



Palmetto Leaf

AAUW of South Carolina Newsletter

Vol. 55, No. 4

June 2008

Leadership Workshop is for ALL members

by Bev James, AAUW of SC President

Make your plans – Saturday, August 2 in Columbia. Be there or be square!

The Summer Leadership Training – *AAUW Leadership Development* – is being held at the Breed Leadership Center at Columbia College on Saturday, August 2, 2008. An interactive presentation by Ann Terry is planned for all Branch presidents, potential Branch leaders and all Board members. This is a perfect chance for your branch to train future leaders, to re-energize current leaders, and to remain current with Association happenings.

Branch presidents will have an opportunity to discuss concerns and ask questions of all Board members. Program ideas as well as expectations for 2008-2009 will be discussed.

The meeting on Saturday will be preceded with a State Board meeting on Friday evening to which all Branch presidents are invited.

Take the challenge! Let's have three representatives from all branches and make this the most successful leadership training ever!

Leadership Workshop Schedule

9:30 – 10:00 am	Registration and coffee
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Workshop
12:00 – 12:45 pm	Lunch with counterparts
12:45 – 1:30 pm	Workshop
1:30 – 2:00 pm	Interaction with Board

The board meeting on Friday night will begin at 5:00 p.m. The location will depend on the number attending. We will be working through dinner with the hopes of completing all business on Friday.

Participants staying over on Friday evening will be located at the Marriott Hotel. Call 803-771-7000 to book rooms. No AAUW rate available – but check for other discounts.

*Leadership Conference Registration form on page 7.
Directions will be sent to registrants.*

AAUW logo undergoes transformation as does the organization

by Linda Hallman, AAUW Executive Director

As a signal of our move to transform and unify our organization, the organization will be using a common logo of the stylized “W” and the acronym “AAUW”.



This logo/acronym is already recognizable throughout the country as a reference to our organization. The Association and EF boards affirmed the logo/acronym change at their joint meeting in February 2008 and directed we minimize usage of the two separate, full organization names in favor of AAUW designation whenever possible.

We are all aware that the phrase “university women” has been a long-standing source of confusion about whom we are and whom we represent. For many, the *American Association of University Women* is an organization for women who work in university settings – and **only** for women members. As a result, many potential members may not see themselves as eligible or interested in joining AAUW.

In this transition to a unified AAUW brand, *it is essential that states, branches and the national office adopt and use the current AAUW logo/acronym throughout our programs, presentations, publications, signage, stationery, etc.* The AAUW logo is available in various formats, including a horizontal version for added flexibility, and in color and black and white.

The logo is downloadable from AAUW website – http://www.aaue.org/member_center/tools/graphics.cfm

Mark Your Calendar
AAUW National Convention
June 26-29, 2009
St. Louis, MO

AAUW's Value Promise shapes current & future programs and direction for organization

by Bev James, AAUW of SC President



The AAUW Board of Directors and the Educational Foundation Board have been involved in a Strategic Process that has focused on every single facet of the organization. This comprehensive report was reviewed during the February 2008 joint Board meeting.

Value Promise

At the core of all the work of the Boards was the unanimous commitment to the following *Value Promise*: ***By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.***

The Value Promise is a guiding principal that serves as a filter for all the complex decisions we face in our work to consolidate AAUW while expanding our reach and impact.

Re-focusing the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)

The joint Boards recognized a common thread that ran through these strategic recommendations was to focus on the AAUW Mission. Among the topics addressed was the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. Their goals were to maximize the strategic impact of our investment on LAF and to ensure that, consistent with our *Value Promise*, our work to fight sex discrimination and pay inequity through LAF *breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.*

We have all taken enormous pride in effective LAF programs: campus outreach programs, an online resource library, various research reports, and campus sex

discrimination case support. Many members and those who look for our leadership have asked that we extend our LAF activities beyond the campus to other workplace settings. Having achieved such an outstanding track record in the educational arena, women from all walks of life have asked for help.

Now we are expanding our LAF focus beyond the academic sphere to the wider workplace. LAF plans to focus our direct case support strategically, seeking cases that address *significant issues* that will clearly impact our fight for pay equity and workplaces free of sex discrimination.

Although current plaintiffs will be supported through December 31, 2008 and LAF will continue to provide travel grants and stipend to LAF speakers this year and into the future, AAUW will continue, and expand, long-term support as *amicus curiae* in gender discrimination and other civil rights cases. They will work closely with other respected organizations that are active in the gender equity arena.

AAUW has been in the fight to combat sex discrimination from the first; but with the Supreme Court narrowing our rights, pushing hard to rescind the gains we've made, we really are going to have to fight to defend the legacy – strategic litigation will be critical weapon for us over the next few years.

Your continued help and funding support for LAF is essential if we are to leverage our strength, reputation, credibility and resources for strategic litigation that will truly help us galvanize our commitment to gender equity.

Bev

AAUW Value Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.

From tornadoes to workshops, State Convention a success

by Bev James, AAUW of SC President

The South Carolina State Convention held on April 4-5, 2008 in Newberry was a resounding success! From the delicious beginning, a wine and hors d'oeuvres event hosted by the **Newberry Branch**, to the last workshop given by Ellie Setzer on *Getting Out the Vote*, the 42 convention attendees were entertained as well as informed.

The tornado warning siren didn't dampen the enthusiasm of those attending the performance Friday night at the Newberry Opera House. They were treated to an up close and personal performance by the musicians. Nothing like a little excitement!

The program on Saturday began with the keynote speaker, Lila Meeks, who reinforced the knowledge of how fortunate we are to be women in the United States. Ms. Meeks sited the obvious disadvantage of being born a girl in China.

A brief message from **Carol Newnam**, the South Atlantic Regional Director, was followed by the business meeting. **Kathryn Sharpe** was elected secretary after being nominated from the floor and **Bev James** was elected president. Also elected were members of the 2009-2010 nominating committee, **Bernadette Houghton** (Aiken), **Harriett Teasdale** (Rock Hill), and **Kathleen Boggs** (Hilton Head). The Board appointed **Dot Tunstall** (Greater Columbia) as chair and **Lynn Shore** (Greenville) as a member of this

committee. The budget and the by-laws change allowing for the election of a President-Elect, if necessary, were approved.

While the business meeting was in session, **Kathy Carter**, the state College/University Liaison, was meeting with four college and university women to establish a AAUW of SC Student Advisory Council. These women introduced each other during lunch and were able to take advantage of the opportunity to meet AAUW members.

The afternoon program began with Dr. Wanda Stagger and Serita Acker, recipients of an AAUW Educational Foundation Projects Grant, impressing the audience with their program, *It's a Girl Thing*, which encourages middle school girls to be involved with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) activities. AAUW of South Carolina pledged to help these wonderful women however they can.

After **Ellie Setzer** encouraged AAUW members to take advantage of the AAUW publication, *Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout* manual, during this election year and to be a positive influence in our communities, members' questions and concerns were addressed.

Michelle Long, **Audrey Henry**, and the **Newberry Branch** are to be commended for providing an excellent facility, insuring the convention ran smoothly, and providing the convention attendees with a memorable week-end.

South Carolina Welcomes Student Leaders

by Kathy Carter, College & University Liaison

Helen Steele and Yoruba Mutakabbir from Clemson University, Molly Arnold from Newberry College and Precious Samuel from Benedict College were enthusiastically greeted by branch members from all over the state at the convention in Newberry.

The students, who were all recommended by their higher education institution, spent the morning in an organizational meeting for AAUW of SC's Student Advisory Council. **Kathy Carter**, state liaison for colleges and universities, facilitated the meeting and Ann Terry provided an introduction to

AAUW. Molly Arnold agreed to serve as interim chair for the group.

The students were introduced to convention attendees during lunch and sat with Branch members who were located near their college campuses. At the conclusion of the day, the students shared that one of the highlights of their day was getting to know the AAUW members.

For more information on this initiative, contact Kathy Carter at kathycarter@earthlink.net or call 843-671-2425.

Linda Hallman takes the reins as AAUW's national Executive Director

AAUW welcomed **Linda D. Hallman** as its new executive director in January. Hallman joins AAUW with a long history of executive-level association and foundation experience in the Washington, D.C., area. Most recently, she served as vice president of policy and government strategy, external and member relations, with the National Alliance for Health Information Technology (NAHIT) in Washington, D.C.

Highlights of Hallman's extensive nonprofit experience include her work as executive director of the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) and AMWA Foundation, and as president and chief executive officer of the American Horticultural Society (AHS). She also served for nine years in the United States Army as soprano soloist with the U.S. Army Band and Chorus at Fort Myer, Virginia.

"Over the past year, AAUW has taken bold steps in new directions, and I am honored to be joining this powerful and dynamic organization," stated Hallman. "There is, indeed, work that remains undone. AAUW's future is bright – and together, with the dedication and commitment of volunteer leaders and members and the excellent staff, we will build on AAUW's past and present successes as we pursue even greater achievements in the future."

"AAUW has been undergoing a major strategic process initiative as part of the revitalization of our more than 125-year-old organization. We are very pleased to have Linda as AAUW's executive director at this pivotal time in our history, and it is with great enthusiasm that we welcome her as a member of our leadership team and as an AAUW member," said President **Ruth Sweetser**.

"As a member of the AAUW Educational Foundation Board, I have the pleasure of working with Linda. I have been amazed – in fact astonished – at how quickly she has gotten a handle on what AAUW is, where it wants to go, and how she can help us to get there," said **Ann Terry** (Rock Hill). "About three days after she started working, we had a conference call that included her and she was primed and ready to participate and knew so much about our organization already. She has brought a new sense of energy and excitement to volunteers, staff and to AAUW."



AAUW of SC wins Educational Foundation top honors

by Trish Johnson, AAUW of SC EF and LAF Chair

AAUW of South Carolina achieved Educational Foundation second place in the *Top Ten Fundraising award for Per Capita Giving by State*, fourth place in the *Top Ten Fundraising award for Total Giving by State* and Fifth place in the *Top Ten Fundraising award for Total Contribution Growth over Previous Recognition Year*. This is a wonderful achievement that shows the dedication and commitment you as members have toward the mission of AAUW.

AAUW of SC has always made the top ten in per capita giving but to make the top ten for total growth over the previous year shows how a little state can make a big

difference. No amount is too small in giving to the Educational Foundation. You are helping to make a difference in the lives of women and girls. Keep up the good work.

During the annual Convention, we raised \$555 for the Educational Foundation and \$102 for the Legal Advocacy Fund. Many thanks to those who contributed items to the auction, and books and jewelry to the LAF sales.

Your continued contributions will help complete the *Ann Scott Terry Endowment*. We are but \$8000 away from finishing and in just four short years. Thank you for the hard work and money that you have given to make this a reality.

AAUW gains attention with release of new research report

On May 20, AAUW released the most comprehensive analysis to date on trends in educational achievement by gender, race/ethnicity, and income. The report, ***Where the Girls Are: The Facts About Gender Equity in Education***, presents a comprehensive look at girls' educational achievement during the past 35 years, paying special attention

to the relationship between girls' and boys' progress. This report shows that girls and boys from the fourth grade through the end of college are making steady educational gains. It is also the first report to analyze gender differences within economic and ethnic categories.

Membership – Key to our Future

by Pat Batten, AAUW of SC Membership Vice President

Membership recruitment never stops for a vacation. Most branches are in “recess” for the summer but there is still work that goes on “behind the scenes.”

Dues renewal is the biggest part of the summer work with the treasurer and membership representatives from each branch busy making sure everyone is up-to-date and sending in the forms to AAUW. Other officers are also working to set up the program year and advise the Association of who holds what key position at the branch level.

What does that mean for each branch member? Once you pay your own dues, start looking around your community at your friends and acquaintances to invite to join your branch. The **Rock Hill Branch** was our leader this year in branch recruitment. How did they achieve an 18% increase in members? A group got together with their address books and personally invited people to join them at a meeting. It worked well and is one way we can all do our part. The personal touch

is always the best recruitment tool. The **Gaffney Branch** showed a 15% increase this past year and the **Aiken Branch** had a 10% increase. Let’s work on making those numbers for all our branches in the coming year.

Our upcoming Summer Leadership Conference in Columbia will give us all more information on how to use the new leadership development DVDs that will be distributed to all branches for their use. With the DVDs is information about our new *value promise* [see page 2]. Information about this has been sent to all membership contacts in the branches from our AAUW Membership Committee. This promise is something that we can all appreciate. This is a message that you can use when talking to your friends so that we can increase our numbers and our voice for equity.

Mark your calendars for August 2 and make a stop in Columbia part of your summer vacation! I’ll look forward to seeing members from all our branches.

AAUW around the South Atlantic Region

by Carol Newnam, South Atlantic Regional Director

During the month of April, I had the pleasure of participating in five state conventions, to help facilitate some of the Leadership Development modules, as well as participate in other ways, in Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, North Carolina and Florida.



I always find AAUW conventions exciting and energizing. I’m impressed with the innovative and mission-based programs that are happening in the states and branches of the South Atlantic Region. I enjoyed renewing old friendships

and making new friends in every state and getting to know what SAR states are doing.

Here are just a few highlights from my travels. The South Atlantic Region can be proud.

Georgia AAUW collaborated with the Siegel Institute for Leadership, Ethics and Character on a *Phenomenal Women’s Conference*. **South Carolina** AAUW had a terrific workshop called *It’s a Girl Thing* promoting getting girls into engineering careers.

A branch in **Virginia** presented a Diversity Awards program that recognizes junior year high school students that are working to promote better understanding and appreciation of the differences among peoples. **North Carolina** has plans for a computer technology competition for middle and high school girls.

Florida has a new branch forming on a college campus with students, faculty and staff.

At every convention we talked about change – as we always do.

The Legal Advocacy Fund is changing. AAUW is expanding our support beyond academia to other workplace discrimination settings. We will be ending our plaintiff financial support but we will be looking for expanded friend of the court opportunities to lend our name to cases with potential broad impact for women and girls. The act of putting AAUW’s name behind the case and the issue has always been our primary contribution. Plaintiffs have been grateful for the financial assistance but I’ve heard many of them say that it was our name in support that was most important. This change gives us an opportunity to be a part of cases in whatever workplace environment that can have a major impact on equity for women and girls – not for just one woman at a time.

At the Phenomenal Women’s conference in Georgia, I saw a quote that I think is very appropriate for AAUW right now. It is probably based on an essay by Scott J. Simmerman, Performance Management Company, called, *“Teaching the Caterpillar to Fly”*, although I didn’t find the exact quote there. Here it is: *“Does the caterpillar resist becoming a butterfly for fear of change or fear of falling?”* Actually, the caterpillar accepts change and becomes something beautiful that can fly. Maybe we can soar only if we accept that change will occur and become active participants in that change.

Carol

Branch Profiles – what makes our branches tick?

Gaffney Branch

by Sara Setzer

The Gaffney Branch has been making a difference in Cherokee County for a long time as we became 79 years old this year.

In 2003 we began having a few luncheon meetings instead of evening meetings. Luncheon meetings worked so well that we try to have most of our meetings at noon. That has made it easier for Limestone College faculty who do not live in town to be members.

Our programs have been topical and women-related. We didn't think our branch could manage a book group but thought that Karenna Gore Schiff's book, *Lighting the Way: Nine Women Who Changed Modern America*, dealt with women our members should know and enjoy. Starting in the 2005-06 year different members have been giving ten-minute presentations about Schiff's less well-known women. To keep meetings manageable in length, we don't include them every month but as they can be worked in with the business meeting and program. Two women will finish our book next year. We should have a quiz. Our president has done an excellent job of moving our meetings along as we enjoy our lunches.

Hoping to keep and increase membership in 2006, we decided to have a very different get-together in early December with a purely social event, "Champagne and

Denmark Branch

by Bettylou Terry

The Denmark Branch celebrated in April with a High Tea held in the historic Denmark Railroad Depot complete with white linens, crystal, silver and china. There were a variety of teas to taste with scrumptious fruit breads and sandwiches. AAUW history and goals were introduced by **Lugenia Rochelle**, past president, and **Ethel Faust**, financial officer. This information was informative to guests and a reminder for longtime members. The programs were teacup-shaped and created by **Gwendolyn Littlejohn** and Ethel Faust. **Mary Frances Harrison** chaired the committee aided by all branch members. **Gwen Sellers** serves as president of the branch.

May 24 brought special recognition to past deceased members. A meaningful program was presented by Dr. Luns C. Richardson, ninth president of Morris College of Sumter. He had previously worked with all of the deceased members in various capacities in Denmark institutions and had some great stories to relate about these dedicated women.

Those recognized included Mildred B. Ford, first branch president and a professor at Voorhees and Lander Colleges; Catherine W. Moore, who initiated summer school programs

Cookies – Recipes Attached." We repeated our successful undertaking this past December with "Champagne and Desserts." A member who decorates lavishly and who is willing to decorate early in December has been willing to host us both years.

Years ago the branch started recognizing the Limestone College senior woman who best exemplified AAUW's goals and the senior women in Cherokee County's two high schools with the highest grade point averages. We have a banquet for them in the spring. The branch also pays the first year AAUW dues for the Limestone College recipient and recognizes her at Limestone's Awards Day ceremony.

Sadly we lost an AAUW life member a little over a year ago, **Mary Simpson**. She had received an AAUW grant to pursue a music education degree in the early 1960's. The branch presented an Educational Foundation Named Gift in her memory this year.

Membership has not grown significantly, but neither has it waned. Our first Associate member joined this year and will become a full-fledged member after Limestone's graduation ceremonies this spring.



(from left) *Lugenia Rachelle*, past co-president, *Dr. Luns C. Richardson*, ninth president of Morris College and guest speaker, and *E. Mitchell Leppy*, EF chair.

and served as secretary of the Voorhees Board of Trustees; Jennie M. Sellers,

Voorhees instructor and manager of the Voorhees Cafeteria; Pauline T. Sellers, a teacher at Voorhees, and later an instructor of English at Denmark Tech and dietician; Lelia Duncan-Jameson Goodwin, Officer of Voorhees Alumni Affairs and later in Public Relations; Lola Carter Myers, Professor Education at Voorhees as well as developing innovative programs at USC; and Lelia Brown White, past president of both the Denmark Branch and SC AAUW.

Branch Profiles

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Hilton Head

by Ronni Silett, Branch President

At its annual meeting and spring luncheon on May 17, ending its 2007-2008 program year, the Hilton Head Island Branch announced that in addition to three scholarships totaling \$3,000 awarded in March to local women, and more than \$400 in donations raised for The Child Abuse Prevention Agency, at a December, 2007 holiday luncheon, it was donating \$2,150 to local charitable organizations and national AAUW funds.

To my knowledge this is the largest amount of money for scholarships and donations that the local organization has expended in its 21-year history. The funds used for scholarships and charitable donations are raised primarily at an annual March Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show which this year included a raffle and silent auction.

The local recipients included Literacy Volunteers of the Low Country, The Ella C. White Memorial Scholarship Fund Endowment, The Junior Jazz Foundation, The Coastal

Discovery Museum, Friends of the Hilton Head Library, and Friends of the Bluffton Library.

In addition, the Hilton Head Island AAUW contributed to the national AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund and made a donation to AAUW's Educational Foundation in honor of Ronni Silett as she completed her term as Branch President.

During her two year tenure, outgoing Program Vice President **Carol Catanzaro** arranged a variety of interesting and informative programs which served to promote AAUW's mission and also educate the membership about the lowcountry's local history, culture and community organizations.

The branch, which serves all of southern Beaufort County, South Carolina, had a membership of approximately 80 members this year. Mary Ellen Harkins will serve as president for 2008-2010.

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

AAUW of SC Summer Leadership Conference
August 2 – Columbia College, Columbia, South Carolina

Name _____
Branch/Org. _____
Branch Position [*do not have to be an officer to participate*] _____
Address _____
Daytime Phone _____ E-mail _____

Advance Registration must be postmarked by July 24, 2008.
Lunch cannot be guaranteed without advance registration

Registration for Leadership Conference \$10.00 _____

Special diet needs: _____

Send this completed form and check payable to **AAUW of SC by July 24, 2008** to:
Pat Hall, AAUW of SC Treasurer, 1801 Ford Road., Gaffney, SC 29340
hall549@bellsouth.net; 864-489-7591.

Greater Columbia Branch salutes local women with awards

by Becky Bailey

Richland County Council member Joyce Dickerson and nursing student Julie Hunt had never met before lunch on Saturday, May 17. But by the end of the meal the two women shared hugs and tears as both were applauded by **Greater Columbia AAUW** members and guests for the struggles they have endured and achievements they have realized.

A single mom juggling work as a secretary at the South Carolina Heart Center, attending pre-nursing classes at Midlands Tech, and caring for her disabled father, Hunt's heartfelt request for assistance to continue her education was rewarded by the branch with a \$500 scholarship which she'll use to pursue her LPN.

"I'm so humbled, and so grateful for this help," a tearful Hunt told the group. "And I promised myself I wouldn't cry." Hunt has been accepted in Midlands Tech's LPN program to begin this summer.

Dickerson, who told the group of her young life living in boarding houses while her mother worked as a laundress, and the step father who adopted her and embraced the gregarious teen, was presented the branch's Educational Foundation Named Gift Honor which recognizes her contributions to women and girls.

Mentioning the "101 women who have influenced my life," Dickerson spoke of the women who had mentored her along the way and the importance of reaching out to other women and girls. The award, Dickerson said, reflected "my struggles to get an education while maintaining my dignity and integrity."

AAUW of SC Calendar

July 1, 2008

Branch Dues Report due

August 1, 2008

State Board including Branch presidents
Columbia College

August 2, 2008

Leadership Conference for all Branches
Columbia College

September 9, 2008

Deadline for *Palmetto Leaf*

November 1, 2008

Deadline for nominations for 2009-2011

January 6, 2009

Deadline for Legislative Day issue of *Palmetto Leaf*

February 6, 2009

Deadline for Spring Convention issue of *Palmetto Leaf*

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

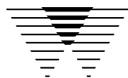
Deadline for Summer workshop issue of *Palmetto Leaf*

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AAUW National Convention, St. Louis

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AAUW of South Carolina

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