



OF SOUTH
CAROLINA

Palmetto Leaf

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Message from Your President from Carol Tempel



The more I visit and talk with members of our SC branches, the prouder I become of the work AAUW members and supporters are doing in their community to meet the challenges that women and girls still face. Just read through this edition of the *Palmetto Leaf* and you'll see what I mean.

2015 looks to be an exciting year as we continue to bring our mission to SC. In the update on advocacy issues, let your voices be heard in your communities and with your legislators.

Update on Advocacy Issues from Ellie Setser, State Advocacy Chair

The South Carolina Legislature is now in session. At present the Legislature has a very conservative bent and is very influenced by the Tea Party Movement and other extremely conservative groups whose goals seem to include undoing much of AAUW's agenda.

EDUCATION - There are over 150 bills introduced in this session referring to education so we will only hit the high or low spots.

- Both houses have bills to make the Superintendent of Education a governor appointee rather than an elected official.
- As you know SC has a "corridor of shame" an area with

Save the Date and make plans now to attend.

Saturday, March 21 is our annual meeting.

[Click Here for the Registration Form.](#)

Last Chance to Register for Legislative Day, Feb. 17. [Click here for registration.](#)

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extremely poor schools in rural areas where most of the student population is minority. Several bills address this but only in a very minor way.

- There are two bills to expand early childhood education opportunities (**S49 &S50**), and one to provide a "high quality education" instead of a "minimally adequate education," **H3110**.
- There is also a bill to provide incentives for successful teachers to work in low performing schools, **H3246**. Bill **S44** would allow schools to submit plans for full year schooling.
- **S72** and **S210** allows for religious studies taught by churches. AAUW would oppose on the basis of separation of church and state. Senator Bright has introduced a bill that would allow schools to create classes in gun safety and marksmanship which we oppose as a public safety issue for students.
- AAUW would support **S138**, a bill that would address bullying at school and school activities and would release teachers from any liability when interfering in a bullying situation, and would protect teachers from prosecution while addressing a bully. There is also a bill to protect teachers from civil law suits and liability when the teacher is acting in the interest of a student **S308**.
- There is a house bill to create a new lottery game called "k-12" which will fund K-12 education. The lottery was sold to the Citizens of SC as a means of providing college scholarships, not funding primary or secondary education but possibly a separate lottery might help.

PAY EQUITY -A pay equity bill introduced by Rep Stavranakis, Rep Cobb-Hunter, etc. would require equal pay for equal work for State employees. We would certainly support this effort.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS - There is an assault on a woman's right to choose her own options in reproductive matters and an assault on doctor's freedom to treat patients.

- Several bills are written to outlaw abortion after 20 weeks or after fetal heart beat is detected. These bills would hold physicians liable to prosecution if they did not accurately diagnosis the age of the fetus and some would preclude the use of any drugs for abortion including the morning after pills like RU 486.
- Some bills require abortions to be performed only by board certified OB specialists.
- There is one bill that would allow late term abortion if the life of

AAUW Websites and Social Media

[AAUW of South
Carolina](#)

[Facebook](#)

[AAUW National](#)

Contact a Branch Near You

[Aiken](#)

[Beaufort](#)

[Charleston](#)

[Denmark](#)

[Due West](#)

[Gaffney](#)

[Greater Columbia](#)

[Greenville](#)

[Hilton Head](#)

[Newberry](#)

[Rock Hill](#)

**branches in green have
web sites.*

State Leadership

Carol Tempel,
[President](#)

Ann Terry,
[Past President and
Palmetto Leaf Editor](#)

the mother is endangered or if the fetus is not viable or in the cases of rape or incest. Endangerment would not include mental issues!

- One law allows fathers or mothers to sue the physician performing the abortion.

We would urge you to oppose all of these laws in order to keep the decisions about such matters in the hands of the woman and her physician.

DOMESTIC ABUSE - Senate bill **S3** is very comprehensive and we urge support of this bill which we hope will be passed by the time you read this article.

To send your own letter to your legislator, follow this link:

<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php>

[Click Here for a flyer to share with others.](#)

Membership Matters

from Jan Haldeman, Member Services Chair

My AAUW membership dates back to August 1961, so four years ago I earned honorary Life Membership. It makes me very proud to be a member when I look at AAUW's accomplishments at the national, state and branch levels. Just go the AAUW's website link: <http://www.aauw.org/membership> and take a few minutes to click on three women's stories that illustrate AAUW's accomplishments in advancing issues of equal pay, sexual abuse, and empowerment for women.

What our membership really needs is a healthy infusion of younger women. Wouldn't it be great if we could increase membership and at the same time lower the average age of that membership! This may seem easier said than done, but our annual scholarship that sends a young woman to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders is one big step in the right direction. Another is sponsoring a STEM program for young girls, as our Hilton Head Branch has done.

What we need to do is to encourage the **"free" e-Student Affiliation Membership** to all women students at our South Carolina

Pat Hall,
[Finance](#)

Ellie Setser,
[Advocacy](#)

Jan Haldeman,
[Member Services](#)

Pat Batten,
[Communications](#)

**State Leadership
Opportunities**

--Co-chair, membership

--Chair, AAUW Funds.

Please contact Carol.

[CLICK HERE](#)

**National Convention,
June 18-21, 2015**

[CLICK Here](#)

[AAUW Action Fund](#)
[Beaufort Branch](#)
[Charleston Branch](#)
[Greater Columbia Branch](#)
[Greenville Branch](#)
[Rock Hill Branch](#)
[SC AAUW](#)

**Join one of our
11 Branches in
SC.**

College/University Partner schools.

https://svc.aauw.org/RECore/wMembership/join_esaf_member.asp.

In addition graduating students are eligible for one year's free national membership.

Currently we have **14 C/U Partners schools**. Most of these schools have two faculty or staff women who receive free national membership. Names and contact information for these C/U Reps are available on AAUW member services database by selecting CU Partners and Reps Roster.

It's a good time to ratchet up efforts to recruit new members, remembering though, that anytime is a good time to get new members. This year's national goal is to recruit 8,000 new branch members. So let's work to help this goal be reached.

Communication Matters from Pat Batten, State Communications Chair

If your branch is not one with its own web page on the state's website, I can help get you setup and started. Contact me at ptbatten@aol.com

It's very easy - just give me the information for the page and I will have our "webmaster" in DC post it. In most cases, it's up and running within 1 to 2 days! And can be continually updated just as easily.

For those with information to add to our Facebook page, Lori Glenn of our Charleston branch will post photos and branch events. Just contact her at lori@gersony.com. A branch Facebook page is also a good idea.

If you're like me, you may not tweet or Twitter or even have a fancy cell phone but we all know that our children, co-workers, nieces, etc. are electronically connected and may not even know where to find a stamp to mail a letter! We need to use all means to stay in touch with our long-time members as well as attract these new, younger members.

My branch - **Hilton Head** - uses the web site to communicate about our local scholarship and refers new members to it for branch events. We send numerous e-mail and e-mail reminders about upcoming events but do still use "snail" mail for those who don't have

[Click Here for
Information on Who
Can Join AAUW.](#)

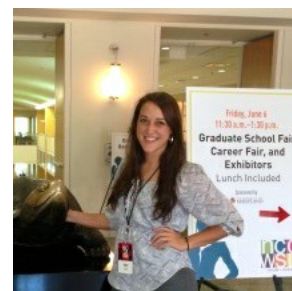
14 C/U Partners

Benedict College
Claflin University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina
University
College of Charleston
Columbia College Erskine
College
Furman University
Limestone College,
Presbyterian College
The Citadel
University of SC Aiken
University of SC Upstate
Winthrop University

[Link to all AAUW
Partner Schools](#)

**Proud of our
AAUW
women and
activities**

**Kathleen Watkins
receives 2014
SCCWSL
scholarship**



e-mail.

AAUW of SC is now transmitting its newsletters electronically and our President, Carol Tempel, has very effectively sent out information to all members in the state as well as branch leaders.

A personal touch is always welcome but we need to use all means to pass along our message.



**Due West packs
Exam Goodie Bags
for students**

AAUW of SC Spring Meeting

March 21, 2015

Grecian Gardens

2312 Sunset Blvd, West Columbia, SC 29169

Exit 110, I-26 at US 378 - East on 378

Join us and register by March 14.

**The \$20 registration fee includes
lunch and materials.**

AAUW of South Carolina will hold its statewide spring meeting on March 21, 2015 in the Columbia area. All state and national members are invited to this gathering with state and branch leaders.

Along with updates, networking, business, and workshops, we will hear from two very special guests.

The keynote speaker will be **Jenny Horne**, member of the SC General Assembly from Summerville. Jenny was appointed by Governor Haley to serve on a new Domestic Violence Task Force. She will update participants on progress in this area in our state. You can visit her website at <http://www.jennyhorne.com>

Kathleen Watkins, a student at Erskine College, received a 2014 scholarship to the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Kathleen will share her experiences with us along with how she is promoting leadership among her fellow students.

An important part of this meeting is for us to network and hone in on our leadership skills and tools, plus sharing the significant work going on in our branches.



**Hilton Head's
Downton Abbey
"fun"draiser.**



[Click Here for the Registration form.](#)



News Around the Branches

Rock Hill Branch

During Women's History Month, members of the Rock Hill Branch will read and discuss the biography of *Modjeska Montieth Simkins*. Becci Robbin's book traces the long life of this extraordinary woman in South Carolina. Modjeska followed in the footsteps of her strong mother, considered by many to be a radical, always seeking justice, equality and a prominent place for women. She earned an education, challenged a governor, ran for political office, worked for the government and

Clemson Campus Action Project

The American Association of University Women has awarded a 2014-15 Campus Action Project (CAP) Grant to Clemson University for a campus project to fight stereotypes of and biases against professional women. It is one of eleven universities funded nationwide.

Serita Acker, director of the Women in Science and Engineering Program at Clemson, will be project director for the program, in which Clemson will host four webinars in which

fought for the ERA. A woman of strong convictions with great hope for the woman's place in our world, she was, in her words, "...like an old blind mule; I just didn't give a damn. If I saw something that needed to be hit, I just hit it."

Due West Branch

Our year began with a brunch planning meeting when we also received an enthusiastic report from Erskine College Senior Kathleen Watkins, who attended AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, with a scholarship from AAUW of SC.

In September the Branch agreed to serve as a liaison for an AAUW College Action Project grant submitted by the Women of Science and Engineering at Clemson University. The group was awarded the grant, which is described in another story in this issue of Palmetto Leaf. We helping recruit panel members and publicizing February and March webinars. Our branch also hopes to sponsor a STEM day for middle school girls at Erskine College with assistance from Erskine students and members of Clemson's Women in Science and Engineering.

In December we carried out our Exam Goodie Bag fundraiser in partnership with Erskine's Beta Beta Beta Biology Honor Society. To read more about the "how to of this project", [CLICK Here](#)

Plans for the 54th AAUW Student Recognition Dinner will be finalized at our Thai lunch meeting in February. In March we invite young women academic honorees from Erskine College and the three area high schools to hear a distinguished woman speaker and to publicize their achievements.

participants connect remotely with a panel of distinguished female professional leaders in order to constructively debunk common stereotypes against professional women. A full list of webinar topics is at www.clemson.edu/ces/runtheworld .

Pantene, a brand of Procter & Gamble, sponsors AAUW's CAP Grants through its Shine Strong Campaign to support women. Each year these grants provide funding for teams of students and faculty to create community-based solutions for some of the far-reaching problems explored in AAUW research. Previous grants have included those for "Graduating to a Pay Gap: The Earnings of Women and Men One year after College Graduation " and "Women in Community Colleges: Access to Success."

These grants address how stereotypes harm women's educational opportunities and salaries. "Despite all the progress we have made as a society, negative and harmful stereotypes about women persist, affecting nearly every area of life," said Kate Farrar, vice president of AAUW Campus Leadership programs. "We are pleased that Pantene is joining our effort to empower college women so they can be voices for change."

With Pantene's support, one member from each CAP team will also be present to discuss their project at the 2015 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, hosted by AAUW and NAS1A-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. This annual spring conference gathers college women student leaders from across the nation.

For further information, contact Serita Acker (wserita@clemson.edu) or Natasha Topoluk (curuntheworld@gmail.com).

AAUW of SC Board adopts goals for year

As a new membership year begins, your state leadership team has set some ambitious goals for its work this year.

These goals were adopted during the Board's summer conference call:

- establish state-wide communication and newsletter via *Constant Contact*.
- recruit a co-chair for membership and a chair for AAUW funds.
- collaborate with other state-wide organizations and higher education, working with United Methodist Women on annual advocacy day and working to increase and support College/University Partners.
- encourage/support Websites and Facebook pages for every branch.
- encourage/support branches to participate in the MPP financial services.

AAUW of SC Calendar of Dates & Deadlines

This is the working calendar for activities and deadlines for 2014-2015. Please mark your calendar and stay involved. Branch presidents should make note of several special deadlines related to student nominations and financial reports.

- **February 17 - Legislative Advocacy Day**, Columbia
- **March 1** - Deadline for Branches to submit nominations for state scholarship for National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)
- **March 1** - Deadline for Branches to submit Named Gift Honorees information
- **March 21 - State Annual Meeting**, Grecian Gardens Restaurant, Columbia
- **April 8 - Equal Pay Day 2015**
- April 11 - State Board Conference Call
- **June 18-21 - AAUW National Convention**, San Diego, CA
- **June 30** - Deadline for 2015-16 Branch Officers and Dues

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