



Palmetto Leaf

AAUW of South Carolina Newsletter

Vol. 55, No. 2
January 2008

State Legislative Day Focus: The Public Voice in Public Education

by Jean Norman, AAUW of SC Legislative Day Chair

Three state organizations again will gather for a day to focus their attention on the needs of public education and how to influence their legislators to support those needs. AAUW of SC in partnership with the League of Women Voters of SC (LWVSC) and the SC School Improvement Council (SCSIC) will sponsor **Legislative Advocacy Day** on **February 19, 2008** at the Marriott Hotel in Columbia.

The Riley Institute at Furman University has completed the largest ever research project about what the public thinks about and recommends for improving public education in South Carolina. The project director, **Brooke Culclasure** and **Cathy Stevens**, assistant director of the Institute, will share the results of the project, *In Their Own Words: A Public Vision for Educational Excellence in SC*. Given the top recommendations from the wide variety of people surveyed and interviewed, we will have the confidence of numbers to support us when advocating for improved public education in our state with local legislators. Members may access the full report at <http://cepl.furman.edu>.

One of the consistently top recommendations by South Carolinians was attention to issues about early childhood. The second session of the morning will feature a panel to consider the issues of *Young Children: their Education, Care and Welfare*. **Tim Ervolina**, president and CEO of United Way Association of SC, will provide an overview of the condition of young children in our state from birth to school age that underscores the complexity of the issues surrounding young children and their families. **Sue Oliver**, executive director of Voices for South Carolina's Children, will focus on the efforts to extend 4K to all SC children whose families want it. **Kathleen Hayes**, executive director of the SC Department of Social Services, will focus attention on the agency response to child care needs and family issues. The panel will make time for interaction with participants.

The perennial question of funding was placed center stage by the SC Superintendent of Education, Jim Rex, when a bi-partisan, statewide committee was named to study the issues and develop proposals for action by the General Assembly.

(continued on page 3; registration form on page 3)

Legislative Day Schedule Tuesday, February 19, 2008

Palmetto Ballroom
Columbia Marriott Hotel,
1200 Hampton St., Columbia
1-803-771-7000

8:45 – 9:15 a.m.

Registration, beverages and muffins

9:15 – 9:30 a.m.

Welcome & Introductions

9:30 a.m.

In Their Own Words:

*A Public Vision of Educational
Excellence in SC*

Brooke Culclasure & Cathy Stevens
Riley Institute, Furman University

10:15 a.m.

*Young Children: Their Education,
Care and Welfare*

Tim Ervolina, president & CEO
United Way Association of SC
Sue Oliver, executive director
Voices for South Carolina's Children
Kathleen Hayes, executive director
SC Department of Social Services

11:15 a.m.

Funding Education:

Legislative Proposals 2008

Dru James, president
SC School Boards Association
Karen Woodward, superintendent
Lexington County School District #1

Noon

Health Break & Luncheon Setup

12:15 p.m.

Advocacy Action Strategies

Kathy Maness, executive director
Palmetto State Teachers Association

1:30 p.m.

Adjourn to Statehouse to meet with
legislators and attend meetings

Challenges can be opportunities

by Bev James, AAUW of SC President

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



Why did you join AAUW? This is the first question on the Every Member Poll that you recently received and which I urge you to complete. As I was looking through the questionnaire, I thought about how to answer that question.

Actually, I joined soon after graduation from college at the urging of my mother-in-law. We lived in a small town in southern Illinois and AAUW was one of the few organizations available for women other than sororities. I wanted to make friends and belong to the community and this seemed to be the best opportunity. I was a member for many years with varying degrees of involvement until we moved to South Carolina.

On Hilton Head, my life became more hectic than ever so I did not join AAUW until a couple of years before I quit teaching. My reasons were similar to my earlier ones, but, by then, I had become more politically aware and concerned with women's issues.

Back to the first question on the Every Member Poll which asks "What is the single most important reason you originally joined AAUW?" I guess the key to that question is the word *originally*. The reason I am a member now differs from my original one due to the time of my life when I joined.

I am sure you are wondering how this is relevant to you. My point is this. We all join AAUW for reasons that are important to us at that particular time in our lives. Our branches need to be aware of why women join and provide what they need. This can be done so easily. You can begin by:

- Discussing AAUW's mission with your friends. Be sure to include mission-based programming at your branch meetings. Let them see the importance of our mission so they will want to be involved.
- Talking about how AAUW's strong advocacy has and will continue to benefit your daughter, her friends, and your friends' daughters.
- Letting women (and men) see the benefit of being with women of similar interests.
- Sharing the research AAUW has done over the past years. This research is relevant to all women.
- Inviting your friends and neighbors to a meeting, or asking someone you met at church or another meeting you attended. Try asking someone five years younger. Pick them up, introduce them at the meeting, and follow up with a phone call. Show them you are interested in their ideas and having them become a member of one of the most important organizations to which they will ever belong.

One of the strongest messages I have seen about AAUW is available on www.youtube.com. Type in *AAUW Mission video* in the Search box and watch the young women explain what AAUW means to them. It is absolutely awesome! On the AAUW website, click on the *Member Center* and read "Gen-X and What We Want" to give you ideas about what these women are looking for in life. Also, read *Suggestions for Growth* to give you a few ideas.

Give women in your community a reason to join your branch of AAUW!

Bev

AAUW of SC Leadership Team 2007-2008

Bev James
President

Charlotte Boe
Program Vice President

Pat Batten
Membership Vice President

Lynn Shore
Recording Secretary

Pat Hall
Treasurer

Trish Johnson
Educational Foundation
and Legal Advocacy Fund Chair

Dot Tunstall
Bylaws Chair

Audrey Henry
Conference Planner

Kathy Carter
College/University Liaison

Ann Terry
Palmetto Leaf Editor

Alice Stamps
Parliamentarian

Kathryn Sharp
Nominating Committee Chair

Mildred Finch
Finance Committee Chair

Carol Newnam
South Atlantic Regional Director

Contact information for all officers
is available on AAUW of SC
website

www.aauw-sc.org
or from Branch Presidents

Annual Legislative Day focuses on Public Education

(continued from page 1)

Chairs of the two sub-committees, **Karen Woodward**, Superintendent of Lexington County School District #1, and **Dru James**, president of SC School Boards Association, will outline the proposals for generating revenue to support public education and the process of distributing funds in a way that improves the education for all children in the state.

These three sessions will provide us with the background and knowledge to become advocates for public education with our local legislators. Most of us know the capacity to influence the legislature takes time and occurs over time. After lunch, **Kathy Maness**, executive director of Palmetto State Teachers Association, will help us and our organizations become more effective with *Advocacy Action Strategies*. Knowledge of the legislative process and tried-and-true strategies for keeping legislators focused on our issues are among the points she will make before we adjourn “up the hill” to the General Assembly and appointments with your legislator(s).

Before coming, contact your legislators and make appointments for the afternoon of February 19th. You will be armed with information about issues you want your legislators to know about and if you don’t know your legislators already, then you will assure them of

your continued interest in their voting record! Information about your legislators can be gained at the General Assembly website: www.scstatehouse.gov. Click on *bio* for the contact information about your Representative and Senator, then make the appointment.

REGISTER NOW by completing the registration form below. The cost of \$35 includes continental breakfast, conference materials, and lunch in the Palmetto Ballroom at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Columbia.

Registrations postmarked by February 12 will be included in the lunch count; after that date a registration fee of \$40 will be accepted at the door. Parking in the hotel garage is provided at a discounted cost of \$5 for the day; include that amount with your registration or you may pay at the door.

The planning for the day has included representatives from each organization. Questions about the day may be referred to jmnorman@bellsouth.net; note as subject ‘legislative day’ so it will not be deleted.

Please join us for this special opportunity to learn, to network and to take action!

State Legislative Day Registration

Tuesday, February 19, 2008

Columbia Marriott Hotel, 1200 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC

Name (please print) _____

Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail Address _____

Advance Registration (postmarked by February 12) **\$35.00** \$ _____

Discount parking ticket **\$ 5.00** \$ _____

Total Enclosed: check payable to *AAUW of SC* \$ _____

Note: On-site registration is **\$40.00**

Send this completed form and check payable to **AAUW of SC** to:
Pat Hall, 1801 Ford Road, Gaffney, SC 29340

AAUW of SC initiates Student Advisory Council

by Kathy Carter, College & University Liaison

South Carolina is in the process of establishing a state Student Advisory Council with representatives of the state's higher education institutions that offer recognized associate, baccalaureate, or higher degrees and that have full regional accreditation or appropriate professional association approval.

The AAUW of South Carolina Student Advisory Council will consist of student leaders from various colleges and universities that will make program recommendations, develop student workshops and introduce speakers at the AAUW state annual convention and leadership conference, and work with AAUW leaders to increase the value of student affiliation.

Invitations will be extended initially to the 11 higher education institutions that are currently members of AAUW.

They include Anderson University, Benedict College, Clemson University, Clinton Junior College, Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston, Columbia College, Erskine College, Limestone College, USC Aiken and Winthrop University.

Council members will be asked to commit to two meetings each year – the state convention in Newberry on April 5 and the summer leadership conference in August. It is recommended that the sponsoring college/university provide the monetary support for the student to attend.

If you would like more information about this initiative, please contact me at kathycarter@earthlink.net.

Branch Profiles – what makes our branches tick?

Beaufort Branch

by Peggy Fryer, President

The Beaufort branch continues to meet monthly with timely programs. In the fall, we hosted a program on *Human Trafficking* that was informative to us and the community. We were given information on the issues involved and how we as citizens can and should get involved to help the victims of this crime. Public awareness is key to help in eradicating this activity which is often committed against women as well as men. It is often in the form of enslavement of those who are the victims.

We are still involved in the project of providing birthday books for the children in the pre- K program in Jasper County. We continue to attempt to find other ways to aid this school district which is part of the *Corridor of Shame*, which focuses on under-funded and under-achieving schools and districts.

We seek to recruit new members and are focusing on the educational institutions to encourage young women to become involved in AAUW.

We had a very interesting program by Dr. Charlotte Boe on the issues of women's health especially heart health. In January, we will meet with Dr. Valerie Truesdale, Beaufort County's superintendent of schools, about the issues and concerns in our district.

The Beaufort branch continues with strong local board leadership. We have a new Public Policy chair .Marianne Beck who has agreed to keep us informed about public policy issues and will be an asset to our branch.

Greater Columbia Branch

by Amy Ditolla, President

Our branch continues to hold on here in center state with our "Woman in Charge" attitude.

We are fortunate to have several active members who dream big and dedicate their time and talent for our local AAUW branch.

Our board approved a \$500.00 Scholarship to be given for the first time this year to a mature woman returning to college. Using inspiration from Hilton Head, we hope to make this an annual program and are working out the details of funding such an endeavor successfully.

We continue to meet once a month as a branch with some of us meeting more often to participate in Adelante' discussions.

For those interested, I understand Barbara Moxon has donated her many papers to the USC Political Collections office.

Though we are actively small we hold strong and look forward to an interesting 2008.

In future issues, look for profiles of **Denmark, Due West, Newberry, and Summerville.**

The Power of the Purse

by Trish Johnson, AAUW of SC Educational Foundation & Legal Advocacy Fund Chair

The donation year of 2007 is now over and we look towards this year's fundraising efforts.

The future of women and girls can be made brighter by your continued contributions to the Educational Foundation (EF) and the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF).

Just recently LAF announced an important victory in the ongoing battle to prevent sexual harassment and assault on university campuses with the settlement agreement between Lisa Simpson and the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU). The settlement agreement provides \$2.5 million to Simpson and requires that the university create a new position in the Office of Victim Assistance and hire an independent adviser to monitor the school's compliance with federal sex discrimination laws. LAF's support for this case resulted from members' donations.

To the right you will see a chart indicating the funds raised for the Educational Foundation during 2007. The totals are not complete as I have not yet received the final reports for the donation year. It is so important that branches notify me of donations sent to AAUW in order for me to check to ensure that you receive all the credits you deserve. If you had late donations in December, or feel that something is incorrect in your totals, please contact me at virginiaawolf40@hotmail.com and I will try to help.

With the New Year come opportunities to develop innovative and clever ideas to raise fund for both EF and LAF. Even old ideas that haven't been tried in years can be made fresh with the internet. Virtual parties on *Facebook* or

MySpace can tap into a new group of donors. Give it a chance – you never know – you might even get new members.

Start saving your old jewelry and books for the Spring Convention. All proceeds are to go to LAF. Any books left over will be donated to Aiken for their book sale, and left over jewelry will be donated to Hilton Head for their jewelry exchange.

We're asking all branches to donate an item to the live auction that will take place during the Spring Convention. State President Bev James will be the auctioneer. Branches donating items will receive credit for items sold. Baskets, baked goods and handmade items are very popular among buyers, as well as art work and handcrafted jewelry.

Branch	EF Totals for 2007
Aiken	\$25.00
Beaufort	\$1,312.00
Charleston	\$325.00
Denmark	\$ 100.00
Due West	\$500.00
Gaffney	\$668.00
Greater Columbia	\$95.00
Greenville	\$1,025.00
Hilton Head	\$542.00
Newberry	\$550.00
Rock Hill	\$2,149.00
Summerville	
Totals	\$7,291.00

Newberry set to welcome AAUW of SC Spring Convention

by Audrey Henry, AAUW of SC Conference Planner

The Newberry Branch is looking forward to hosting the 2008 SC state convention on April 5, 2008 and would love to have a large number of AAUW members from across the state in attendance.

The theme for this year's convention is *Women Make A Difference*. The keynote speaker will be **Lila N. Meeks**, former Vice Chancellor for Academics and Vice Chancellor for Advancement at USC Beaufort. She will draw upon her experiences in the academic and corporate worlds to reflect upon the convention theme.

All convention activities will be held in historic downtown Newberry. The locale for the main program, speakers, and business sessions will be the Family Life Center at Central Methodist Church, which is just three short blocks from the Hampton Inn, the "official" hotel for the convention. (See the February *Palmetto Leaf* for other motel options.)

On Friday evening the Newberry Branch will host a wine and cheese, heavy hors d' oeuvres (call it dinner, if you wish) get-together, promising to conclude in time for those who would like to attend an 8 p.m. musical program at the Newberry Opera House, which is directly across the street from the Hampton Inn. The program, titled "A Carolina Jubilee," will feature popular area musicians Doug and Bunny Williams, with special guests Dick Goodwin and Randy Elmore. AAUW members will be able to purchase "deeply discounted tickets." (Regular price is \$25.)

Good news! The registration fee, meal/snack price, and hotel cost will again hold the line – definitely no increase in 2008.

Watch for final details and a registration form in the February *Palmetto Leaf*.

Make a New Year's resolution to grow AAUW membership

by Pat Batten, AAUW of SC Membership Vice President

As I write this article, it is the start of the New Year. All the papers and television commentators are talking about *resolutions*. Every year, we seem to make the same old ones we did last year. I know that I fall into the *resolution rut*.

This year, let's look at our resolutions and set our sights on AAUW. Membership numbers throughout the Association are dropping and we all know that numbers count. Instead of getting on a scale and worrying about our own weight, let's look at the weight of our membership. It's a chance to gain weight – wouldn't we all like to work on that resolution!? We will have our official "weigh-in" at the convention in the spring. I hope we've all gained and our numbers are up!

We also need to work on our "weight" retention. Keeping all our members is important as a basis to grow our membership. The best way is always the personal touch. If you see a member not coming, give them a call. Sometimes all



it takes is that one-on-one contact to get the member to renew and stay with the group.

This is an election year and while AAUW does not support specific candidates, we are active in working to get out the vote and providing information about the issues. Our public policy initiatives are an important tool for recruitment.

The AAUW web site (www.aauw.org) is now even more user-friendly and I encourage each member with a computer to take a moment to check it out. Look at all we are doing at the national and state levels. Please share it with anyone in your branch who does not have these resources.

At the state level, our Legislative Day is coming up on February 19th (more details in this issue). This is an excellent opportunity to keep a new member interested and bring in prospective members.

Let's all resolve to be bigger than ever this year!

National Girls Collaborative Project encourages girls to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics

by Elizabeth Vandenburg, NGCP Liaison – Middle Atlantic 1 Region

AAUW is partnering with the National Girls Collaborative Project, which is aimed at strengthening the capacity, impact, and sustainability of existing girl-serving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) projects. The goal of the project is to facilitate collaboration among organizations, institutions, and businesses committed to expanding participation of girls and women in STEM.

Organizations working on programs aimed at increasing the number of girls interested in STEM sign up with the NGCP by going to <http://www.pugetsoundcenter.org/ngxp/>, and clicking on the Directory tab and then following the instructions to register. Once organizations are registered, they connect to other girl-

serving STEM organizations through the program directory, conferences, forums and listservs.



How can branches/members get involved? AAUW members can identify organizations doing the work on girls in STEM, tell them about the National Girls Collaborative Project, and encourage them to register their programs with the NGCP at the above website.

Members can also encourage these organizations to apply for mini-grants through the same website. AAUW branches can start a girl-serving STEM program, register with the National Girls Collaborative project, and partner with another girl-serving STEM organization to apply for a mini-grant to fund their joint event or project.

Association challenges branches to be a partner in moving forward the mission of AAUW

by Carol Newnam, South Atlantic Regional Director



When last I wrote for your state newsletters, I mentioned that we need to become more focused on the mission of AAUW – *AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.*

At their joint board meeting in July, the Association and Educational Foundation set three Association – State – Branch partnering goals.

The first is to **support the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)**. I know many of our branches have local scholarship programs. I hope you are always giving your scholarship winners a student affiliate membership in AAUW. It only costs \$17 each to do that and it exposes them to the value of being an AAUW member. And, why not use a little of the money you raise for scholarships to assist one or more of your scholarship winners to attend NCCWSL. If you don't have a local scholarship program in your branch, you could opt to support NCCWSL by funding a scholarship for a student to attend. You can also support NCCWSL by encouraging colleges and universities in your area to publicize the conference.

The second partnering goal is to **engage in mission-related programming**. There is a new brochure on mission based programming, called AAUW Working Together. If you haven't already received this brochure it is available by contacting the helpline and there is a myriad of "Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security" theme information on the aauw website. I'm sure many of our branches are already engaging in mission-related programming, but we can all benefit if we come up with even more ways to do so.

The third partnering goal is to **support the National Girls Collaborative Project**. There are many projects devoted to increasing the number of girls interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). The premise of the National Girls Collaborative Project is that these programs could be more effective if they worked together. Visit the NGCP website to read more and view the program directory. You can reach NGCP through the AAUW website. Just click on Education and then on NGCP. We have a regional liaison, Jennifer McDaniel, who helps those involved with NGCP make connections with one another, with resources on gender equity and with AAUW. Branches can contact her at j2med@yahoo.com.

If we all support these partnering goals, we will become a more vital and focused organization.

Carol

Be sure your Voice is Heard – take *Every Member Survey*

For the last two years, AAUW has been engaged in a strategic process for change. Many members have provided feedback to AAUW throughout this process. Now your voice is needed again. Be sure to complete AAUW's annual *Every Member Survey* – this is your chance to be heard about what programs and services are important to you as an AAUW member. The survey was mailed in the recent *Outlook* magazine or you can complete online at www.aauw.org – *Member Center* – Poll. **Deadline for responses is January 28.**

Your responses and time are an important investment in AAUW's future!

AAUW Announces New Leadership Development DVD Series

As we work to strengthen and revitalize AAUW, all members must connect together as a community of active and effective participants. To fulfill our mission of advancing equity for women and girls, AAUW continues to need strong leaders who will make sure the AAUW legacy continues.

AAUW is pleased to announce a new series of leadership-focused DVDs created for distribution during the 2008 state convention season and other leadership events.. In the past, only two members per state participated in national level leadership training. This new series of DVDs will provide leadership skills and strategies for *all* members.

Each state's leadership is scheduling an appropriate meeting to present the DVDs. States will make the DVD series available to branches after their state event. A representative of the national leadership, including AAUW or Educational Foundation board members and regional directors, will attend one event for each state to listen and hear from members across the country.

The DVDs are divided into modules which focus on leadership development as it relates to particular aspects of AAUW's mission. Each module includes a discussion guide for participants. It's vital that all of us can easily discuss AAUW's mission... with a consistent message which will enable us to retain our current members and recruit the new and diverse membership of tomorrow.

At this critical stage in our history, AAUW needs the active engagement of all members delivering the mission to advance equity for women. With leadership training through the DVD series, all AAUW members will be better prepared to focus their mission-based efforts, recruit new members, and further develop their leadership potential *because equity is still an issue!*

Watch a future *Palmetto Leaf* for details on where the training will be held in your area of SC.

AAUW of SC Calendar

January, 2008

Finance Committee Meeting

January 19, 2008

Board Meeting, Greenville

February 8, 2008

Deadline for *Palmetto Leaf* – Due West, Newberry, Summerville profiles

February 19, 2008

Legislative Day, Columbia

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

** 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



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