



Palmetto Leaf

AAUW of South Carolina Newsletter

Vol. 56, No. 3
February 2009

Breaking Through Barriers – State Convention focuses on making a difference

by Carol Lucas, AAUW of SC Program Vice President

On April 3 and 4, Aiken will host the Spring Convention for AAUW of South Carolina. The theme this year is *Breaking through Barriers*, and it promises to provide some outstanding insights regarding what women face as they enter the various arenas in which they participate.

Convention activities begin Friday afternoon with the Board meeting. Friday night convention participants are invited to gather at **Kathy Hauer's** home from 5:30-7:00 p.m. to enjoy heavy appetizers. This will be a celebration of the accomplishments of AAUW of SC.

Saturday morning, after registration and a welcome to convention participants, our keynote speaker, **Dr. Susan Winsor**, President of Aiken Technical College, will give a presentation entitled *Converting Barriers to Bridges: Spanning to the Next Success*.

The morning will conclude with a business meeting and town hall.

The first part of our EF Auction will kick off Saturday afternoon. Following this activity, **Michele Leber**, Chair of the National Committee on Pay Equity, will present a program entitled *Pay Equity: Closing the Pay Gap*.

After breaking for the second part of the EF Auction and some refreshments, a panel discussion entitled *Breaking through Barriers* will be presented. Participants in this discussion include **Cassie Rodenberg** and **Quinnesha Winters**, SC participants in the 2008 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Also on this panel will be **Sarah Leverette**, attorney, and **Linda Hennessey**, former Rutgers University Director of Development. This very accomplished panel will discuss what they believe are present barriers as well as those obstacles that will confront women in years to come. Additionally they will address how they see themselves overcoming these barriers and what help others can offer to facilitate this movement.



Breaking through Barriers

AAUW of SC Convention

April 3-4, 2009

USC-Aiken, Aiken, South Carolina

Friday, April 3

- 2:00-5:00 pm Board Meeting; home of Bea Peyser
5:30-7:00 pm Reception hosted by Aiken Branch; home of Kathy Hauer (*see page 4*)

Saturday, April 4

- 8:45-9:15 am Registration
9:15-9:30 am Welcome
9:30-10:15 am Keynote Address – *Converting Barriers to Bridges: Spanning to the Next Success*, Dr. Susan Winsor, Aiken Technical College
10:15-10:30 am Health Break
10:30-11:45 pm Business Meeting, Town Hall and Awards
11:45-12:45 pm Lunch
12:45-1:00 pm EF Auction – Part 1
1:00-2:00 pm Keynote Address – *Pay Equity: Closing the Wage Gap*, Michele Leber, chair, National Committee on Pay Equity
2:00-2:15 pm EF Auction – Part 2
2:15-2:45 pm Health Break
2:30-3:45 pm Panel Discussion – *Breaking Through Barriers*
3:45 pm Adjournment

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2009-2010 Proposed Budget & Friday Reception Directions – page 4

Speakers' Profiles

Dr. Susan Winsor

Dr. Winsor assumed the role of President of Aiken Technical College in 1999. Prior to this appointment, she served as Associate Executive Director for Academic Affairs and Technology for the South Carolina State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, a coordinating board for the state's 16 technical colleges. Dr. Winsor is the 2004 recipient of the *Martha Kime Piper* award given annually to recognize a woman with a record of advancing and supporting women in higher education and the education of women in South Carolina. She also received the 2007 Aiken Chamber *Woman of the Year Award*.

Michele (Mike) Leber

Michele Leber, chair of the National Committee on Pay Equity since 2003, has represented the American Library Association on the NCPE Board of Directors since 1985 and was NCPE treasurer from 1993 to 2002. She has written for national publications and spoken at conferences about pay equity and has served on library association committees and task forces. In 1996 she received the *ALA Equality Award* for her pay equity activities. She is retired from Fairfax County Public Library, where she was Assistant Coordinator of Collection Management, and she has a B.A. from Northwestern University and M. Libr. from the University of Washington. She has worked extensively with AAUW, most notably with the Public Policy Department.

Sarah Leverette

As one of the first women lawyers in South Carolina, Ms. Leverette is a pioneer in the legal arena and a tireless advocate for human rights. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of South Carolina and attended the University of South Carolina School of Law, where she graduated as the only woman in her class. In 1943, she was admitted to the South Carolina Bar, but she found that having a law degree did not ensure women the opportunity to practice law. Instead, she began a long career in legal research, starting at the S.C. Department of Labor.

Over the years, Ms. Leverette has received many honors, but in 2001 she received the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association's highest honor, the *Jean Galloway Bissell Award*. The Bissell Award criteria include: the nominee's distinguished and noteworthy service to the public and the legal profession; achievement of professional excellence; and participation in activities that have paved the way to success for women lawyers on the national, state or local level.

Linda Hennessy

Linda Hennessy is from the Hilton Head Island Branch and attended Newton College of the Sacred Heart, MA, where she majored in Russian. For the next several years she worked out of her home part-time and raised three daughters. In 1981 Linda entered a full-time degree program, and in 1982 she graduated with High Honors from Douglass College of Rutgers

AAUW of SC Convention

April 3-4, 2009

USC-Aiken, Aiken, SC

Aiken is accessible from East / West Routes US 1, 25 and North / South Routes US 78, 278 and SC Route 19.

Very detailed driving directions from other routes are available on the AAUW of SC website or from annsterry@yahoo.com.

Lodging Information

Hampton Inn

(803 648-2525 or 803 649-2008)

on the South Side of Aiken on SC Route 19

Take I-20, Exit 22 – proceed south approximately 8 miles on US1, which becomes **York Avenue**. **York Avenue** ends at **South Boundary** where you should **turn right and move immediately to the left lane**. Turn left at the light (**Whiskey Road**). The **Hampton Inn** is on the right approximately 3 miles and 8 traffic lights from this light.

Directions to USC-Aiken

Business & Education Building, Room 116

Take I-20, Exit 22 - go south 8 miles. Turn right onto Richland Avenue US1 / 78. Go 2.8 mile (passing through downtown business district). Turn right onto **University Parkway**. Pass through the traffic light and proceed to the 4th entrance marked (**Etherredge Center**) on the left. Proceed to the parking lot at the **Ruth Patrick Science Center**. **Business & Education Center** will be on your left.

University where she was the winner of the *W.J. Norton Prize* in Philosophy. From 1990-1994 she was the Director of Development, Rutgers College and Rutgers University Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Linda retired in 2002 and moved to Hilton Head.

Cassie Rodenberg

Cassie is a senior at Winthrop University, majoring in Science Communication, with a minor in Chemistry. She has been a peer mentor, a member of the Close Leadership Team, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society President, SAACS vice-President, Health/Science section creator and editor for the campus weekly newspaper, *The Johnsonian*.

Quennisha Winters

Quinnasha attends Coastal Carolina University and is majoring in Biology. She was Coordinator of Student Programming for 2007-08, President of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, a member of the University Student Advisory Council, and Advisor to NPHC President.

Nominees for SC Officers

by Dot Tunstall, Chair, Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for AAUW of SC officers for 2009-2011.

Nominations for **Treasurer** will be taken from the floor.

Pat Batten (Hilton Head)

Candidate for President-Elect

Pat has been a member of AAUW for more than 25 years. She originally joined the Morristown, NJ, branch and served as a leader in that branch as well as the Freehold, NJ, branch, where she was Membership Vice President and President. On Hilton Head, Pat has been the Membership Vice President, chair of the Fashion Show Fundraiser, Public Policy chair and chair of the Nominating Committee as well as founding chair of the book club and "Trips and Treks" group.

Pat has served on the state board in both NJ and SC, currently serving as SC Membership Vice President. She has also participated in various committees in all of the branches of which she was a member. Pat holds a BA degree from Russell Sage College and a certificate in Gerontology from Rutgers University. Her most recent career was as Resident Services Director of retirement communities in NJ and Hilton Head. Pat has recently retired.

diversity chair, educational equity chair, and served as state secretary in 1998-99.

She established the Richland County Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Council in 1998. Juanita was very involved for over 20 years and presently as an Executive Board member with the International Federation for Home Economics. She is still involved with the International Home Economics Services, serving on the current Board of Directors as its President. This project involves working with disaster relief after hurricanes, solar cookers and education to refugees in Africa, rebuilding schools in Liberia, etc. She also continues to be a delegate to the National Council on Family Relations. She has served for 14 years at the Executive Director of the Kershaw County Teen Health Promotion Coalition and continues to do so. She is a graduate of Manchester College and Indiana University.

Juanita was recipient of the AAUW Named Gift Honoree award from the Greater Columbia Branch in 1997. She received the *Eleanor Roosevelt Award* (1990), *Woman of the Year Award* (1987), and the *Named Gift Award* (1992) in Indiana.

There will also be election of the **2009-2010 Nominating Committee**. Please come prepared to nominate leaders from your branch to serve in this capacity.



Juanita Mendenhall (Greater Columbia)

Candidate for Membership Vice President

Juanita has been a member since 1982 both in Indiana and SC and is now a life member. In AAUW, she has served as

AAUW of SC State Convention

April 4, 2009 – Aiken, South Carolina

Name _____
 Branch/Org. _____
 Address _____
 Daytime Phone _____ E-mail _____

Advance Registration must be postmarked by March 23, 2009.
Saturday lunch cannot be guaranteed without advance registration

Early Bird Registration (postmarked by March 16)	\$30.00	_____
Registration (postmarked by March 23)	\$35.00	_____
Registration on Convention Site	\$45.00	_____

Registration fee includes convention materials, Friday evening reception, continental breakfast buffet (coffee, tea, juice, fruit, bagels and pastries), and Saturday lunch Deli tray buffet (meats, spreads, cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion, pickles, gourmet sliced bread, side salad, tea, and cookies or brownies)

Special diet needs: _____

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

Budget to be adopted at Spring convention

by Mildred Finch, Chair, Finance Committee

Members will be asked to consider the adoption of the following budget for 2009-2010 during the business session of the annual convention.

AAUW SC Proposed Budget 2009-2010	
INCOME	
Dues (380 members @ \$10)	\$3,800
Conferences	7,200
Transfer from Assets	350
Total income + transfers	\$11,350
EXPENSES	
Branch Services	200
Conferences **	7,200
Conference of State Leaders – Reserves*	250
C/U Liaison	50
EF/LAF Chair	125
EF Chair Conference – Reserves*	0
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	150
Travel – Delegates to AAUW Convention – Reserves*	750
Travel – Delegates to SAR Conference – Reserves*	0
Treasurer – Administrative	125
Treasurer – Audit & Bonding	0
Website	200
Total Expenses	\$11,350
Explanations:	
* Reserves are for conferences which are held every other year.	
** Conferences –	
Legislative Day (100@\$40)	= \$4,000
State Convention (36@75)	= \$2,700
Summer Workshop (25@\$20)	= \$ 500
Total	\$7,200

unsold books will be donated to the Aiken Branch for their book sale and the unsold jewelry will be donated to the Hilton Head Branch for their jewelry sales.

There will also be an auction during the Convention to benefit the Educational Foundation. Each branch is asked to donate one item to be auctioned off by our President Bev James. Theme baskets, hand made items and plants are a big hit. All proceeds will be credited to each branch making the donation.

Be a part of the *Power of the Purse* by donating and bringing your check book to help raise money for these worthy causes.

Friday Night Reception set for Aiken Member's Home

Participants in the Spring State Convention are invited to join Aiken Branch members at the home of **Kathy Hauer** on Friday evening from 5:30-7:00 p.m. for heavy hors d'oeuvres.

If you have GPS, program in her address as 312 Northwood Drive. Otherwise here are directions from I-20 and from the Hampton Inn.

From I-20, Exit 22:

Proceed south approximately 8 miles on US1, which becomes **York Avenue**. **York Avenue** ends at **South Boundary** where you should turn right and move immediately to the left lane. Turn left at the light (**Whiskey Road**). Continue on **SC 19 (Whiskey Road)** approximately 3 miles through four traffic lights. As you approach the fifth traffic light bear right at the **AAMCO Transmission Shop** onto (**Silver Bluff Road**). Go to the next light **SC 118 (Blockbuster Video on Left)** and turn right. Go 1.0 Miles, and turn right onto **Northwood Drive**.

From Hampton Inn

Turn left onto **Whiskey Road** and proceed to the intersection of **Whiskey Road and SC 118 / SC 302**. Turn **Left** onto **SC 118 / SC 302** through two traffic lights. At the second light (**Blockbuster Video**) continue straight 1.0 miles, and turn right onto **Northwood Drive**.

The Power of the Purse

by Trish Johnson, EF and LAF Chair

The Book and Jewelry Sale is back again. We are asking everyone who attends the Spring Convention to bring along their gently used books and costume jewelry to help raise money for the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). Everyone will be able to purchase the books and jewelry throughout the convention. If you can not attend the convention, please consider sending your items with a member of your branch who will be there. All



Branches support Association, EF and Legal Advocacy Fund programs

by Trish Johnson, AAUW of SC EF and LAF Chair

During the Spring Convention we will recognize Branch **Named Gift Honorees** during the business session.

Branches may honor a person or organization based on how much money they have raised in 2006. The Branch must have raised at least \$500.00 to qualify.

All information about Named Gift Honorees is due electronically to me **no later than March 6**. You can email to virginiaawolf40@hotmail.com.

Thank you again for all your hard work and effort in completing the *Ann Scott Terry Research and Projects Endowment*. For such a small state, South Carolina is very large in its giving. We never fail to bring home top per capita in giving at National Convention and we have our members to thank.

Here's a look at the funds submitted by SC branches to AAUW in the calendar year 2008:

For **Association** through donations to notecard project:

Aiken.....	\$10
Beaufort.....	\$197.50
Charleston.....	\$85
Denmark.....	\$25
Greater Columbia.....	\$75
Gaffney.....	\$50
Greenville.....	\$305
Hilton Head.....	\$140

Newberry.....	\$10
Rock Hill.....	\$350
Total:	\$1,247.50

For **Educational Foundation**:

Aiken.....	\$12,025
Beaufort.....	\$82.50
Charleston.....	\$167
Denmark.....	\$1,000
Due West.....	\$500
Greater Columbia.....	\$845
Gaffney.....	\$20
Greenville.....	\$1,480
Hilton Head.....	\$42
Newberry.....	\$500
Rock Hill.....	\$1899
Total:	\$18,560.50

For **Legal Advocacy Fund**:

Aiken.....	\$137.02
Beaufort.....	\$335
Denmark.....	\$100
Due West.....	\$50
Greater Columbia.....	\$160
Greenville.....	\$186
SC AAUW.....	\$102
Total:	\$1070.02

Membership article

by Pat Batten, AAUW of SC Membership Vice President

This is my last article as Membership Vice-President after serving two terms. I've been impressed with the information from Association (although occasionally it seems like too much information!) as the Association works to streamline our procedures and enters us into the information age. For some of us "old timers," this is sometimes a struggle, but we need to open ourselves up to the new technologies to make ourselves appealing to all potential members.

I encourage all of you to reach out into your community and find at least one new member. You never know who would be interested so put your best AAUW foot forward and talk us up! Check out our web site for a few talking points to start the ball rolling when you're in a group setting.

The recent legislation related to the *Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act* and our *Keep the Change* campaign make for a good beginning to talk about our public policy stands. Our long history (more than 125 years) championing women's issues is enough to start the conversation. Would the first coach in NCAA history to win 1000 games be a woman without Title IX to help her build such terrific teams? Let's see what our numbers will be like next year.

I will look forward to seeing many of you in Aiken at our convention. Our membership numbers are not as encouraging as we might like this year but I know all of you will be out there recruiting. It's a difficult economic time but it's an opportunity for AAUW to continue to make a difference. Now, more than ever, our scholarships and grants are needed as well as our voice for equity and education.

Be a Part of Breaking Through Barriers

by Bev James, AAUW of SC President



Women are *Breaking Through Barriers!*

Once again the power and hard work of the AAUW Action Network members and our coalition partners was demonstrated by the signing of the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act* on January 29. This was the first bill signed into law by President Obama which gives the strong message that economic issues and pay equity are a top priority for this administration. Attending the signing was **Linda Hallman**, Executive Director of AAUW, and **Lisa Maatz**, AAUW Director of Public Policy and government relations.

Aren't we proud to be members of this powerful organization?

Hopefully, many of you plan to attend the state convention being held in Aiken on April 3-4. **Carol Lucas**, Program Vice-President, and your state leadership team have worked diligently to provide all of you with the opportunity to meet women who have broken through barriers, those working to see those barriers overcome, and young women facing the challenges of the working world. We are particularly fortunate to have as one of our featured speakers Michele Leber, Chair of the National Committee on Pay Equity. Mike has worked more than 23 years on the national scene to garner pay equity for women.

Many AAUW members are concerned about the proposed changes in the Association by-laws. Time has been set aside during the convention to explain these changes and to give you the chance to voice your concerns. The Membership Pilot Program will also be discussed [*see page 8 for more details*]. Take advantage of this time to learn about what is happening on the Association level and how this may impact your branch.

The AAUW of SC leadership team was very aware of financial considerations when planning this convention. We have planned a full day of interesting programs, a great breakfast and lunch, the opportunity to purchase books, jewelry and gift items, and, best of all, being with fantastic women – and all for only \$30 Early Registration fee. What a bargain!

We do need to pull together. The power of AAUW has been demonstrated over and over. We are an important part of the future. We need you to consider offering your time to AAUW of SC. Be involved.

See you in Aiken in April.

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.

AAUW applauds President Obama for Signing Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into Law

Wage Discrimination Measure becomes First Bill Signed into Law by New President

WASHINGTON - President Obama signed the **Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act** into law in a public ceremony held in the East Room of the White House the first week he was in office. This landmark legislation was not only an important step for American women; it will also go down in history as the first bill President Obama signed into law. The Act restores the long-standing interpretation of civil rights laws and EEOC policies that allow employees to challenge any discriminatory paycheck they receive.

“President Obama has put pay discrimination at the top of the agenda, right where it belongs. The wage gap doesn't just hurt working women, it hurts families as well,” said AAUW Executive Director **Linda D. Hallman**, CAE, who attended the signing ceremony. “We are especially pleased that this measure is the first bill moved by Congress and signed by our new president, sending a strong message that economic issues and pay equity are a top priority.”

Statistics on women in the workplace speak to the need for action. The average woman earns just 78 cents of every dollar earned by her male counterparts, and disparities appear just one year out of college—even for those with the same job and the same major. Women of color make even less.

“AAUW is hopeful that the swift action on this important law is a harbinger of what we can expect from both the new Congress and the new administration,” said **Lisa Maatz**, AAUW director of public policy and government relations. “Thanks to the remarkable Lilly Ledbetter, who stood up to injustice despite great personal sacrifice, women and others in her shoes will be able to seek a fair day in court.”

Lilly Ledbetter is perhaps the best-known face of pay equity. She worked for nearly two decades at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in Gadsden, AL. Despite receiving top performance awards, Ledbetter discovered that she had been paid significantly less than male co-workers with the same job. After her November 1998 retirement, she filed suit under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and was awarded back pay and other remedies in a jury trial. The U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 decision not only erased Ledbetter's award, but also left women, minorities, and others in Ledbetter's situation with virtually no recourse to pay discrimination.

“The wage gap not only affects a woman's paycheck, it can eventually reduce retirement and social security income. That could mean the loss of \$1 million or more over one woman's lifespan,” Hallman said.

“This victory has energized us,” said Maatz. “President Obama and Congress have made a good down payment on their promise to close the wage gap, but we're not resting on our laurels. The House also passed the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill which would close loopholes in the Equal Pay Act, and AAUW and our allies are determined to see the Senate do the same.”

Read more about AAUW's “Keep the Change” pay equity campaign on AAUW's website – www.aauw.org.

To read Lilly Ledbetter's letter in support of both bills, go to AAUW's website – www.aauw.org. View a slide show of photos from the bill signing on the website, too.

Go to www.aauw.org to see AAUW's recommendations to the new administration and the new Congress on workplace opportunity, pay equity, education, work/life balance, and other key issues.

Meet Lilly Ledbetter at AAUW National Convention

Lilly Ledbetter will be among keynote speakers at the AAUW National Convention, being held in St. Louis from June 26-28. She will share her story about her personal fight for pay equity.

Join other AAUW members from around the country to hear important speakers, to learn about the future of AAUW and meet women and men working to further AAUW's mission in communities around the US.

Complete details about registration, lodging and convention schedule can be found on the AAUW website – www.aauw.org. Early bird discounts end March 22, so don't delay.

There will be other delegates from AAUW of SC so check in with delegation chair and state president **Bev James** – bevjames1998@yahoo.com – and let her know if you will be joining the SC delegation.

Branches – consider being part of Membership Pilot Program – AAUW does the work

The **Membership Pilot Program (MPP)** is a *voluntary* pilot program that assists members and branches with dues payment, collection, and processing. This program has been developed in response to members' expressed desire for more online financial management options, and it provides a mechanism to resolve discrepancies between branch, state, and national membership records. Most nonprofit organizations already manage membership online, and we are working to optimize the technology for branches/states 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. The pilot program offers electronic options to simplify and provide convenience, efficiency, and cost savings to our dues payment and processing. These options offer an easier way to (a) manage branch, state, and national dues payment, collection, and processing and to (b) track current membership status throughout the year.

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.

South Carolina AAUW has opted in to participate in the MPP, thus allowing branches to opt in as well. Branches may **choose** to participate in the MPP if their states have opted in to the pilot program. Branch leaders will receive information about how to participate in the MPP in the first quarter of this year



All mailing labels are prepared by AAUW Headquarters. Send all address corrections directly to AAUW Records Office, 1111 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036, or log on to www.aauw.org.

AAUW of South Carolina
Palmetto Leaf Newsletter
 Ann S. Terry, editor, 4882 Stoneridge Road, Catawba, SC 29704

AAUW of SC Calendar

February 24, 2009
 AAUW Legislative Day, Columbia

April 3-4, 2009
 Spring Convention, Aiken

June 1, 2009
 Branch Officer forms completed and sent to national and state president

June 5, 2009
 Deadline for Summer workshop issue of *Palmetto Leaf*

June 26-29, 2009
 AAUW National Convention, St. Louis

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