUW Legacy Circle**.

Legacy Circle members from SC include **Faye Edwards** (Gaffney), **Mildred Finch** (Gaffney), **Trish Johnson** (Rock Hill), **Betsy Moseley** (Greenville), **Ann Terry** (Rock Hill) and the late **Barbara Moxon** (Greater Columbia).

The simplest form of a legacy gift is a bequest, or a gift left to a charity in your will. Bequests often can allow donors to make a sizable gift to a charity that may not have been possible during their lifetime. In a simple bequest, the donor gives a stated amount to a non-profit group without attaching any conditions.

You can also name AAUW as the beneficiary of your life insurance, bank account, stock account, or retirement plan.

Branch Program Idea:

We're Mad about Unfair Pay, and We're Not Taking It Anymore!

Recently, America learned that women are still paid 23 cents less than men are — the same pay gap we were facing a decade ago.

Check out your state's rank in the 2012 census data. Use this information as a springboard to engage in conversation with friends, colleagues, and potential AAUW members. You can also use your social media outlets to share AAUW messaging on the issue of unequal pay.

Making connections through critical issues is a great recruitment and retention tool, helping us all build a community that empowers women and girls.

Be a membership ambassador: Engage new and potential members so that we create a



lasting AAUW legacy.

Your branch can continue the conversation by hosting a *Cocktails and Convos* event. Invite friends, community leaders, and anyone else interested in or affected by this issue. Not familiar with *Cocktails and Convos*? It's a social event where you can engage members and nonmembers alike on a topic of your choice.

Branch leaders should remember to offer half off national dues at public events using the *Shape the Future Campaign*. Remember, membership is everyone's business, so do your part by showcasing your local and national activities.

For more information, visit www.aauw.org, e-mail connect@aauw.org, or call 800.326.2289.

Are you a national AAUW member?

This newsletter has been sent to not only our branch members in South Carolina but also to all those who are National members of AAUW but not affiliated with a branch.

We hope that National members will consider linking with a branch in their area. We have branches in **Aiken, Beaufort, Charleston, Denmark, Due West, Gaffney, Greater Columbia, Greenville, Hilton Head, Newberry, and Rock Hill.**

Check the state website – www.AAUW-SC.net – to find the contact person in your area. Get connected with even more people who support AAUW’s mission.

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund [LAF] continues work

The U.S. Supreme Court released many important decisions in its most recent term, and two of those decisions will negatively affect the rights of Americans in the workplace. In *Vance v. Ball State University*, the court made it easier for employers to escape liability for discrimination and harassment in the workplace. The court limited the definition of “supervisor” to include only those employees with the power to take “tangible employment actions,” such as hiring or firing, against the complainant. This decision means workers will now have a much harder time proving workplace harassment and discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. AAUW opposes limits on a worker’s ability to seek remedies for harassment and discrimination, and we are working with Congress to address this issue through legislation.

This is just one of the stories that demonstrate LAF’s essential work. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to LAF to help balance the scales of justice for women.

Research inquiry

I am a professor at USC Aiken, doing research during my sabbatical on a project on women and politics. I am doing a case study on **Irene Rudnick**, a longtime AAUW member and former elected official.

If you can provide me with any information about her, her role in AAUW and her accomplishments, or any other feedback on her life and career, I will surely appreciate it!

Carol Botsch
 Professor of Political Science, USC Aiken
 Aiken, SC 29801
CarolB@usca.edu; 8036413227 (wk)

AAUW of SC Calendar

November 1	Deadline for Nominations to Nominating Committee
November 9	Board Conference Call, 9:30 am
December 15	Deadline for 2013-14 State Budget Requests
December 31	Deadline for Contributions to AAUW Funds for 2013 Count
January 19	Mass email regarding Advocacy Day details
January 25	Board conference call
February 1	Membership Count Deadline Palmetto Leaf deadline – annual meeting details
February 18	Legislative Advocacy Day , Columbia
March 1	Deadline for submission of Named Gift Honorees information
March 10	Deadline for nominations for NCCWSL scholarship
March 29	Annual meeting & program , Grecian Gardens, Columbia
April 8	Equal Pay Day 2014



AAUW of South Carolina

Palmetto Leaf Newsletter
 Ann S. Terry, editor, 4882 Stoneridge Road, Catawba, SC 29704

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