



Palmetto Leaf

AAUW of South Carolina Newsletter

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August 2009

AAUW national convention delegates take historic action

by Bev James, AAUW of SC President

Meet me in St. Louis! Ann Terry, Pat Batten, and Betsy Moseley *did* meet me in St. Louis for the 2009 AAUW Convention. Being with 973 dedicated, intelligent women and men was a fantastic experience.

The opening session began with a video message from **Valerie Jarrett**, the White House Senior Advisor bringing special greetings from President and Mrs. Obama.

After messages from AAUW's Executive Director, **Linda Hallman** and AAUW President **Ruth Sweetser**, **Lisa Maatz**, AAUW Public Policy Director, introduced **Lilly Ledbetter**.

What a delight Lilly was. She spoke about growing up in Alabama, working hard, raising a family and playing by the rules. "I held up my end of the bargain, but my employer, Goodyear, did not," she said. After 19 years at Goodyear, she found out that she had been underpaid for virtually her entire career. She filed suit with the EEOC and her case went all the way to the Supreme Court.

Most of us saw the photo of her in January 2009 as she stood in the East Room of the White House as President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. She went on to say our work is not done and AAUW is leading the charge on the *Paycheck Fairness Act*, which has passed in the House but not yet in the Senate.

Lilly graciously signed newspapers, schedules or whatever to help raise funds for the Legal Advocacy Fund. It is interesting to note Lilly could not be a member of AAUW with the current membership requirements.

Saturday began with a rousing and motivational speech by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT). She spoke about



SC Delegation: (from left) Betsy Moseley, Pat Batten, Ann Terry, Bev James

the power of constituent advocacy noting

that members of Congress think about their chances for reelection whenever they hear from their constituents.

After the elections on Saturday – **Carolyn Garfein** elected President and **Gail Nordmoe** elected Vice-President plus the election of seven directors-at-large – the delegates forged through a three hour business meeting eventually adopting the bylaws which went into effect on July 1, 2009. The delegates voted to insert a passage from the 2007 Association Bylaws that extends membership to individuals based on their educational degrees.

Motions were also passed to increase the number of directors-at-large from seven to ten while the number of appointed officers and directors will drop from six to three. This amended board composition will go into effect for the 2011-2013 biennium. The delegates also passed the "one member, one vote" proposal which provides every member the right and opportunity to have a personal voice in directing AAUW's future.

Rep. Jackie Speier (CA) delivered a message of determination in the face of adversity at the AAUW National Convention Banquet on Saturday night.

During the evening, South Carolina was recognized for **Second Place** in *State Per Capita Giving* to the Educational Foundation and **Fifth Place** in *State Per Capita Giving in Combined Support*.

The message of the convention seemed to be our work is not over. What we do is significant and powerful. Rep. Rosa DeLauro quoted her mother at the close of her speech: "Come on girls; let's make ourselves heard!"



Breaking through Barriers

Flexibility and streamlining comes to AAUW

by Bev James, AAUW of SC President



As we start 2009-2010, the many changes in AAUW give us more flexibility in our branch and state organization. The bylaws adopted at the 2009 AAUW Convention allow for changes in branch organization and the state and regional structure.

The key to these changes is flexibility. For the branch organization, the Association only requires a contact person and finance officer. No longer are branches required to maintain a certain membership number or to have specific officers. This allows for a great deal of flexibility for individual branches which is particularly important in small states like South Carolina. A few branches in South Carolina have already been working successfully with a committee organization.

The AAUW organization has been streamlined to only one board and the regional structure has been eliminated. We are free to do away with our state organization, coordinate our branches with border states or leave things as they are. Once again the key is flexibility to organize the way that works for us.

At our state convention in April, members expressed concern about the possible adoption of open membership. This is one section of the proposed bylaws changed by the delegates back to the wording of the 2007 bylaws. This will certainly be revisited in 2011 at the convention in Washington, DC when the "one person, one vote" will be in effect.

Has your branch taken advantage of the Membership Pilot Program? All your treasurer needs to do is register for the program on the AAUW website and then members may pay their dues by credit card on line. Very easy and efficient! Members may still pay their dues directly to the branch treasurer, but the Membership Pilot Program affords an opportunity for those wanting to pay by credit card. Remember that \$46 of the National dues is now tax-deductible.

As women of this world, we have important work to break through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance. AAUW provides the organization that makes this possible. Let's take advantage of our new flexibility to achieve even more in our communities, to encourage community members to join, and to be the agent for improving the lives of the women and girls in our community.

Bev

AAUW Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

AAUW Value Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Clemson student represents AAUW of SC at National student leadership conference

Lindsay Hook, daughter of Steve and Linda Hook of Aiken, recently attended the AAUW co-sponsored National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. The conference took place on the University of Maryland's campus in College Park from June 4-6.

Lindsay is a Nursing major at Clemson University where she will be a senior this fall. Lindsay has volunteered for the AAUW Aiken Branch where her mother is an active member.

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders focuses on contemporary leadership issues and provides women with an opportunity to hone leadership skills for work on campuses and in local communities. The conference featured fascinating key note speakers from diverse backgrounds, over 50

dynamic workshops, networking opportunities, and the 2009 Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony.



Lindsay Hook

In response to the conference, Lindsay remarked, "After leaving the conference, I am not only enlightened, but empowered to the changes I can help bring about in my lifetime. As Melissa Poe Hood, one of the 2009 Women of Distinction put it, 'There is no greater obstacle in our journey than ourselves.' Realizing the capabilities I possess is the first step to taking action. I would encourage all young women to attend this conference to understand the support and possibilities that are available to them."

AAUW accepts applications for 2010–11 Academic Year *Scholars Encouraged to Apply for Funding for Graduate-Level Work*

AAUW, a leader in advancing education for women for 128 years, invites aspiring scholars to apply for a new round of fellowships and grants for the 2010–11 academic year. An exciting new initiative added to this year's program is the launch of the AAUW Branch and State Local Scholarship Clearinghouse — a pilot program promoting scholarship opportunities offered by AAUW at the local level.

The online applications for AAUW's national funding programs are available on AAUW's website, www.aauw.org.

This funding helps women from the United States and abroad expand their professional opportunities, enter high-paying fields, change careers, or re-enter the workplace.

Grants are also available for projects promoting education and equity, particularly in science, technology, engineering, and math.

AAUW has awarded more than 10,000 fellowships and grants since 1888. Distinguished recipients include Marie Curie and the prominent psychologist Joyce Brothers.

Consider applying for AAUW Leadership Corps

The Leadership Corps is a new member involvement opportunity being created to support AAUW's grassroots. It is based in community-organizing principles and tactics and will provide a corps of trained member leaders, serving as grassroots liaisons to help us identify and address current needs, encourage branch leadership development, foster effective multi-way communication, increase sharing of resources and strategies, and assist membership growth.

Any AAUW member with a passion for the mission, a vision for AAUW's future, and a talent for seeing and inspiring leadership in others will want to be a part of the

Leadership Corps. The Leadership Corps presents an opportunity for AAUW members to apply their insights and skills to assisting branch development, encouraging membership growth, and nurturing leadership to advance AAUW's mission and future. Leadership Corps grassroots liaisons will receive training in identifying and mentoring leadership talent in others, membership recruitment, effective communications strategies, and other community/relational organizing skills.

Check out the application on the AAUW website.

Support new endowment honoring Betty Bayless

by Trish Johnson, EF and LAF Chair

AAUW of South Carolina voted at the Spring Convention in Aiken to establish the *Betty Bayless Research and Projects Grant* for \$75,000.

In order for the endowment to begin, we must raise the first \$5000 to initiate the grant and must complete it in ten years. We have already raised \$2000 and will need your help to raise the rest.



South Carolina has a reputation for its philanthropic nature. We are well known for completing our named endowments years ahead of schedule. Betty was well known not only in South Carolina but nationally for her work with Public Policy, National Board service and President of the Canadian Association before we lost her in June 2007.

Please help us continue with SC and Betty's tradition of support of AAUW's mission and work by writing a tax-deductible check payable to *AAUW* for whatever amount you are comfortable giving and mail to me at 745 Tyson's Forest Dr., Rock Hill, SC 29732. We must hold all funds until the \$5,000 is raised, so your check may not be cashed right away. Donations to start this endowment are due directly to me **by October 15**.

At the AAUW Convention, South Carolina was recognized for **Second Place** in *State Per Capita Giving* to the Educational Foundation and **Fifth Place** in *State Per Capita Giving in Combined Support of all AAUW entities*.

The *Power of the Purse* was in full swing at the Spring Convention. We raised \$309.00 for the Educational Foundation with the auction and over \$60 from the sale of books and jewelry for the Legal Advocacy Fund. Thanks to all who contributed books, jewelry and auction items, those who opened their purses and to Bev James for being our auctioneer.

Fundraising Totals to date by Branch

Beaufort	\$1,091.00
Greater Columbia	\$ 30.00
Greenville	\$ 130.00
Rock Hill	\$ 725.00
Hilton Head	\$ <u>520.00</u>
Total	\$2,496.00

These totals do not include contributions made at the Spring Convention and do not apply to the Betty Bayless Endowment.

Please consider being part of the state Leadership team

While it sounds like somewhere off in the distant future, it actually is time to start working on the slate of officers for 2010-2012. Candidates are being sought for the positions of: **Secretary** and **Program Vice President**. There were no candidates for **Treasurer** this year, so a permanent treasurer also is still needed.

Each branch is requested to please forward the names of potential candidates for the above offices to the Nominating Committee. You are encouraged to nominate yourself if you are interested in service at the state level.

In addition, each branch should submit the name of one (1) candidate to serve on the **2010-2011 Nominating Committee**. Along with the election of officers, three

members of the Nominating Committee will be elected by the delegates, and two will be appointed by the Board of Directors at the 2009 Spring Convention.

Members of Nominating Committee are **Bea Peyser** (Aiken), **Lynn Shore** (Greenville), **Becky Bailey** (Greater Columbia) and **Kathy Carter** (Hilton Head).

Please forward, **by November 1, 2009**, the names of the potential candidates to: Beverly James, 16 N. Live Oak Road, Hilton Head, SC 29928.

Please do your part to help with this important part of the success of AAUW of SC. Leadership activities are done as a team and others are always available for mentoring and help along the way. No one is in it alone.

What is your AAUW story to share with others?

by Pat Batten, AAUW of SC President-elect and outgoing Membership Vice President

Membership has been the “hot” topic this year as we just voted at our Association convention about the membership qualifications.

It’s an excellent opportunity for us to reflect upon why we are members and why we continue to pay our dues and encourage others to join us.

Bev James (our state president) and I attended this recent convention with several others from our state and approximately 900 other members. It was at times contentious but no group I belong to handles its controversies as well as we do. We talked it through and as a group, the majority voted to continue under the membership qualifications of 2007.

For me, the convention had a personal side. Beginning the first day at the hotel when I heard a voice say my name and saw Ann Terry just arriving, it was a time to see old and new friends. The first day of convention, I got in line at Starbucks and in front of me was an old friend from my first branch in New Jersey. Ann Taylor, the current state president for Louisiana, and I caught up on children and activities since she moved from New Jersey more than 20 years ago. She reminded me that I had gotten her into AAUW all those years ago. I felt good that she was still a member and an active one! Then, I connected with several friends from New Jersey, including their current state president, Ginny Lyttle. We had all been members together of that same branch in Morristown. The sad news is that my first branch is no more but on the positive note, these members are all still active and continuing with their work in AAUW.

But it didn’t stop there! I was walking by the exhibits and Lilly Ledbetter was signing autographs. I heard my name again and saw another friend from my second branch. Joan Odud and I caught up on children and retirement news while standing in line (I got an autograph too). My first day of convention was still not over when I heard a familiar voice, Giselle Denton, from my new branch on Hilton Head who was also in St. Louis but not as a S. C. representative but from her other branch in Colorado. We arranged to meet for a drink that evening.

There were a few other familiar faces and of course, our own delegation from South Carolina. It brought home to me why I still am a member after 25+ years. I feel like I belong with this group as I did when I walked into that first meeting and met some of these women and the others through the years.

Let’s all think about our “story” and why we joined and continue in our membership. Our passions as AAUW members for education and equity have been in the forefront of societal change for more than 125 years. I’d like to see a lot of new faces at our state convention in Beaufort on May 1st and even more familiar faces at the next convention in Washington in 2 years.

This is my last article as Membership Vice President. Our new Membership Vice President., **Juanita Mendenhall**, will be taking over and you will learn more from her in upcoming articles.

Convention videos available for viewing on website

Get a taste of the dynamic speakers who spoke at the AAUW convention in June. Complete videos of the presentations can be found on the AAUW website under “Convention Highlights.”

Among the videos are

- **Breaking through Barriers** – AAUW’s new promotional video features thought-provoking stats on women and girls and personal reflections by individuals on the moment they knew that there were still barriers to break.
- Valerie Jarrett, senior advisor and assistant to President Obama for intergovernmental affairs and public liaison, congratulates AAUW on our successful convention and work to advance equity for women and girls.
- AAUW’s Lisa Maatz introduces **Lilly Ledbetter**, the face of pay equity, at the 2009 AAUW National Convention in St. Louis. Ledbetter talks about her fight to end wage discrimination.
- **State of AAUW** – AAUW past President Ruth Z. Sweetser and past Educational Foundation President Barbara L. O’Connor report on the state of AAUW.
- **Rep. Jackie Speier**, (D-CA) who is a member of AAUW, addresses the banquet event.
- **Salary Negotiation Workshop** – this workshop, featuring Lilly Ledbetter, focuses on salary negotiation and the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Use the Fall to contact & meet with your legislators

by Ellie Setser, AAUW of SC Public Policy Chair

The Fall is an excellent time to make contact with the State Legislators from your District.

If possible schedule an appointment to meet with him or her. You may want to take a copy of the current AAUW Legislative Program brochure available from the Association with you as a talking paper. It is wise to be specific about any matters of interest to your branch.

Then the legislator will recognize you when you visit on Legislative Day which is scheduled for February 23, 2010 in Columbia. Make plans now to attend as the program arranged by Jean Norman is always exciting and informative and there will be time for lobbying at the State House.

You may want to check often with the General Assembly web site www.scstatehouse.gov for information on how to

contact legislators and about issues and bills of current interest.

The SC General Assembly is very involved in local education policy and often is able to usurp what in most places is a local matter. A good branch program could be centered on how your school board is elected or selected and what powers are held by that body and by the legislative delegation. You may be surprised at what you find in your county.

You may have noticed that the Equal Rights Amendment has been reintroduced in the U. S. Congress. It will be interesting to see how that effort proceeds these many years after the amendment failed to pass in the 70's. Sadly SC's position of having the fewest women in state government has not improved.

As always AAUW believes that *equity is still an issue.*

Biennial Public Policy Action Priorities

The following priorities for federal action by AAUW were adopted by the delegates at the recent national convention. These priorities will stand for 2009-2011.

Biennial priorities for federal action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, strong member support, and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution or leadership.

To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity, AAUW advocates

- Adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education
- Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education, including vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education
- Increased support for and access to higher education for women and disadvantaged populations
- Increased support for programs that break through barriers for women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields

To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW advocates

- Pay equity and fairness in compensation
- Equitable access and advancement in employment, including vigorous enforcement of employment antidiscrimination statutes

- Greater availability of and access to benefits and policies that promote work-life balance
- Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the workforce, including nontraditional occupations and women's entrepreneurship
- Strengthening programs, including welfare and vocational education, to improve postsecondary education access, career development, and earning potential
- Strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pension improvements and protecting Social Security from privatization

To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society, AAUW advocates

- Vigorous protection of and full access to civil and constitutional rights
- Choice in the determination of one's reproductive life
- Freedom from violence and fear of violence in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities
- Increased access to quality, affordable health care and family planning services, including expansion of patients' rights
- Support for U.N. programs that address human rights and women's and girls' concerns
- Freedom in definition of family and guarantee of civil rights in all family structures.

Make plans for branch programs that stimulate & inform

by Carol Lucas, AAUW of SC Program Vice President

Summer is a time to play, to relax, and, in some respects, to plan for the upcoming fall season. While the months of June, July, and August are often considered “downtime” for AAUW members, for those who have taken on the job of program chair for their local branch, early planning is a highly recommended approach to the task.

I discovered the validity of that suggestion the first year I assumed the position for the Beaufort Branch. Although many branches still plan programs for the entire year, some branches have much more flexible planning – giving them the chance to react to current issues or community conditions.

Whatever method works in your branch you want to offer speakers and programs that provide meaningful presentations and meet the criteria of AAUW’s mission.

Fortunately Beaufort is a pretty large pool from which to draw so it wasn’t that I was unable to schedule outstanding speakers. Rather it was a case of being first in line to nail down a time with these people, because they are much sought after. On a couple occasions I found myself going hat-in-hand, with an extra dose of humility, as I sought presenters for programs.

This year I am leaving the position of local program chair to assume the co-presidency of our branch, hopefully with the above lesson securely tucked away. One of the benefits of being program chair is connecting with people in the community whom you might not otherwise meet, and I will miss that. We are fortunate, however, to have recruited two young women as co-chairs. Their insight as to what may attract additional members is invaluable. Already these two have emailed ideas they have for upcoming programs, and I am both heartened and impressed by their early efforts.

As I move on to my new position, I share some program suggestions garnered from my experience in our branch.

- Ask your membership what they would like to see as programs. Pick their brains because they have, in all probability, some wonderful connections.

- Go to members of other non-profits and ask about their popular speakers.
- Don’t disregard male speakers...a couple of our best speakers were male and provided very interesting programs.
- Don’t be afraid to go to the top of the mountain to recruit speakers. Beaufort chose to enter the arena reflected in the documentary, *Corridor of Shame (COS)*. We showed the documentary, created a project, and made it ours. Because of this involvement, Bud Ferillo, producer and director of *COS*, was willing to speak to our group and the community-at-large regarding the follow-up project *Goodbye Minimally Adequate Education*. Don’t hesitate to ask people you think might be too far removed from the local scene. Remember, they also need a venue, and what better one than AAUW?
- If your branch is in a university town or close to one, check out their speakers’ bureau.
- If your branch is focusing upon a particular project, consider a panel presentation that addresses the many aspects of that project.
- Sometimes you need to think outside the box and address the needs of your membership by providing a “warm fuzzy” rather than a lesson or a call to action. Offering a variety of programs and projects provides the opportunity for more members to be involved.

As Beaufort Branch plans to host the spring conference, the state program chair in me begins to stir, and my sense of *advance* planning kicks in. We are striving to prepare a great program for AAUW of SC, and I look forward to seeing all of you when you come to visit the Low country in April.

Program in a Box – check it out at www.aauw.org



AAUW has created new online resource called *Program in a Box* to help members consider and choose program activities for their branches. Each Program in a Box outlines an activity that could be chosen for your branch, with the "what, why, and how" to implement that program.

Each Program in a Box has hyperlinks to downloadable resources that provide wider programming options.

New Programs in a Box will be added on an ongoing basis, with the focus on posting new and time-sensitive

programs first. Programs included will reflect a wide range of AAUW activities: education, advocacy, communications, membership, fundraising, LAF, etc. An effort will be made to prioritize posting of programming ideas that help us keep our Value Promise:

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Please check regularly for new postings. Send recommendations for additional *Programs in a Box* to: programinbox@aauw.org

Membership Pilot Program is easy option for all branches – help your treasurer by signing up

The Membership Pilot Program is a voluntary pilot program that assists members and branches with dues payment, collection, and processing.

This program was developed in response to requests from branch leaders who wanted computer-based options to help branches and individual members monitor member status and manage the membership dues collection and distribution process. Most nonprofit organizations already manage membership online, and we are working to optimize the technology for branches that want to use these tools.

Participation in the MPP is entirely voluntary. Branches may continue to collect and pay dues in the traditional way or they may participate in the MPP. Either way, transactions may be conducted by mail or electronically.

What makes the MPP different? This optional pilot program offers branches and states the benefit of tracking the status of branch members online 24/7. It provides transparent, real-time, up-to-date membership dues payment, collection, and tracking information specifically tailored to AAUW branch/state year-round needs; i.e., payments, member count summary, payments remitted to branch/state, current branch rosters, individual invoicing capability, and electronic payment confirmations. If members of participating branches pay all their dues (branch, state, and national) online, then, immediately, they (and their designated branch finance officers) will receive electronic payment confirmation and will be able to see their dues payment and current membership status in their individual member profiles.

So far, only the **Rock Hill Branch** in SC has signed up for the program. Why not make your treasurer's job a whole lot easier and sign up your branch for this exciting, new and very easy program?

AAUW of SC Calendar

November 1, 2009

Deadline for nominations for 2010-2012

December 1, 2009

Deadline for 2010-2011 budget requests

January 6, 2010

Deadline for Legislative Day issue of *Palmetto Leaf*

January 2010

Finance Committee meeting

February 23, 2010

AAUW Legislative Day, Columbia

March 1, 2010

Deadline for Spring Convention issue of *Palmetto Leaf*

April 30-May 1, 2009

Spring Convention, Beaufort – *AAUW and SC Educators – Working Together for Change*

June 1, 2010

Branch Officer forms completed and sent to national and state president

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