



# Palmetto Leaf

AAUW of South Carolina Newsletter

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August 2011

## The Teal Machine Storms Capitol Hill on Lobby Day and AAUW Holds First Popular Election for Leadership

by Pat Batten, AAUW of SC President

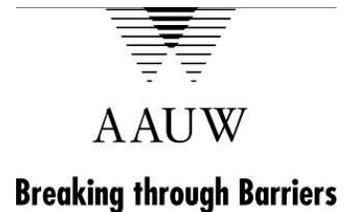
More than 700 convention goers joined the AAUW Action Fund Lobby Corps on June 17<sup>th</sup> to meet with senators and representatives. It was an impressive sight, walking around Capitol Hill spotting one teal-dressed woman (and a few men!) after another as we walked between the buildings.

Beginning on Thursday and again Friday morning, we were briefed on our topics. Three areas were chosen for our advocacy mission: Social Security protections, approval to buy federal land for a privately-funded Women's History Museum and sponsorship and passage of the Campus SaVE Act, an anti-sexual assault bill. While these may appear to be less controversial issues than some, it did not prove to be as easy for our South Carolina group. We did not meet with either senator or representative but did present a fact sheet on these issues to an aide. We will be watching to see how our congressional delegation follows through on these issues.

Our opening night gathering heard a panel of powerful women in the Obama administration. Moderated by our own Director of Public Policy, **Lisa Maatz**, we heard from **Tina Tichen**, chief of staff to First Lady Michelle Obama who also works as executive director of the White House council on Women and Girls. Ms. Tichen was joined by Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights **Russlynn Ali**, the Justice Department's **Jocelyn Samuels** and the Department of Labor's **Patricia Shiu**. We learned more about the effectiveness of *Title IX*, enforcement of civil rights laws as well as reproductive rights and efforts to protect against employment discrimination based on sexual orientation or pregnancy. What an impressive group!

Another highlight was hearing from one of the Wal-Mart plaintiffs. While the Supreme Court overturned their attempts to join as a class action suit immediately following convention, hearing their experiences and our Legal Advocacy Fund work on these cases highlights why we are AAUW members and our mission is *not done*.

Members were still voting when the polls closed that Friday evening. More than 10,000 ballots were cast, either by mail or internet. All of the bylaws and public policy amendments passed. The newly elected officers are listed on



the AAUW website. There will certainly be refinements to the voting process but it was a good beginning.

Now – it's on to New Orleans June 9-12, 2013 at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel.

### Comments from SC members attending convention

#### **Betsy Moseley, Greenville**

At an AAUW Convention many years ago, a speaker urged us to always stay focused, flexible and have fun. We followed this mantra at the 2011 convention by focusing on our mission, being flexible in our programming as we adapt to our current structure, and having fun as we reconnected with old friends and made new memories. The days were full with lobbying activities, wonderful speakers, motivational sessions, and good food. A good time was had by all.

#### **Judi Gustafson, Rock Hill**

Convention reinforced for me, again, that investing in AAUW provides more than any other organization in many ways. I would list only a few here:

- one can gain so much personally by participating with others in learning, lobbying, and celebrating;
- numerous resources are made available for those who want to pursue a variety of interests;
- the best venue for joining friends and making friends in the mission of AAUW is experienced at Convention, even though I am proud that every member can now vote even if not in attendance.

#### **Ann Terry, Rock Hill**

As a serious "business meeting junkie" I was worried that convention would not have anything to keep my attention. But I was seriously mistaken. The variety of speakers, programs, discussions and workshops exceeded anything I have experienced in the past. I was so impressed! And when you have a moment, I'd be happy to share what I gained from **Cynthia D'Amour**, author of *The Lazy Leader's Guide to Outrageous Results* – believe it or not, she has set me on the path of a new way to conduct meetings both in AAUW and in other organizations. Super presentations!

## Reflections on Convention & the year ahead

by Pat Batten, AAUW of SC President



After attending a convention, it takes a bit of time to come down from being surrounded by all of our members on a mission!

The incredible energy of our fellow members and staff make the time fly by – even when sitting in workshops and meetings.

There are usually too many choices and not enough time to do everything – and there’s even shopping right outside the workshop doors!

I have attended three conventions over the years and enjoy seeing old friends from other states who were in my first and second branches in New Jersey as well as making new contacts.

I met with other state presidents in a workshop on the first day of convention. All of us have challenges – most related to the difficulties in continuing to work towards our mission with a shrinking pool of dedicated volunteers serving on our boards. One state has come near the brink of disbanding but has, at least for now, been re-configured to move it forward. We, in South Carolina, are also at a crossroads. We need more participation at the state and branch levels. We have marvelous, dedicated leaders but we need to clone a few to keep our mission alive. I will be writing to you throughout the year and looking for your input to plan what South Carolina AAUW should look like in the coming years.

One new feature that I will be working on is a face book page. I’m a social network novice (or whatever is below “novice”) so I have enlisted the services of **Lori Glenn** from our Charleston branch to help. The association has a Social Media Committee who will help us get it going and Lori will help us keep it running. So – watch for more information about it.

As you know, we did not have a convention this year. As a result, the board appointed the following officers: **Juanita Mendenhall** to another term as Vice-President for Membership and **Bev James** will take over from Pat Hall as Treasurer. **Pat Hall** will be our new AAUW Funds chair. We still need someone to fill the position of College-University Liaison so if you’re interested, please contact me.

We voted in January to allocate funds to send a college student to NCCWSL (our association student leader conference). An excellent candidate, **Carly Ledbetter**, of Hilton Head was nominated by the Hilton Head Branch. She is a student at Elon College and was able to attend the conference. She had a wonderful experience and looks forward to sharing it with us at convention.

Our convention in 2012 will be on Hilton Head. We will be deciding the date after the publication of this issue so I will be advising all of the branches of the state’s calendar via e-mail in mid-August. When the dates are posted, mark your calendars. We’d like representation from all of our branches. **AND** – consider attending the convention in New Orleans in 2013. There is nothing like the experience.

### AAUW of SC 2011-2012 Leadership Team Members

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## **Pat Hall of Gaffney honored by AAUW of SC and state leads again in giving to further AAUW's mission!**

by Pat Batten, AAUW of SC President

Our *State Named Gift Honoree* for this year is **Pat Hall**. Pat is our out-going Treasurer and she served in that capacity for several terms. She will be remaining on the State Board as AAUW Funds Chair, a position she also holds in her own branch.

Pat has served as Gaffney Branch President, as well as Program Vice President, Treasurer and has been their Newsletter Editor simultaneously while holding these other positions! A fantastic multi-tasker! She is a well-deserved honoree.

Thank you for your continued support of AAUW's mission through your contributions to the AAUW Funds. For 2010, our branches raised **\$16,205.50!**



The top three branches are:  
**Aiken** (\$8,207.), **Rock Hill** (\$2,710.) and **Greenville** (\$1,522.).

At our June convention in Washington, **South Carolina** was again singled out for several awards:

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Among *Top Ten Educators of women in State Per Capita Giving to the Educational Opportunities Fund.*

4<sup>th</sup> Place – Among *Top Ten Fundraisers in State Per Capita Giving to the AAUW Action Fund.*

6<sup>th</sup> Place – Among *Top Ten Contributors to all of AAUW program areas in State Per Capital Giving in Combined Support.*

I do love collecting these certificates! Again – thank you!

## **Women's voices must continue to be heard – now more than ever – stay informed and speak up!**

by Ellie Setser, AAUW of SC Public Policy Chair

As we move into the fall season, our country is facing major difficulties that the Congress seems unable or unwilling to solve.

The essence of democracy is the ability to compromise and reach fair decisions. Extremists on both sides of political spectrum seem to have captured the attention of our legislators and hold them hostage to their narrow views.

Our country and our state are going to have to take some measures that will be hard on everyone and we should be sure that those measures do not adversely affect women and children and the poor.

Business and the wealthy have plenty of political clout to press issues, but most of us are left with only the power of our voices. ***Our voices can be powerful when we take the time to contact our national and state legislators.*** I urge all of you to do this and the AAUW website makes that very simple and not at all time-consuming.

State issues in which AAUW has been involved lately include the Voter Identification bill. The bill was passed despite the fact that no voter fraud has been reported and will of course cost tax dollars in a time of fiscal cuts. We are working with the League of Women Voters and other

organizations to oppose implementation of this bill. We also remain advocates for public education for all children.

We are currently deciding whether to expand our interest into the area of human trafficking which sadly has become an issue.

The legislature is not in session but now is a good time to get to know your representative and senator and to express your opinions.

On a national level AAUW is working on the ***Pay Check Fairness*** bill which almost passed this year. Women still make only 77 cents on the dollar compared to males long after the first pay equity bill passed in President Kennedy's term of office. Many young women seem completely oblivious to the pay inequities maybe because employers make it very difficult to compare wages. In the recent recession more men were laid off than women but women are finding it more difficult than men to find jobs as men are being hired back at a rate 50% faster than women.

With good programs addressing some of these public policy issues we can attract members to our organization and strengthen our voices.

## Membership Matters.....

by Juanita Mendenhall, Membership Vice President

In studying the AAUW official count of members in South Carolina, it is easy to see that we need a "SHOT IN THE ARM!"

Our health is not as good as it needs to be and certainly could be if we make the all important effort to build our branches so we have an energized and vibrant organization again!

Please consider what you personally can and will do to make growth happen for AAUW. This organization has so much to offer to individuals and communities and we can make a difference in critical causes.

**AAUW MEMBERSHIP DOES MATTER!**

### SC Branch Membership Counts February 1, 2001 Percentage of Change

<u>Branch</u>	<u>3-year rate of change</u>	<u>1-year rate of change</u>
Aiken	15.38	0.00
Beaufort	-15.91	32.14
Charleston	-52.94	14.29
Denmark	-13.33	30.00
Due West	0.00	-14.29
Gaffney	-26.32	-22.22
Greater Columbia	-51.28	-24.00
Greenville	-37.50	-24.24
Hilton Head	-34.94	-22.86
Newberry	-54.55	-28.57
Rock Hill	-14.81	-17.86
Summerville	-50.00	0.00

## In sympathy

Sympathy is extended to former state leader **Kathryn Sharp** on the recent death of her husband John.

## Annual Financial Report

AAUW of SC currently has a balance of **\$5,748.87** in the checking account at Wachovia Bank.

The organization also holds two CDs: (1) Palmetto Bank, value of **\$2,044.77** and invested until October 18, 2012 at a rate of 1.25%; and (2) Bank of America, value of **\$2,112.46** and invested until October 1, 2011 at a rate of 1.75%.

Total income from 4/1/2011 through 6/30/2011 was **\$310.00**.

Total expenses for this period were **\$1,729.52**. Net income for the period was **-\$1,419.52**.



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### AAUW of South Carolina

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