

Celebrate Action Network successes in 2009!

Thank you for playing an integral role in AAUW's success in moving our shared mission forward this year. Your vocal advocacy and financial support, along with the tens of thousands of others in our nationwide network of e-activists, has helped AAUW influence public policy throughout 2009. In the current economic climate, when so many organizations are cutting back, AAUW remains uniquely positioned to be a strong voice for you in the halls of power. As educated women and men, we continue to be advocates and catalysts for sustainable change.

The growing power and reach of AAUW's *Action Network* can claim some impressive achievements. Just consider that over the past year, together, we have:

- Regained ground in the fight for pay equity by successfully advocating for the enactment of the *Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act*, signed into law by President Obama on January 29, 2009. Celebrated at the White House after more than a decade of work to expand protections for victims of hate crimes with the successful enactment of the *Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act*.
- Successfully supported Justice Sonia Sotomayor's confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Convinced the House to take the first critical step towards strengthening and updating the *Equal Pay Act* with the successful passage of the *Paycheck Fairness Act*, and increased the number of cosponsors in the Senate to more than ever before.
- Ensured successful inclusion of AAUW's top priorities in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, including investments in higher education, school construction and modernization, and direct appropriations to states and localities to support critical services.

In the past year, together, AAUW has made great progress on fair pay, education, and a host of other issues. We have made our voices heard, but our work is far from over. These tough economic times are a challenge to all of us, but they can be especially devastating to women because of harassment, discrimination, unfair wages, and more. Consider a contribution to AAUW, so AAUW can intensify its crucial work to break through barriers for women and girls in the coming year.

AAUW of SC Calendar

January 2010

Finance Committee meeting

January 16, 2010

State Board Meeting, West Columbia

February 23, 2010

AAUW Legislative Day, Columbia

March 1, 2010

Deadline for Spring Convention issue of *Palmetto Leaf*

April 30-May 1, 2010

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

June 1, 2010

Branch Officer forms completed and sent to national and state president

All mailing labels are prepared by AAUW.

Send all address corrections directly to
AAUW Records Office
1111 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036,
or log on to www.aauw.org

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AAUW of South Carolina
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Palmetto Leaf

AAUW of South Carolina Newsletter

Vol. 57, No. 2
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Legislative Advocacy Day 2010: Health & Environmental Impact on Student Achievement

by Jean Norman, Legislative Day chair

Since the “Corridor of Shame” production highlighted the condition of education in South Carolina, more attention is now being focused on the conditions surrounding students and their families that impact performance at school. Following that interest, the 2010 Legislative Advocacy Day is structured around questions of health and the environment, and what we know that affects how well students perform in school. Join your branch colleagues at the Columbia Marriott on February 23 to learn about the policies that our legislators should address to make improvements.

Leading off the morning, **Dr. Oscar Lovelace**, child health advocate and practitioner, will focus our attention on the cost to our children when they lack access to timely health care. The former candidate for governor is a passionate speaker and will set the tone for the day’s considerations.

Nancy Vinson, program director for the Coastal Conservation League, will focus our attention on air and water quality related to public health. The issues are usually community based and affect everyone, but children have little influence on changes in their environment that would improve their school performance.

Dr. Tiffany Williams, MUSC College of Nursing, will moderate a panel to highlight several health issues facing South Carolina children. **Dr. James Stallworth**, USC pediatrics professor, will outline the issues around nutrition and child obesity, and **Zenica Chapman**, from the SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, will focus our attention on the diseases associated with early sexual activity. **Cindy Poole**, assistant executive director and midlands coordinator of Healthy Learners, will outline the actions being taken in several locations around the state to mitigate the lack of access to health care and/or identifying health issues that can be treated.

“So how do we pay for these changes? We don’t have any money.” says the hypothetical legislator. Reconfiguring the current taxes is one answer to that response and the lunch speaker, **Dr. Michael Fanning**, executive director of the Olde English Consortium, will provide an insightful and energizing look at how we can direct legislators’ attention to millions of dollars requiring their action to make it available.

Plan now to attend and make appointments to meet with your local legislator that day in Columbia. Legislative Advocacy Day promises to be lively and thought-provoking, providing the basis for effective advocacy in the General Assembly.

Legislative Advocacy Day Schedule

Tuesday, February 23, 2010
Palmetto Ballroom
Marriott Hotel,
1200 Hampton St., Columbia
1-803-771-7000

8:30 – 9:15 a.m.

Registration & continental breakfast
Welcome & Introductions

9:15 a.m.

Dr. Oscar Lovelace, health
advocate and practitioner

9:45 a.m.

**Environmental Impact
on Student Achievement**
Nancy Vinson, program director,
SC Coastal Conservation League

10:30 a.m.

**Health Impact
on Student Performance**
Dr. Tiffany Williams, MUSC
College of Nursing
Dr. James Stallworth, USC Medical
School, pediatrics
Zenica Chapman, Campaign to
Prevent Teen Pregnancy
Cindy Poole, Healthy Learners

12:15 p.m.

**How to Get More Blood
from the Turnip**
Dr. Michael Fanning, Executive
Director, Olde English Consortium

1:30 p.m.

Adjourn to Statehouse to meet with
legislators and attend meetings

Registration form – page 3

Change has come to AAUW and AAUW of SC

by Bev James, AAUW of SC President



Change had been the byword of AAUW for the past several years. We have seen changes in the organization of AAUW with the merging of funds and boards. The membership voted for changes in the bylaws which, among other changes, now provide for one member, one vote and the ability to reorganize our branch and state structures.

Also over the past several years, some branches in South Carolina have changed the structure of their leadership with leadership teams now being used instead of defined officers. Many branches are becoming more project-oriented rather than having regular monthly programs.

Now most of us are faced with many changes in our lives. My husband and I were planning our retirement when the recession hit like a thunderbolt. Like many, we were faced with a drastic change in our income. Members of our family have had changes, too, with lost jobs, decreasing incomes and financial worries.

Now, more than ever, the advancement of women in the workplace is important. According to a study done by Maria Shriver, women are more likely than ever to head their families; half those women who are primary breadwinners are also single mothers. Seventy percent of families with kids include a working mother.

According to *Time* magazine, 60% of men are convinced that there are no longer any barriers to women's advancement in the workplace. Yet, women *still* don't make as much as men do for the same jobs. The U.S. is *still* the only industrialized nation without a child-care policy. Women are *still* disproportionately affected by a lack of health-care services. Women are *still* being punished by a tax code designed when men were the sole breadwinners and women the sole caregivers.

What does this have to do with our commitment to AAUW? The barriers prohibiting us from reaching our full potential must be eliminated. AAUW is whittling away at these barriers piece by piece.

By being members of AAUW, we are supporting women throughout the country. By using the *Two Minute Activist*, we are making sure our voices are heard. Programs are available through AAUW to help us get the message to others. Use the AAUW website or contact **Carol Lucas**, state Program Vice President, at threeolivemartini@embarqmail.com. Need help with membership and recruitment? Contact state Membership Vice President, **Juanita Mendenhall**, juanitam@usit.net. The state board is there to serve you. Let us!

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.

Branch visits by state leaders bring inspiration

by Pat Batten, AAUW of SC President-elect

Your state president Bev James and I have had the opportunity to visit several branches over the past few months.

For me, it's always a pleasure to see Bev interact with our branch leaders and to help energize them into action.

The latest convention changes have allowed us to streamline branch leadership positions and make it easier for all of us to keep our branches "up and running." Keep up the good work!

One example of an "AAUW woman" was brought home to me this past October. **Dorothy Anderson**, one of our founding **Hilton Head Branch** members (and long-time AAUW member) was awarded the *Bill Bligen Award for Literacy* by our local Literacy Volunteers of the Lowcountry.

This annual award was given to Dorothy for her long support of the cause and service to the organization as well as her service in our community. She made a special point of acknowledging AAUW in her remarks both at the award ceremony and the press interview. The Hilton Head Branch with Dorothy in the lead was instrumental in bringing this organization to the island and helping them become successful. She continues to support this worthwhile effort with our "recycled jewelry" sale at branch meetings. We are able to give money each year to the organization. Dorothy is a retired teacher and principal whose one aim in life is to "help people." That's what it's all about!

Branch Profile – Hilton Head

by Mary Ellen Harkins, president

The AAUW Hilton Head Island Branch is having a very exciting year.

We have reached out to the Bluffton area with a meeting at Palmetto Electric in Hardeeville where Pat Carey Wirth spoke about Habitat for Humanity and we have hosted a joint meeting with the League of Woman Voters at the Jazz Club. At this meeting Ambassador Linda Tarr-Whelan, who has been named "one of the 50 Most powerful women in Washington" by *Ladies Home Journal*, spoke on "A Better Future When Women Lead the Way."

Long time member, Dorothy Anderson, was recently awarded the **Bill Bligen Champion of Literacy Award** by the Literacy Volunteers of the Lowcountry. [see additional information on this award in above article]

In January, our branch will have a cooking demonstration by Sallie Robinson who will share Gullah traditions and recipes with us. Our travel group, *Trips and Treks*, chaired by Pat McGuire, is planning a visit to the Mighty 8th Air Force museum [in Pooler, GA] on Jan. 19th.

The February branch meeting will focus on the nationally-recognized VIM (Volunteers in Medicine) clinic on Hilton Head and other social services in Beaufort County.

The planning for our 2010 Fashion Show and Scholarship Luncheon on March 6th is in full swing! Patricia's will wow us with their stylish 2010 spring and summer collections, and we will also preview new fashions from Banana Republic and Cache boutiques. Six models will sport fabulous day, evening and fancy dress styles with jewels from established and local jewelers.

Nominees needed for state Leadership team

Candidates are being sought for AAUW of SC officers for 2010-2012. Candidates are being sought for the positions of **Program Vice President** and **Treasurer**.

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

In addition, each branch should submit the name of one (1) candidate to serve on the **2010-11 Nominating Committee**. Along with the election of officers, three members of the

Nominating Committee will be elected by the delegates, and two will be appointed by the Board of Directors at the 2010 Spring Convention.

Please forward any names of potential candidates to: **Bev James**, AAUW of SC President, at bevjames1998@yahoo.com or call her at 843-671-4287. Other committee members are **Bea Peyser** (Aiken), **Becky Bailey** (Greater Columbia), and **Kathy Carter** (Hilton Head).

Please do your part to help with this important part of the success of AAUW of SC.

Programs can show your members you appreciate them

by Carol Lucas, AAUW of SC Program Vice President

Hopefully all of you took time to read the email that was sent from the national office prior to Thanksgiving entitled *AAUW Action Network* and dated November 2. It dealt with the many issues that have either been resolved or have gained the attention in Congress in our nation's capital. The list is impressive, and the writer makes the point that we have much for which we should be thankful as the year 2009 winds down.

Just a few of the projects that AAUW has worked tirelessly to promote include the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act*, paid parental leave, legislation dealing with violence against women, hate crimes across the board, and healthcare. The White House has created The Office of Global Women's Issues, and the first-ever congressional subcommittee that focuses on global women's issues has been established. All of these accomplishments have received unwavering support from our organization, something of which we can be very proud.

South Carolina AAUW is devoted to the various causes that affect women, and clearly it is the responsibility of each local program chair to emphasize those causes through the programs that are presented. We support our Legal Advocacy Fund as well as numerous educational endeavors, finding

community partners who share our vision and need our support. I am sure that there is not a branch within our state that doesn't reach out in some way to extend a helping hand to women in need. This is what we are about.

That said, I would like to suggest that perhaps program chairs need to step back occasionally and incorporate a program that is pure fun for their membership.

Having coordinated a district-wide community service learning program, where our students were mandated to acquire 120 hours of service over the course of their four years of high school, I can tell you that one of the fundamental concepts of volunteering is celebration. It is necessary to convey appreciation to those who give of their time and talents because under the best of circumstances, volunteers can burn out. And what better way to celebrate the act of giving than to give in return a program geared to the pleasure of your members? Whether it is a holiday brunch which Beaufort Branch has every December, or sharing a cultural event or more light-hearted program, let your members know that what they do during the rest of the year is important and appreciated and that "this one's for you."

Encourage members of SC General Assembly to stop cuts to education and services for women and children

by Ellie Setser, AAUW of SC Public Policy Chair

Now that the distraction of the Governor's problems seems to be behind our elected officials, we can hope they will turn their attention to the very important issues facing this state.

The overriding concern of everyone is the new 5% cut to the state budget. We can only hope that a high priority will be placed on keeping employees on the job to prevent our 12.4% unemployment rate from sky-rocketing.

The Legislature appears to be moving toward an across the board cut which will be devastating to the public education of our children and to social services for women and children. These areas have already suffered significant cuts but there are more to come.

Please contact your Legislators and express your views on the importance of education and services.

Legislative Day will be a good opportunity to speak in person to representatives and senators. We surely need to make a good showing this year with a large AAUW contingent on February 23 in Columbia.



AAUW member and Winthrop University tapped to host one of only 10 Campaign Colleges in the US

AAUW of South Carolina is proud to announce that **Winthrop University** in Rock Hill has been chosen as one of only ten universities in the United States to conduct a *Campaign College* workshop.

Campaign College is the only training in the country that encourages and trains young women to run for student government on their college campuses. The *Campaign College* staff bring in outside experts to speak to the students, as well as current and former student government officials from the college where the training is taking place. The training addresses the disparity between the high percentages of women in colleges and universities and the consistently low numbers of women in student government.

Dr. Marsha Bollinger, Rock Hill AAUW member and Winthrop University Professor of Geology and Dalton Endowed Chair for Environmental Sciences and Studies, has agreed to serve as AAUW liaison to this event. Serving with her is **Sydney Evans**, Winthrop Student Body President. Both of these exceptional women also serve as representatives of the faculty and students, respectively, on the University's Board of Trustees.

This all day event is scheduled tentatively for March 12, 2010. It is being held in collaboration with AAUW, American University's Women and Politics Institute and *Running Start*.

Members always welcome at state Board meetings

All AAUW members are invited to the winter board meeting which will be held in West Columbia on **January 16, 2010** at the Grecian Gardens, 2312 Sunset Boulevard (803-794-7552).

The meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m. with lunch being ordered from the menu while we work. Major changes in the state bylaws will be discussed as well as branch concerns and planning for the spring convention.

Legislative Advocacy Day Registration

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Marriott Hotel, 1200 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC

Name (please print) _____

Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail Address _____

Advance Registration (postmarked by February 18) **\$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

Branches contribute \$11,669 to launch endowment

by Trish Johnson, EF and LAF Chair

When it comes to the *Power of the Purse*, AAUW of South Carolina always shows that it has what it takes.

Since announcing during the 2009 state Spring convention that AAUW of SC would establish the **Betty Bayless Research and Projects Grant**, branches and individuals have contributed \$11,669.46 to help start the process.

Several Branches came up with very creative ways to raise the funds in Betty's honor. My favorite was the **Charleston Branch** doing a dinner based on the recipes from Julia Child's *Art of French Cooking*. What a fun way to raise money and eat good food at the same time.

The Research and Projects Grant is a \$75,000.00 endowment that requires the state to raise \$5,000.00 to start it and it must be completed in ten years. South Carolina historically completes grants well before the deadline. Betty's grant is a Community Action Grant.

Since the inauguration of the Research & Projects Fund in 1972, AAUW has provided support to hundreds of communities around the US to advance education and equity for women and girls. Early projects focused on public interest issues, including women's struggles to balance home and work life, the establishment of women's resource centers on college campuses, and the emergence of women's political involvement in the anti-nuclear movement.



The late Betty Bayless, state Public Policy chair and AAUW national board member.

As the program evolved and grew, AAUW explored ways to strengthen support for community-based programs that further its mission. Projects have become increasingly collaborative and girl-focused, bringing together AAUW branches and local community groups.

In 2006, AAUW supported the *Girls Excelling in Math and Science (GEMS)* program, a partnership between the AAUW College Park MD Branch and the University of Maryland. The project provided hands-on science exploration and mentoring for D.C. area middle-school girls.

Thanks to a 2007 Community Action Grant, the anti-bullying *Ophelia Project of Southeast Wisconsin* was able to expand its reach, creating new partnerships with schools, AAUW chapters, as well as the Girl Scouts of Wisconsin.

Let's Read Math, a project funded in 2005 that works with AAUW branches to partner with local community organizations to offer math skill-building curriculum for young children, continues to grow and thrive.

The 2009 grant recipients are undertaking exciting projects, such as a nine-week intensive college preparatory program for young women who have completed their GED; an after school program that focuses on aviation career education for middle school girls; a summer science camp for low-income 11th & 12th grade female students; and an initiative to recruit women coaches for after-school programs throughout California in order to help develop and encourage girls' participation in sports.

I want to thank all of you for your hard work and willingness in this economy to open your purses and give so Betty's legacy of working for equality for women and girls will continue.

Ways to support AAUW programs & research

AAUW has restructured, but it is important to remember that the **AAUW mission, objectives, and programs have not changed**. They thrive and grow as members and friends continue to nurture and support these activities with their efforts and their financial gifts.

The process for giving to AAUW has changed very little. You can still give general support to benefit all our charitable work. And you can still restrict your giving to specific funds, programs, fellowships, or grants. But now it is much easier to write your check or use your credit card to make a donation.

All these funds and programs are now part of AAUW, our 501(c)(3) charitable entity, which means that gifts payable to *AAUW Funds* are fully tax-deductible.

You can support all the programs with a single gift to *AAUW Funds*, or you can restrict your gift to any specific fund, program, fellowship, or grant that you would like.

You can also split your gifts among multiple programs by indicating the fund(s) or program(s) to which you want to restrict your gift on your check, contribution report form, or any accompanying document.

Visit the secure AAUW website to contribute. The five largest program areas are:

- AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund
- AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund
- AAUW Eleanor Roosevelt Fund
- AAUW Leadership Programs Fund
- AAUW Public Policy Fund

Valuing your membership in AAUW

by Juanita Mendenhall, AAUW of SC Membership Vice President

Membership in AAUW offers exceptional tangible and intangible benefits — a strong voice, a vibrant community, relevant information, and valuable resources.

Strong Voice

One of the powers of AAUW is our collective power in numbers. AAUW's members' voices make a difference on *critical women's and civil rights issues* — briefing policy-makers, spearheading coalitions, and impacting the world through *international initiatives* and partnerships. Check out all the opportunities for individual action through activities such as the *AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps* and *Two-Minute Activist*. AAUW provides you the opportunity to support and be the first to learn about *ground-breaking research* on women, girls, and education.

Vibrant Community

Wherever you go, you will find a community of friends and professional contacts in AAUW — a powerful local and national network for personal and professional growth. Locate AAUW colleagues from around the world through our *Member Services Database* and give back to your local community through projects to benefit women and girls as a branch member. Stay on the pulse of all issues and activities through AAUW's growing social media network by joining the AAUW Facebook page and group, and following us on *Twitter*, *YouTube*, and the *AAUW Dialog blog*.

Relevant Information

AAUW is a trusted source of timely and important information. Our award-winning magazine *AAUW Outlook*

highlights issues and individuals affecting women and girls today. *Action Network* briefs alert you to congressional actions on issues that can change your life. State and branch groups publish newsletters about local activities and interests, and the *AAUW Mission & Action* e-newsletter regularly updates members about the work of AAUW and provides information on today's hot issues and opportunities for activism.

Valuable Resources

AAUW provides many *educational and professional development* experiences for you to improve your personal and leadership skills as well as opportunities for educational advancement through *fellowships, grants, and awards*. There are special resources for members facing *employment challenges* and exclusive *member discounts* on numerous things from subscriptions to insurance.

AAUW membership is an incredible value:

- Representation
- Community
- Savings
- Information
- Education
- Inspiration

Encourage a friend or colleague to join your Branch today. The health of each Branch is up to its members and our own excitement about the organization.

Let's get excited and GROW!

Preview of 2010 Spring Convention - Beaufort

by Carol Lucas, AAUW of SC Program Vice President

The 2010 AAUW of SC Spring convention will be hosted by the Beaufort Branch, April 30 – May 1.

- Friday, April 30: **Board Meeting** (2:00-5:00 pm) at the home of Carol Lucas. Directions and time will follow.
- Friday, April 30: **A Lowcountry Welcome** – wine and hors-d'oeuvres at a private plantation home on St. Helena's Island. Directions and time to follow.
- Saturday, May 1: **Conference** will convene at The Quality Inn at Towne Center.

The Quality Inn is adjacent to the Beaufort Visitors Center and is approximately two miles from downtown Beaufort. A block of rooms has been reserved and must be booked no later than April 9. Guest rooms are \$59.00 plus tax, the total coming to \$65.49 per evening.

Those wishing to make hotel reservations should call The Quality Inn directly at (843) 524-2144. The Quality Inn of Beaufort has a web site that provides additional information.

Newly opened restaurant, *Fryed Green Tomatoes*, is also located in this complex and will serve breakfast as well as Lowcountry cuisine for lunch. The morning and afternoon meetings will be held in the conference room at The Quality Inn.

Saturday evening and Sunday, the annual *A Taste of Beaufort* is being held. Participating restaurants have kiosks where their signature foods may be sampled for a nominal fee. You may choose to stay an extra night to take advantage of this popular event.