



Palmetto Leaf

AAUW of South Carolina Newsletter

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September 2010

This is the year to truly get involved in advocacy

by Ellie Setser, AAUW of SC Public Policy Chair

This year will bring many opportunities for us in AAUW to educate ourselves about SC's legislative and judicial processes.

We will again participate in a ***Legislative Day Conference*** in February 2011 with the League of Women Voters and the School Improvement Council.

This year we will be able to join with these same groups in regional ***Advocacy Workshops*** to help train us in the advocacy process. Too often people attend the Legislative Day Conference and then go home before attempting to contact their legislators to express their opinions. Educating ourselves should be only the first step in affecting the outcome of the use of ever-scarcer public resources for education.

The AAUW of SC Board voted to cosponsor the League of Women Voter's ***Conference on Ensuring An Independent and Diverse Judiciary*** to be held at the Charleston Museum, 360 Meeting Street, Friday, October 8, 2010. Women and African Americans make up a much larger percentage of the population than are represented in our State's judiciary. We will join with the League in exploring how we might remedy this situation.

A free reception will follow the meeting. The program for the event can be found to the right. There is no cost to participants and the Charleston Branch will offer home hospitality to AAUW of SC members who are attending on a first come, first served basis. Call 843-571-3417 for making reservations.

Of special concern to everyone should be the rapid escalation of tuition to our State Colleges and Universities. Almost as soon as lottery money was available to these institutions for scholarships, tuition increased. We must pay attention to be sure that the decreased funding of higher education in this state by the legislature is not given as reason to increase the cost to students. We need to be sure that funding available is used wisely to support faculty and students instead of for amenities that are not really a necessary part of an education. Middle class families are increasingly unable to afford the highest public college costs in the South.

Conference on Ensuring an Independent and Diverse Judiciary

October 8, 2010

The Charleston Museum
360 Meeting Street
1 - 5:30 pm

Free Reception

6:00 pm
Alluettes Jazz Bar
137 Calhoun St.

Program

The Impact of the Judicial Process on Citizens

Hon. Rebecca Love Kourlis,
Exec. Dir. Institute for The Advancement of
the Legal Profession; former Justice, Colorado
Supreme Court

Invited Speakers/Panelist include:

- Hon. Jean Toal, Chief Justice, SC Supreme Court
- Hon. Matthew Perry, Judge, US District Court
- Hon. Aphrodite Konduros, Judge, SC Court of Appeals
- Hon. Bobby Harrell, Speaker, SC House of Representatives
- Hon. David Weeks, Chairman, SC Legislative Black Caucus
- Hon. David Mack, Member, Judicial Merit Selection Commission
- Elisabeth McNamara, President, League of Women Voters US, former Georgia prosecutor

Advocacy, membership and involvement key to success

by Pat Batten, AAUW of SC President
pbatten@aol.com



The word for this year is *advocacy*. Our state board selected the theme for this year as *Breaking Barriers through Advocacy*. In other articles in this newsletter, you will learn about our partnerships with other organizations that will lead up to our convention on April 29-30, 2011 in Rock Hill.

Take time this year to think about what that word means and what you can do to become an advocate – for the mission of AAUW as well as for those personal causes we all care deeply about. Whether you use the *Two-Minute Activist* on the AAUW website, write a letter to your member of Congress or to the local paper, or stand up at a meeting and voice your opinion, you will help to make a difference. We know it takes a lot of voices to break through a barrier but what would happen if no one made the first sound?

Over the summer, e-mails were sent to each member about the launch of the *One Member-One Vote* process. Adopted at the 2009 convention, this will enable each member to have input in policy decisions and elections. More information about this will be in upcoming issues of the *Outlook*.

Membership retention and recruitment are still our biggest challenge. Please remember all it takes is for each member to bring one friend to double what we have – and numbers count when we advocate.

We've talked about change frequently over the past few years. One of the most difficult aspects for me personally is the increase in the electronic communications media. I'm not a *Facebook/Twitter* person but after the birth of my first grandchild, I'm beginning to open up more and more to the value in these connections. I still prefer personal contact over pictures and words on a screen but we need to recognize the uses of these new tools. We have a state website (aauw-sc.org) and in the not-too distant future, we'll be on *Facebook*. Please be open to these changes as they happen – and help your older members (like me!) through the process.

I look forward to seeing you at our state events and in visits to your local branches. **Bev James**, our outgoing President, made a special point of trying to visit all of our branches and I hope to follow her example (not an easy task!).

Pat

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.

The Value of belonging to AAUW

by Juanita Mendenhall, AAUW of SC Membership Chair

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



Strong Voice

AAUW's 100,000-member voice makes 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* at aauw.org. 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. Be sure to sign up for the e-newsletter via the AAUW website Member Services Database.

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

You can find it all as part of AAUW. To enjoy these benefits and more, visit our national website, aauw.org under “membership.”

League of Women Voters produces Legislative Advocacy Manual

by Ellie Setser, AAUW of SC Public Policy Chair

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina has produced a fantastic *Legislative Advocacy Manual*. In a recent phone conference concerning our partnership with LWVSC, I learned about the manual and it can be downloaded from this link: www.lwvsc.org/issuesandaction.

**Former AAUW of SC
State President passes away**

Mabel Stoudemayer of the AAUW of Greenville Branch passed away on July 25 of this year.

Mabel was president of AAUW of SC from 1971-1973.

She was a graduate of Southwestern University, served as president of the Greenville Branch, and was an active community volunteer. During her leadership of the Greenville County Public Library Board, several new branch libraries were opened.

Mabel has the distinction of being the first woman elected to the Greenville County School Board and was campaign director for Carolyn Frederick, the first woman elected to the SC state legislature.

Breaking News: **AAUW of SC wins First & Third Place in Top 10 Awards**

by **Pat Batten**(AAUW of SC President) & **Trish Johnson**(outgoing AAUW of SC Funds Chair)

We have very good news to share. AAUW-SC has achieved **First Place** in the 2009 Top Ten Award for **State Per Capita Giving** to the Educational Opportunities Fund. Congratulations to everyone who contributed.

AAUW of SC has also been awarded **Third Place for State Per Capita Giving in Combined Support to all programmatic areas for 2009.**

Let's keep the momentum going for 2010. Remember to send in your contributions to AAUW before December 31st of this calendar year for the donations to count for 2010 and for you to have your named gift awards ready at our convention.

At our 2009 convention, Trish reported \$16,900 had been raised for the *Betty Bayless Projects and Research Grant*. This allowed the state to have \$1,500 in named gift awards. These awards were presented to **Beverly James**, President of

AAUW- SC (\$1000) and the **League of Women Voters of South Carolina** (\$500.).



Please consider designating the *Betty Bayless Projects and Research Grant* when donating for 2010. We will need to raise \$75,000 total over the next 10 years to complete it. South Carolina has been very good in past years of completing endowments ahead of time so let's keep up the good work!

At the publication date of the newsletter, we are still looking for someone to assume the AAUW Funds position on the state board. If interested, please contact Pat Batten (ptbatten@aol.com).

2010 State Convention reflections

by **Audrey Henry**, former AAUW of SC Convention Manager

The 2010 SC AAUW Spring Convention in Beaufort was not only mentally inspiring and challenging, but also a delight to the senses, with the Lowcountry atmosphere and food.

The highlight of the Saturday program was the keynote address by **Dr. Valerie Truesdale**, Superintendent of Beaufort County Schools. She spoke of the challenges facing all schools in the state, particularly in the area of constantly changing technology. Her previous experiences as District Superintendent for Oconee and chief instructional officer for School District 5 in Lexington and Richland Counties provided valuable experience for her current position.

Special guest and speaker was **Kathy Anthon**, National AAUW representative and vice-president of the Legal Advocacy Fund for the AAUW of Texas, who brought information on the broader perspective of AAUW.

Two women who became politically involved and were elected to offices were also on the afternoon program. **Kate Keep**, a former Hilton Head council member, and **Harriet Keyserling**, a former SC state representative, gave their

personal perspective on the joys and difficulties of running for public offices and the effects on their families.

In addition, **Lindsay Hook** spoke enthusiastically about her participation in the *AAUW National Conference of College Women Student Leaders*.

The convention began with a charming "Lowcountry Welcome," hosted by the **Beaufort Branch**, at the home of **Cookie Goodman** on St. Helena Island. The food table was elegant with locally traditional and unusual hors d'oeuvres. Husbands of several Beaufort members assisted with hosting and bar-tending duties.



A look around the branches of AAUW of SC

Aiken Branch

by *Bea Peyser, Branch President*

Many years ago AAUW National recommended that branches hold Transition Conferences. The concept is defined to encourage adult men and women to either begin or continue their higher education. The conference is designed as a one day workshop to enlighten those who might be hesitant to start on such an endeavor.

Our Conferences took place in 2001 and 2003 at the University of South Carolina Aiken (USCA). At the one day work shop we start with a keynote speaker followed by several 30-minute topic talks including finance, communication, juggling family with school, working and more. We conclude

the day with a lunch where the attendees can ask further questions. We ask for a \$5.00 earnest fee which covers paper work, but not the cost of their lunch. The turn out was modest, but worth the effort.

Our Aiken Branch has decided to conduct another transition conference some time early next year. We have learned from USCA and Aiken Technical College staff that because of the sagging economy more people are interested in acquiring additional skills for different jobs. We are fortunate in having both the University of South Carolina Aiken and Aiken Technical College in our town.

Hilton Head Branch

by *Pat Batten & Mary Lou Hiatt, Branch Co-Presidents*

The Hilton Head Branch has a full schedule of events planned for this year.

We start the year with our *Welcome Back Coffee* in September. In addition to learning what's happening for the year, we will focus on literacy with an update from Literacy Volunteers of the Low Country. Our branch, and in particular long-time member **Dorothy Anderson**, feel very proud of our work with this group and as Dorothy reminds us, "AAUW helped them get their start on Hilton Head." Dorothy also started our jewelry recycling sale to benefit this organization. At 90 years young, she totes an assortment of jewelry to all our regular meetings!

Plans are already underway for our main fundraiser, a fashion show, to benefit our local scholarships as well as our donations to AAUW Funds and local non-profit groups in our area. **Gigi Harris**, one of our newest members, has volunteered to help us for the second year. To us, that's dedication! **Donna Bafundo** has been working hard to make our scholarship application process even better and we now put it up on the website.

We will partner with the local League of Women Voters for several events this year. We will join with them at a *Candidate Forum* in October and have a joint Holiday Luncheon again this year. One of our members, **Ronni Silett**, has helped us set up both of these luncheons. We share many members as well as work well together on similar issues. It's the perfect match!

Our board this year has both co-presidents and co-program chairs (**Lois Schuhrke** and **Mary Ellen Harkins**). As we have in the past, we work as a board to plan the programs. Having two in these key positions will make the work that much better! Our membership chair, **Sandy Stern**, and Secretary, **Kathleen Boggs** continue another year. We have a new treasurer, **Pat Pollak** who is learning how to balance our books from **Lois Schuhrke**. That's the only position this Pat (Pat B.) has never had on a board!

Our two interest groups – the *Book Group* and *Trips & Treks* – continue to be popular. When Pat Batten started these two groups 11 years ago, she was new to South Carolina and wanted to know more about her local area and have friends to accompany her on the journey. They began by focusing on Southern Female Writers and trips radiating from Hilton Head outward. They have branched out in the book group (now even include male authors!) and keep on "trekking." And – the number of friends has also grown.

When a friend of Pat's in New Jersey was looking for someone to fill a position in her department, she wanted an "AAUW-type woman for the job." What did she mean by that? Pat has learned to appreciate that statement more and more as she meets new members and gets to know the "old" members better!

We want to learn but also educate – we want to have fun while we learn and – best of all, we like to do it together!

Beaufort Branch

by Carol Lucas, Branch President

Imagine our delight when it was announced at the spring convention that Beaufort Branch had recruited the greatest percentage of new members statewide in the past year.

Recruitment has been a national concern; whether it is the flagging economy or perhaps the fact that working women are maxed out regarding their time constraints, membership numbers have gradually declined over the past decade. Thus the members of our branch were quite proud that their efforts to draw more women to our group, thus elevating the state numbers, had met with success.

When the executive committee met mid-August to establish our calendar of meetings and fundraisers, we realized how lucky we were to have the “new blood” coming to our

membership. Most of these women had indicated their willingness to serve on or head up committees. Thus it is that chairpersons for *AAUW Funds* as well as Public Policy have been assumed by our new members. How fortunate we are to have these women dive right into the mix.

The branch continues to support *Books for Birthdays* for those Beaufort County pre-school children who often don't have books of their own. This year two of the members are creating a program of reading to the children when the books are delivered. In addition to having a fundraiser to purchase the books and wrappings, members bring wrapped books every year to our Christmas Brunch. We are entering the sixth year of this program.

All AAUW members' voices will now be heard at Convention

Delegates and members at the 2009 AAUW Convention approved changes to the AAUW Bylaws that enabled all AAUW members (whether or not they attend the convention) to elect candidates for the AAUW Board of Directors and vote on other items of business such as bylaws amendments, resolutions, and the Public Policy Program.

Previously, the above activities occurred during the convention. With the bylaws change, they now occur before the convention.

Be watching for more information about how your voice as an AAUW member can be heard even if you are unable to join us in Washington, DC, next June.

President Commemorates Women's Equality Day and supports *Paycheck Fairness Act* – push is on to pass this act in September

Thursday, August 26, *Women's Equality Day*, marked the 90th anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States.

President Barack Obama issued a proclamation, calling specifically for passage of the *Paycheck Fairness Act*. Additionally, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) issued a statement honoring the suffrage movement and acknowledging the economic equity battles that persist. She wrote, “Nine decades after the 19th amendment took effect, our journey for equality goes on.”

Thanks to the hard work of AAUW *Action Network* members and our coalition partners, President Obama signed the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act* into law on Jan. 29, 2009. However, according to new data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the gap between men's and women's median earnings widened slightly between 2007 and 2008, from 78 percent to 77 percent for full-time, year-round workers.

While women have been hard at work to narrow the wage gap, Congress has failed to pass legislation that would give women effective equal pay protections.

Time is running out to get this critical legislation signed into law this year. If the Senate doesn't act soon, we'll have to start all over again in both chambers of the new Congress next year.

We all know that women can't afford to wait for that to happen. That's why AAUW will be turning up the heat in August, telling the Senate to “Get it Done!” and pass the *Paycheck Fairness Act* in September. Even if both of your senators are cosponsors, we urge you to participate in AAUW's “*Get it Done!*” *21 Days of Action campaign*.

All you need to do is go to AAUW's website – aauw.org – log into the Member Center and look for the *Two-Minute Activist*. With a few simple clicks, you can notify your members of Congress how you feel about the importance of the passage of this legislation right now!

Resources available from your AAUW National Office – your membership dollars at work for women and girls nationwide

New Resources on Issues Pages

Visit AAUW's website for updated resources on our public policy issues. Viewers may now find a wealth of information related to our public policy issues in the forms of "Letters, Comments and Testimony." AAUW is excited to share this information with you!

AAUW Public Service Announcements Available for Local Media

AAUW has produced radio and print public service announcements using the "In That Moment I Knew" creative concept adapted from four of the personal stories featured in the AAUW annual report. To listen or view the PSAs or to learn how to get ads placed in your community, visit AAUW's website.

Sign Up Your Friends and AAUW Colleagues for Action Network!

Visit AAUW's *Take Action* page of the website, where AAUW members and nonmembers alike can sign up for *Action Network*. It is an excellent way to introduce potential members to AAUW's advocacy. You can also print out flyers online. Use flyers to sign up friends, family and coworkers to AAUW *Action Network*. These flyers are great to use at branch events, community events, etc.

Follow AAUW on Twitter and Facebook

Log on or sign up for a Twitter account and start following Executive Director **Linda Hallman**, Director of Public Policy and Government Relations **Lisa Maatz**, and AAUW members from around the nation to hear the latest AAUW and public policy news through the latest form of online communication technology. You can also follow your elected officials, and join AAUW's *Facebook* group.

AAUW Spokeswoman Makes TV Appearance to Discuss Issues Facing Women and Girls

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) invited **Lisa Maatz**, AAUW director of public policy and government relations, to discuss a variety of topics affecting U.S. women and girls. Listen to excerpts from their discussion, which first aired on *The Washington Report*, a weekly cable show created to educate and inform the Congressional 30th District. The clips focus on health care, AAUW's STEM work, jobs, preparing tomorrow's workers, and retraining in a recession.

Still Time to Join AAUW's Historic Cuba Trip

Join AAUW for an unprecedented and historic opportunity to research gender equity in Cuba and meet with Cuban citizens to gain first-hand understanding of the role of women in Cuban

society. In conjunction with Academic Travel Abroad, a licensed Travel Service Provider for Cuba under the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the US Treasury, AAUW will be leading a delegation to Cuba October 30th through November 4th.

Seeking Eleanor Roosevelt Award Nominations

AAUW is seeking nominations for the *2011 Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award* to honor an individual, project, organization, or institution for outstanding contributions to equity and education for women and girls.

The award is given for a broad range of activities including classroom teaching, education and research, and legal and legislative work in equity for women and girls.

While the award focuses on education, the recipient need not be an educator. Visit the website to receive more information, including nomination forms.

AAUW Public Policy Fund Pins — and a Bonus

For the first time at AAUW, you can show your support for advocacy for women and girls — and get a tax deduction. Contribute \$100 or more to the AAUW Public Policy Fund and receive the fund's first annual pin.

As a special bonus, we will mail you a copy of the book *Secrets of Powerful Women* (a \$14.99 value) personally signed by **Lisa Maatz**, AAUW's director of public policy and government relations. Lisa is among the women — members of Congress, journalists, actors, CEOs, and activists — who each wrote a chapter of the book, and she will ask one of the other authors to sign your book as well.

Please support this crucial work with a tax-deductible contribution through AAUW's secure website.

AAUW research reports offer information for all

AAUW has been at the forefront of research on issues of women and education for decades. AAUW has published reports on topics including girls in science, sex discrimination in academia, women and online learning, sexual harassment in schools, the impact of Title IX, Latinas in schools, and single-sex education among others.

Reports may be downloaded from the website and are also available at *ShopAAUW*.

Order from Barnes & Noble and help AAUW

Barnes&Noble.com and AAUW have joined together to bring you an online bookstore for AAUW members only!

When you shop *online* at: www.bn.com/aauw you will automatically get an additional 5% off of the online price of books, music and DVD (many titles online are already discounted 10-40%!), and free standard domestic shipping on orders of \$25 or over (some restrictions apply).

Welcome mat is out in Rock Hill

by Ann Terry, Rock Hill Branch President

The members of the Rock Hill Branch extend a warm invitation to join them in Rock Hill for the **AAUW of SC Spring Convention on April 29 & 30, 2011**. Branch members are planning a great time with a bit of exploration and food, and the State Planning Team is putting together an awesome convention program. So this will definitely be the place to be next April.

The convention hotel will be the Hilton Garden Inn, location of the last convention held in Rock Hill. Rooms will be \$99 plus tax for king or two queens. The hotel is conveniently located near two shopping malls and numerous restaurants in all price ranges.

On Friday afternoon from 3-5 pm, you can pre-register for a two-hour tour of the city, led by staff of the City of Rock Hill Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department.

Friday evening the York County Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Rock Hill AAUW Branch will host a reception at the City's famous Glencairn Garden, an 11-acre paradise of flowers, trees and streams.

Then on Saturday morning the convention will move into full force with keynote speaker(s), business meeting, panel discussions, silent and live auctions for *AAUW Funds* and lots more.

So mark your calendar and watch for more details in the January and February issues of *The Palmetto Leaf*.

AAUW of SC Calendar

- October 8** **Judicial Forum**, Charleston (w/LWV)
- December 1** Deadline for 2011-2012 State Budget Request
- December 31** Deadline for AAUW Funds Contributions for 2010
- January 4** Deadline for *Palmetto Leaf*
- January 15** State Board Meeting, Columbia
- February 1** Membership Count Deadline
- February 22 or 23**, **Legislative Day**, Columbia
- February 18** Deadline for *Palmetto Leaf*
- March 28** Deadline for Convention Hotel Reservations
- April 29 -30** **Spring Convention, Rock Hill**
- June 1** Branch Officer information submitted to AAUW and state president
- June 17 -19** **AAUW National Convention**, Washington, DC

Dates are Subject to change

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