

## Women Make A Difference – convention focus

by Bev James, AAUW of SC President

YeeHa! Get ready for great food, fun and frivolity before we get down to business at the AAUW of SC Spring Convention, *Women Make a Difference*, to be held in Newberry on April 4-5.

Convention activities begin on Friday night in Newberry with a **wine, cheese and heavy hors d'oeuvres reception** hosted by the Newberry Branch at the Central United Methodist Church, 1005 College Street, site of the convention.

After the reception, we can walk to the **Newberry Opera House** to attend the performance of *A Carolina Jubilee* which features popular area musicians Doug and Bunny Williams, with special guests Dick Goodwin and Randy Elmore.

The convention speakers have been chosen with care. On Saturday morning, our dynamic keynote speaker, **Lila Meeks**, will entertain and inform us about how *Women Make a Difference*. The former Vice Chancellor for Advancement at the University of South Carolina Beaufort Campus, Ms Meeks has certainly made a difference in the lives of the students attending USC-Beaufort.

South Atlantic Regional Director **Carol Newnam** will update us on what is happening with the Association. She will inform us of the positive changes ahead for AAUW. Time will be available to ask Carol questions.

The first workshop will be conducted by **Dr. Wanda Staggers** and **Serita Acker** who successfully obtained an

*AAUW Educational Foundation Projects Grant* intended to assist middle school girls become interested in the fields of science, mathematics, engineering and technology. These dynamic women will introduce us to the grant process (the Ann Scott Terry Research and Projects Grant is an example of a grant soon to be available) and talk about their program called *It's a Girl Thing*.

The final workshop will assist us in brainstorming why people in our communities vote or don't vote, and facilitate the discovery of what we can do to **Get Out the Vote**. Members of the South Carolina League of Women Voters will conduct this discussion. In this election year, our involvement is crucial.

I strongly believe you get from AAUW what you give. Become involved on the local or state level, even if only in one area, and give meaning to your membership in AAUW.

I challenge you to become involved. Attend the convention. Learn how you can make a difference!

### Other information

*Lodging & Location - page 2*  
*Speakers' Profiles - page 2*  
*Business items - pages 3 & 7*  
*Registration form - page 4*



## *Women Make A Difference* AAUW of SC Convention April 4-5, 2008 1005 College Street, Newberry, SC

### Friday, April 4

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1:30-5:00 pm | Board Meeting                                |
| 4:00-6:00 pm | Registration                                 |
| 6:15-7:30 pm | Reception hosted by Newberry Branch          |
| 8:00 pm      | Newberry Opera House Performance – by ticket |

### Saturday, April 5

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 8:30-9:00 am   | Registration  |
| 9:00-9:10 am   | Welcome   |
| 9:10-10:00 am  | Keynote Address – <i>How Women Make A Difference</i> Lila Meeks       |
| 10:00-10:20 am | South Atlantic Regional Director Carol Newnam                         |
| 10:20-10:30 am | Health Break  |
| 10:30-11:30 pm | Business Meeting and Awards   |
| 11:30-12:00 pm | EF Auction  |
| 12:00-1:00 pm  | Lunch   |
| 1:00-2:00 pm   | Workshop – <i>It's A Girl Thing</i> Dr. Wanda Staggers & Serita Acker |
| 2:00-2:15pm    | Health Break  |
| 2:15-3:15pm    | Workshop – <i>Get Out the Vote</i> – League of Women Voters           |
| 3:15-4:00pm    | Town Hall   |
| 4:00pm         | Adjournment   |

## Convention Speakers' Profiles

### Keynote Speaker – Lila Nolen Meeks

Lila Nolen Meeks will draw on many years of past experience in *Making A Difference* to kick off the convention. Lila has addressed audiences both here and abroad and consistently received rave reviews. She is a dynamic speaker who finds humor and growth opportunities in everything she encounters.

Lila graduated summa cum laude from Auburn University, worked in the Kennedy White House and then returned to Auburn for graduate studies. When her two daughters were in school, she began teaching as an adjunct professor at USC-Beaufort. After receiving tenure and the rank of Associate Professor, she left the classroom to work in administration, where she served as the chief academic officer until assuming the position of Vice Chancellor for University Advancement in 2003. As the Vice Chancellor for Advancement, she set up the Office of Advancement, developed the University's web site and initiated the biannual newsletters.

Since her retirement from the University in 2005, she continues to teach and lecture on Southern literature at the University and in the community.

### Dr. Wanda Stagers

Dr. Wanda Talley Stagers is a graduate of University of Hartford and Clemson University, where she earned the Master of Industrial Education and Doctor of Vocational and Technical Education degrees. Her areas of concentration were computer science and engineering.

Wanda worked as a Systems Analyst for Clemson University for seven years, after which time she joined the faculty of Anderson College, now Anderson University, as an instructor in the Computer Science department. In 1994, Wanda felt her instruction would be most effective in the high school classroom where she could prepare students to be more successful in college.

Still today, her work continues to impact the public school classroom where she is employed by Anderson School District Five. She serves as an instructor in the Academy of Engineering and Dean of Manufacturing and Engineering. She avidly encourages young women to explore the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. She has conducted and assisted in several engineering camps for middle school girls. She currently works with middle schools girls during the school day to help them become better informed on their career options.

### Serita Acker

Serita is the director of Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) at Clemson University. WISE includes outreach programs for females from kindergarten through 12th grade as well as current undergraduate female students. During the summer months, Serita conducts workshops at various colleges and universities across the nation as an Educational Liaison for Clemson University's Wireless Communication center.

Under her leadership, countless girls who've had an interest in science or engineering have benefited from her energy and expertise.

(continued on page 3)



**AAUW of SC Convention**  
**April 4-5, 2008**  
**Central United Methodist Church**  
**Family Life Center**  
**1005 College Street., Newberry, SC**

### Lodging Information

Central United Methodist Church in Newberry is the location for the 2008 Spring Convention. The church is three blocks from the Opera House Hampton Inn in downtown Newberry, where a block of rooms has been reserved for AAUW for Friday and Saturday nights, April 4 and 5.

**Reservations must be made directly with the hotel by March 23.** Nightly cost for a double queen room is \$89 plus tax. Be sure to ask for the special AAUW rate. (Phone 803-276-6666 or 1-800-HAMPTON). Included is a deluxe continental breakfast.

Other Newberry motels are Days Inn, 803-276-2294 (I-26, exit 74); and Quality Inn, 803-276-1600 (Main and Wilson Road).

### Driving Directions

#### To the church:

From I-26 East or West, take Exit 76, Hwy 219, toward Newberry, straight approximately 4 miles into downtown. (219 becomes Main Street) Turn left on College Street at a light, and go one block. The church is on the right at the corner of College and Friend Streets. Parking is available in public lot across street. Entrance to Family Life Center is on College Street next to very small church parking lot.

If coming through Prosperity on Hwy 76, turn left onto Main Street at Rite Aid Drug Store and continue to College Street as above. If coming through Whitmire on Hwy 121, follow 121 (which becomes College Street) to downtown Newberry. Cross Main Street and continue for one more block as above.

#### To the Hampton Inn:

Follow directions to downtown Newberry. Stay on Main Street for two blocks beyond College Street. Hampton Inn will be on right across Nance Street.

## Convention Speakers' Profiles

(continued from page 2)

Serita's goals are to expose young females to career options in engineering and science and to demonstrate how engineering and science affects their everyday life.

The Women in Engineering Programs and Advocates Network, a national organization, honored WISE with the 2005 Women in Engineering Initiative Award for the program's success in attracting and retaining women to science-based majors. Serita was also recognized as the Clemson University's 2005 Outstanding Woman.

## Nominees for SC Officers

by Kathryn Sharp, Chair, Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for AAUW of SC officers for 2008-2010.

### Bev James (Hilton Head) Candidate for President

Bev currently serves as AAUW of SC President and is running for a second term in this office.

She graduated from Southern Illinois University with degrees in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. During her thirty years of teaching, she developed and implemented an all-day kindergarten program in Illinois, created an Early Childhood Curriculum for Beaufort County, helped establish one of the first Elementary International Baccalaureate programs in the United States, and was chairman of the Hilton Head Elementary Collaborative Council.

Bev has been actively involved in the Hilton Head Branch serving as Program Vice-President and President. She has also served as state Educational Foundation/Legal Advocacy Foundation Chair for the past two years.

She is active in several educational and philanthropic organizations on Hilton Head and a sales associate with the Carlisle Collection.

### Nominees for Secretary will be taken from the floor.

The Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for AAUW of SC 2008-2009 Nominating Committee members:

- Bernadette Houghton**, Aiken Branch
- Harriett Teasdale**, Rock Hill Branch
- Kathleen Boggs**, Hilton Head

## Budget to be voted on at Spring convention

by Mildred Finch, Chair, Finance Committee

Members will be asked to consider the adoption of the following budget for 2008-2009 during the business session of the annual convention.

AAUW SC Proposed Budget 2008-2009	
<b>INCOME</b>	
Dues (400 members @ \$10)	\$4,000
Conferences	7,700
Transfer from Assets	800
<b>Total income + transfers</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Branch Services	200
Conferences **	7,700
Conference of State Leaders – Reserves*	250
C/U Liaison	50
EF/LAF Chair	100
EF Chair Conference – Reserves*	125
Membership Vice Presidents	25
Other Chairs	25
<i>Palmetto Leaf</i>	1,650
President – Expenses	500
President – Printing Supplies	25
Program Vice President	25
Public Policy Brochures	50
Public Policy Chair	250
Travel – Delegates to AAUW Convention – Reserves*	750
Travel – Delegates to SAR Conference – Reserves*	250
Treasurer – Administrative	25
Treasurer – Audit & Bonding	100
Website	400
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>
<b>Explanations:</b>	
* Reserves are for conferences which are held every other year.	
** Conferences –	
Legislative Day (100@\$40)	= \$4,000
State Convention (40@80)	= \$3,200
Summer Workshop (25@\$20)	= \$ 500
Total	\$7,700

# Take an Interest in Preserving the Progress!

by Bev James, AAUW of SC President



In April 2005 AAUW approved the programmatic theme *Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security*. According to the AAUW website, this theme has particular relevance for AAUW as we reflect on and celebrate the tremendous progress of girls and young women in education over the past twenty years. This theme was influenced by the research and advocacy work of the AAUW.

In keeping with this, AAUW of SC has chosen *Women Make a Difference* as the theme for this year's convention. As educated women, we make a difference every day in the world of our family, friends, and business associates. Our ability to adapt, organize, and prioritize gives us a unique ability to make a difference in people's lives and to enact positive change.

All women have a responsibility to make this difference. At a book club meeting last week, one member brought up an excellent point. She said we are "keepers" of the younger

generation and our grandchildren. We have the ability to show them a different viewpoint, a less complicated world. We can make a big difference with these children by taking our responsibilities very seriously to educate them, teaching them what we feel is important and being there for them. In this complicated world of today, our interest in young people can make a tremendous difference.

Your help is needed to insure AAUW of South Carolina remains vital and strong. Think about becoming involved on the state level either as Public Policy Chair or Program Chair. Both of these jobs require you to forward information to branch counterparts and assist in planning. Board members work cooperatively, so these jobs are not time consuming.

Our Board, our Conference Planner Audrey Henry, and the Newberry Branch have worked diligently to provide a convention with reasonable registration fees and a program relevant to AAUW members. I strongly urge you to attend the convention with others from your branch. What a great girls' outing!

*Bev*

## AAUW of SC State Convention April 4-5, 2008 – Newberry, South Carolina

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Branch/Org. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Advance Registration must be postmarked by March 18, 2008.**  
*Saturday lunch cannot be guaranteed without advance registration*

<b>Registration for entire convention</b>	\$45.00	_____
<b>Registration for Friday only</b>	\$15.00	_____
<b>Registration for Saturday only</b>	\$35.00	_____
<b>Late Registration fee for any of the above</b>	\$10.00	_____
<b>Opera House Ticket for Friday evening</b>	\$15.00	_____

Registration fee for entire convention includes convention materials, Friday evening wine and cheese (plus more) reception; Saturday morning coffee, tea, fruit, and Danish; and Saturday lunch (chicken and rice pilaf, salad, vegetables, rolls, tea, and dessert).

Special diet needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this completed form and check payable to *AAUW of SC by March 18, 2008* to:  
 Audrey Henry, 1609 Circle Drive, Newberry, SC 29108. (803/276-6072; henryag@mindspring.com).

## Membership – Key to our Future

by Pat Batten, AAUW of SC Membership Vice President

As Membership VP, I always feel like the cheerleader in the group. Being positive by nature, I view life as the glass half-full.

The big word bandied about lately is *change*. Candidates are all talking about it and we've been using it at AAUW. The article in the recent AAUW *Outlook* talked seriously about us and where we are going – and where we've perhaps lost our way. I view this as a challenge to all of us to keep us moving forward.

I've been a member for over 25 years and continue to be impressed with the scholarship and work done at the Association level. Recently, I've become Public Policy Chair for my branch which means I am following our issues in Washington more closely than before. This has also caused me to talk to members in my branch about policy and listen to them.

I encourage everyone to talk with your branch members. We need to energize our membership and make ourselves a viable organization in our communities.

Look at the ways we can be visible so that we can increase our membership. We are not unique. I look around me at the organizations on Hilton Head that were begun years ago and whether it's the Audubon or the local hospital auxiliary, they all are looking for new members and leaders.

*Membership Matters* – that's the title of the newsletter which is sent to membership vice-presidents by our Association membership committee. In order to increase membership – and retain our current membership – we may need to change a few things that we do.

Let's look at our individual communities and see what will work to make us visible, viable and vital. I want to keep my glass half-full!

## State to honor Bayless' memory and salute fundraising efforts by branches

by Trish Johnson, AAUW of SC EF and LAF Chair

AAUW of SC will honor former Public Policy Chair the late Betty Bayless with a Named Gift Honor during this year's convention. Betty's husband Tom will be joining us for the recognition of Betty's special contributions to AAUW and to AAUW of SC.

Betty was the President of the Canadian Federation of University Women prior to moving to Beaufort in 1998. She immediately became involved with the Beaufort Branch and soon also was a member of the AAUW of SC Board.

Along with service to her branch and state, Betty also served at the Association level. She was an active member of the AAUW Public Policy Committee, was elected to the AAUW Board of Directors and served the Board as chair of the Technology Usability Advisory Group. In this last role, she was instrumental in the creation of the AAUW Member Services Database and the redesign of the AAUW website, which was launched just weeks after her death.

### An Invitation to AAUW Members At Large

This issue of the AAUW of SC newsletter also is being sent to AAUW Members-At-Large [MALs] who reside in South Carolina.

***We invite you to join other women who care about educational equity at the AAUW of SC annual convention in Newberry on April 4 & 5.***

We know that just like branch members, MALs are concerned about equity for women in the workplace and in education. Yet you may not be aware of conferences, learning and networking opportunities in which you might wish to participate. However, because you are not a member of a branch, you do not receive information about these events.

Why not become a SC Member-At-Large for a mere \$10? You don't have to attend meetings, but you'll get this quarterly newsletter, which will let you know what is happening in the state.

To join as a state member-at-large, send a check for \$10 payable to *AAUW of SC* to Pat Hall, AAUW of SC Treasurer, 1801 Ford Road, Gaffney, SC 29340.

<u>2007 Donations</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>LAF</u>
Aiken	\$13,250.00	\$200
Beaufort	\$ 1,516.70	\$120
Charleston	\$ 686.00	--
Denmark	\$ 100.00	--
Due West	\$ 500.00	\$ 50
Gaffney	\$ 668.00	--
Greater Columbia	\$ 978.00	\$195.32
Greenville	\$ 1,025.00	\$385
Hilton Head	\$ 545.00	\$265
Newberry	\$ 550.00	--
Rock Hill	\$ 4,016.00	\$325
AAUW of SC	\$ 368.00	\$115
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$23,609.70</b>	<b>\$1,655.32</b>

## Branch Profiles – what makes our branches tick?

### Newberry Branch

by Michelle Long, President

The Newberry Branch of AAUW was originally started in 1930 but disbanded in 1935. It was then reestablished in 1958, making this our 50<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of organization!

We hold monthly meetings September through May, with December being a social luncheon where we donate money to *Sistercare*. In May we hold our Scholarship Tea where we enjoy light refreshments and present scholarships to the young woman from each of the four county high schools and Newberry College who had the highest grade point average at the end of the first semester of their senior year. We also present our Educational Foundation Named Gift Honoree at this time.

Our programs throughout the year consist of various topical areas, such as education, social awareness, and health. Specific programs have included *Montessori Classes, Bullying in Schools, Violence Against Women, Literacy Awareness, Behavioral Health and Alzheimer's, Power of Attorney & Guardian Ad Litem, Voter Education, and Financial Planning*.

We have had a great time hosting an annual themed dinner, where all proceeds benefit our scholarship program. Past themes included *Spring Fling*, where we enjoyed

barbeque style food and traditional musical entertainment; *Mexican Fiesta*, where we dined on authentic Mexican fare prepared by a local establishment and were entertained by Spanish dancers; and *German Feast*, where we personally prepared the traditional German cuisine and heard a speaker from our own Newberry College who had lived for several years in Germany.

Due to a decline in membership numbers and our hosting the Spring Convention, we opted to put the dinner on hold for this year. We are hopeful to have some growing numbers so that we can continue some of the traditional fundraising efforts as well as add some fresh ideas to the mix.

We were sad to lose two of our former, but very active, members this year, Dr. Lucile Wassman and Mrs. Barbara Cope. They will be greatly missed.

We are certainly looking forward to welcoming everyone to Newberry April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> for the AAUW Spring Convention. Not only does the convention promise to be enlightening with the topic of *Women Make a Difference*, but you can also experience all that Historic Downtown Newberry has to offer while you visit.

### Due West Branch

by Sarah Kennerly and Janice Haldeman, Co-Presidents

The Due West branch has triple foci: support for the Educational Foundation (EF), recognition for academic achievement, and advocacy for legislation that addresses inequity with funding or supporting education and employment for women.

A project bagging goodies sold to parents and delivered to college students during fall exam week raises \$500 yearly for the EF. The project teams our ten members with ambitious biology club members.

The same remarkable ten carry off an annual recognition dinner for thirty-four outstanding female students in the current senior classes at three local secondary schools and at Erskine College. The early spring event features a speaker with the caliber of role model and draws media coverage to the individuals chosen for honor. Selected freshmen are

recognized on Awards Day at the College. In May each year we also send Erskine senior women congratulatory notes with information about AAUW's "Give a Grad a Gift" program.

One newer endeavor for our branch is to encourage political activism. Individuals contact politicians or participate in voter registration – three registrations last year – at public events. We have held a workshop to promote the use of the *AAUW Action Network*.

Parallel to our traditional trifocal activity, the membership has endorsed one item relating to interest in the history of higher education. One member has written a SC National Heritage Corridor grant to restore an 18th century Erskine student cabin as a site for education and the performing arts.

### AAUW Mission Statement

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

## Association offers leadership training to more leaders

by Carol Newnam, South Atlantic Regional Director



In the years between national conventions, the Association brought State Presidents and Educational Foundation Chairs to Washington for leadership training.

It was a wonderful opportunity for newly elected state presidents and EF chairs to get to know the terrific AAUW staff and to learn more about AAUW and how they could better do their jobs.

Now the Association is putting this leadership training on a DVD with discussion guides and making it available to a much wider audience. State boards, branch officers and potential state and branch leaders will be able to participate.

Information about this leadership series was described in the January issue of *Palmetto Leaf* on page 8. This training

will be offered this summer at a leadership event in Columbia on **August 2**.

The leadership development process is an exciting initiative which will engage many more members in moving the mission focused work of AAUW forward. Participants will be empowered for leadership in their branches, states and communities and will strengthen skills for implementing mission-based action programs in AAUW.

I've heard from many sources that finding branch and state leaders is becoming more and more difficult. We need to encourage potential leaders and give them the tools they need to feel comfortable in leadership roles. This leadership training is designed to do just that.

I hope all of you who are interested in AAUW and AAUW leadership will make an effort to participate in this exciting new leadership training either at the summer leadership conference or later as it is shared with branches.

*Carol*

## Proposed By-Laws Changes

by Dot Tunstall, AAUW of SC Bylaws Chair

The Executive Board has requested that a president-elect be added to the Bylaws in case one is needed. The following Bylaws amendments are proposed for vote by the delegates at the Spring Convention. Proposed changes are noted in **bold**.

### Article VII. Officers

Section 1. Elected Officers. The elected officers of this organization shall be a president, **a president-elect**, a program vice president, membership co-vice presidents, a recording secretary, and a treasurer, chosen with due regard for geographical representation.

#### Add new Article VII. Section 2. President-Elect

**a. The president-elect shall attend all meetings of the board of directors and the executive committee, and shall be a voting member.**

**b. The president-elect shall perform specific duties as assigned by the president.**

**c. The president-elect shall assume all duties of the president in the president's absence or inability to serve.**

### Section 3. Vice Presidents.

Section 3 becomes **Section 4. Recording Secretary**

### Article VII. Officers.

#### Section 6. Rotation.

The program vice president, treasurer, one membership co-vice president, if appropriate, **and the president-elect**, shall be elected in the odd years. The president, recording secretary and one membership co-vice president, if appropriate, shall be elected in the even years.

### Article VII. Officers.

#### Section 7. Vacancies.

A vacancy in any office, except that of the president, occurring in the interim between the annual state convention, shall be filled by appointment by the executive committee for the unexpired term. In case of a vacancy in the office of president, the program vice president **or the president-elect** shall fill the office for the unexpired term.

## Opera House performance offered for convention-goers

A block of seats has been reserved at the Newberry Opera House for AAUW members who wish to attend *A Carolina Jubilee* on Friday evening, April 4.

Anyone who has not been inside the beautiful Opera House is in for a real treat. Area husband and wife musicians Doug and Bunny Williams will have as their guests Dick Goodwin and Randy Elmore.

AAUW members and guests will receive a deeply discounted ticket price of \$15. You must complete the request for Opera House ticket when completing your convention registration form found on page 4.

## Summer leadership training set for August 2 – all invited

Mark your calendars now for the summer leadership training referenced in Carol Newnam’s column on page 7. It is set for **Saturday, August 2 in Columbia**. There will be a board meeting on Friday night, August 1 and the leadership training on Saturday.

All branch presidents and potential leaders are invited – and strongly encouraged – to participate in this event as the planning for AAUW of SC’s year will occur during the weekend, along with training to help all branches succeed.

## State Public Policy & Program Chairs needed

There are vacancies on the AAUW of SC Board for one leader to coordinate advocacy information and efforts, and one leader to coordinate program for both state meetings and assist branches in mission-based programming. The state Board works as a planning team, so lots of help is available to all leaders. If you might be able and interested in helping, please contact **Bev James**, state president, at [bevjames1998@yahoo.com](mailto:bevjames1998@yahoo.com) or 1-843-671-4289.

## AAUW of SC Calendar

**April 4-5, 2008**

Spring Convention, Newberry

**May 9, 2008**

Deadline for *Palmetto Leaf* – Charleston, Gaffney, Hilton Head profiles

**June 1, 2008**

Branch Officer forms completed and sent to national and state president

**July 1, 2008**

Branch Dues Report due

**August 1, 2008**

State Board including Branch presidents  
Columbia College

**August 2, 2008**

Leadership Training for all Branches  
location to be announced

*\* Dates are subject to change*

**Palmetto Leaf** is published in September, January, February and May/June.

**AAUW Helpline**

1-800-326-AAUW or 202-785-7798;  
[helpline@aauw.org](mailto:helpline@aauw.org)

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### AAUW of South Carolina

*Palmetto Leaf* Newsletter

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