

MAY 2012 ATLANTA BRANCH

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN | VOL. 62 No. 7



2011-2012 Leadership

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Join us at the May Branch Meeting

Saturday, May 19TH our branch will meet at Ansley Golf Club for a breakfast buffet at **9:00am**. Our branch meeting and installation of officers will follow breakfast. The cost of the buffet will be **\$25.00** per person.

The menu will include a delicious assortment of scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, grits, hash browns, fresh fruit, biscuits, muffins, orange juice, coffee and tea.

Please make reservations with Frances Smith by May 14. You may email her at or call her.

Ansley Golf Club is located at 196 Montgomery Ferry Dr
Directions: (From Piedmont and Peachtree). Go south on Piedmont, pass under the expressway and pass Cheshire Bridge Road. Look for Rock Springs Church on your right and make an immediate right onto Montgomery Ferry Drive. Continue through the light (Monroe Drive) and cross the bridge. The club house will be on the right.

We've Come a Long way from St. Louis

By: Mary Lynn Merkle and Ruth Yurchuck



The AAUW Atlanta Branch began its present journey as the result of sending one of your co-presidents (Ruth) to the 2009 AAUW Convention in St. Louis. And to paraphrase a song which first became popular in the late 1940's, "We've come a long way from St. Louis, we've climbed the ladder of success....".

One convention session, *Creating a Healthy Branch Culture*, provoked a need for discussion in the Atlanta Branch about our current and future status. In this presentation, there was extensive discussion of

two types of branches, social and mission-based. AAUW strongly supports growth of mission-based programming. A newsletter article in July 2009 summarized some of this discussion.

Bringing this discussion to our membership started our Branch examination. Each member was asked to answer two questions: (1) Why are you a member of AAUW and (2) Why did you join AAUW? These questions led the Board to support a deeper analysis of our organizational structure. We soon found that we needed someone outside the Branch to help us in this effort; and an AAUW Leadership Corps ...
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Proposed Amendments to Bylaws

By: Alta Birdsong and Sharon Bevis-Hoover

The following are the May 2012 Proposed Amendments to Bylaws – Atlanta Branch AAUW #4. Red font indicates text that will be removed; bold font is text that will be added.

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers.

a. The elected officers shall be a president, president-elect, program vice president, membership vice president, a recording secretary for branch meetings, a recording secretary for board meetings, and a finance officer. The **president-elect program vice president**, membership vice president, and finance officer shall be elected in the even-numbered years. The **president elect program vice president** and recording secretaries shall be elected in the odd-numbered years. If deemed necessary, any of these positions may be filled by co-officers. All board members must be members of the Atlanta Branch.

b. There shall be *six* appointed officers *to serve on the board: philanthropy chair, communications chair, public policy chair, College/University representative, bylaws chair, and the Bookfair representative serving her second year.* **for AAUW philanthropies, public policy, and such other officers as shall be deemed necessary to carry on the work of the branch.** These officers shall be appointed by the president with the approval of the executive committee. All appointed officers must be members of the Atlanta Branch. *There shall be other appointed positions to be named in the standing rules.*

ARTICLE VII. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Composition. The board of directors shall be composed of the elected and appointed officers. **committee chairs, advisory board chair, state or AAUW board members, and such** Other branch members **deemed necessary by the president for any meeting of the board.** *are welcome to attend* any meetings of the board. Only board members are entitled to *have a vote.* *Co-presidents each have a vote; other co-officers share a vote.*

Section 2. Duties. The board shall have the general power to administer the affairs of the branch, including

but not limited to establishing policies and procedure to control financial records. The board may consider a fundraising event in addition to Bookfair. It shall accept responsibility delegated by AAUW and state. *The president shall be responsible for bringing policy and procedure changes and financial activities to the general membership at regular meetings.*

Section 3. Meetings. There shall be at least six meetings of the board of directors during the year. A conference call can be considered a board meeting. Special meetings may be called at any time by the president or upon written request of five members of the board or ten members of the branch with seven days prior notice to all board members.

Section 4. Quorum. A quorum for a meeting of the board of directors shall be seven **five** members of the board.

ARTICLE VIII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY BOARD

Section 5. Advisory Board – There shall be an advisory board consisting of all past presidents who wish to serve. They shall be polled by the president at the beginning of each administration and be appointed to serve for a term of two years. If a vacancy occurs, it shall not be filled. The president shall appoint the chair of the Advisory Board. The members shall be available for consultation by the president and the executive committee. **They may be consulted on policy-forming for the branch.** **The chair, appointed by the president, shall be a member of the board of directors.**

ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES

Section 2. Purpose. With the approval of the board, each standing and special committee shall formulate programs and activities to carry out the mission of AAUW.

a. Standing committees shall be program development, membership, finance, **AAUW philanthropies philanthropy, communications, bylaws,** and public policy. Their composition **and duties** shall be described in the standing rules of the branch.

Public Policy Report

By: Diana Witt



On April 16, 2012, two days after being elected Georgia AAUW co-president, I was uniquely privileged to visit AAUW National Headquarters in Washington D.C. and was invited to lunch by National AAUW President, Linda Hallman. The tour of national headquarters was fascinating, and I urge any of you who go to Washington to make the time to visit our National Headquarters. It is rich in history and gives you a real sense of everything AAUW has accomplished over the years. Our lunch session was very productive, and we discussed various aspects of AAUW structure, mission and membership. One point Linda brought up was the number of women who apply to AAUW as national members, bypassing the branch membership and applying directly online as national members. None of us has a solid answer as to why this is happening, but it is a trend that warrants our attention.

On May 3, I attended the Georgia Women for a Change forum held at King and Spalding law firm in midtown Atlanta. I know you will be pleased to hear that AAUW was acknowledged in the introductory remarks as a key player in the campaign to pass HB

200 and as a key supporter of Georgia Women for a Change.

This forum had two panels. The first panel included people from the front lines in the human trafficking struggle. They discussed how the enactment of HB 200 into law had impacted their ability to do their work. It was inspiring to hear how this legislation, which we supported, has helped target the perpetrators of this crime and how it has helped the victims. I want to especially mention my reunion with Lisa Williams of Living Waters, one of our past Community Action Grant recipients. She recalled her meeting with us in 2010, along with Stephanie Davis. I was proud to be able to tell her how her presentation inspired us to become real advocates for ending sex trafficking. They are now starting a program to enable young women to get GEDs and go on to college. They are partnering with some of the institutions where we have affiliate memberships, e.g., Clark Atlanta, Middle Georgia, Georgia State and others. I am hopeful this might provide further opportunities for collaborating with them in the future. You will be hearing from me on this in the next year.

Cool Girls, Inc. Update

By: Pam Antinori

Eight members of the AAUW Atlanta Branch attended the Hot Pink Party for Cool Girls on April 28th at the Georgia Aquarium. Our members looked lovely all dressed in pink in support of the theme of the event. The Hot Pink Party featured a silent auction of 700 items including 400,000 free Delta Skymiles, enough Marriot Hotel points to stay in Marriot Hotels around the world, and of course, member Gillian Horsely's beautiful artwork. We are so grateful for Gillian's hard work and generosity. Several members happily left with items they purchased from the silent auction.

AAUW received great name recognition at the event! Our logo was flashing on a large screen throughout the party along with several other corporate sponsors. The AAUW logo was also visible on the silent auction tables as well as in front of Gillian's painting.

In other Cool Girls news, we'd like to say thank you for the generosity of the members who attended the last meeting and donated a bottle of lotion for the Cool Girls Beautiful Me event. Our branch collected a total of 36 bottles of lotion to contribute to hygiene packages for the Cool Girls at the event at Clark Atlanta this coming Saturday. The event will consist of several all day seminars on topics including teen pregnancy, awareness, and communication.

Again, we would like to thank the members who attended our last meeting for contributing to our "pass the basket" donation for Cool Girls. We collected a total of \$168 that will go to help cover the cost of transportation for the Cool Girls who will be making a summer trip to Washington, DC. Some of these girls will also be a part of our Saturday seminar next year. We look forward to "passing the basket" once more at our next meeting and we greatly appreciate your generosity.

AAUW of Georgia Savannah Convention

By: Mary Lynn Merkle



On Friday, April 13th seven members of Atlanta Branch pointed their cars toward Savannah for the AAUW of GA Convention. We had five voting delegates: Mary Lynn Merkle (one of our co-presidents), Alta Birdsong (a former president of AAUW of GA), and the three who represented our 74 members—Blondie Chitunya Wilson, Billie Collier, and Sharon Bevis-Hoover. The two other attendees were Betty Slater and Diana Witt (more later).

A highlight was the continued presence of AAUW's executive director, Linda Hallman. She gave us a good "one minutes elevator speech" about AAUW. Remember the acronym PEARL! "P" is for protect, "E" is for educate, "A" is for advocate

"R" is for research, and "L" is for leadership. We can be proud and confident that Linda represents us in many very important venues.

How exciting it was when two Atlanta Branch members were installed as new officers of AAUW of GA. Diana Witt is the 2012-2014 co-president along with Laurie Shaw, a member of Houston Peach branch whose term ends in 2013. Betty Slater is the 2012-2014 Communications Officer and will oversee the "Cherokee Rose," the website, and other communications and public relations.

Oh! And five of us spent a very pleasant Saturday evening on a dinner cruise along the Savannah River.

All in all—a busy weekend filled with work, pleasure and lots of networking with our AAUW friends around Georgia. Below are some photos from the event.



Atlanta Attendees with Linda Hallman



Diana Witt, Sylvia Goodyear, and Betty Slater

(Sylvia, Cobb Co, installed new officers)

What a Surprise!

By: Betty Slater

I volunteered to do some testing for Refugee Family Services when I met the Youth Program Coordinator, Danice Brown. She remembered me through the work done by our Atlanta branch to assist student leaders at the Refugee Family Services. She said she heard about us through that program.

She shared with me that she applied for a national AAUW Career Development grant to attend Duke University in the fall to earn her master's degree in public policy. She had just gotten word that she had received \$12,000.00 from AAUW. Hearing this wonderful news made me feel so proud of the work that our branch does to help others. Please continue to support our Atlanta Branch of AAUW, we are doing wonderful work!

Contemporary Literature Group

Our book selecting pot luck supper will be Wednesday, June 6, 6:00 PM at the home of Gillian Horsley. Please let her know if you are coming and what you are bringing—salad, dessert, appetizer, wine, whatever. Regrets only please. Send Kay Collins titles of books that you recommend we consider.

We've Come a Long Way... Continued

By: Mary Lynn Merkle and Ruth Yurchuck



representative, Audrey Salgado, agreed to work with us.

We held two retreats in 2010, structured by Audrey based on Board input, in which all members were encouraged to participate. The process was important; and the outcome was the agreement to establish a signature project, something by which the Branch would be identified locally and perhaps beyond. Three major themes emerged as options: an international project based on developing a relationship with CARE, providing books to new homeowners through a relationship with Habit for Humanity, and stemming sex trafficking.

Volunteers were invited to work with one of the task forces established to explore these topics, and this work extended from June 2010 to the present. The potential partnership with Habit for Humanity was dropped in early 2011 on the basis of information gathered, but work continued on the other topics. Interest in preventing human trafficking led to exploring a relationship with an Atlanta based program, Cool Girls, Inc., in the summer of 2011 and has led to a number of collaborative efforts.

A change in organizational contacts with CARE delayed our progress on this possibility, but we are currently working with a program called Join My Village which helps women and girls in Africa and India.

As a result of work on these potential signature projects, the Board suspended the bylaws and the nature of our programs changed. Our meetings were not held on a regular monthly schedule with lunch, and we found that some of the "non-food" meetings were as well attended as those where lunch was involved. Having more free time between meetings allowed work to progress on these projects among the task force teams.

Which brings us to May 2012, when the membership will decide whether either or both of these two projects will become an AAUW Atlanta Branch Signature Project. Branch bylaws have been revised and a new organizational structure has emerged, one with a smaller Board, but no less need for member input. And to go back to the old song, "we've come a long way from St. Louis but we still have a long way to go."

Let's continue our progress as we go forth from our May meeting with new officers, a new Board, and new committees. And your input as individual Branch members remains essential. Please plan to help us make these important decisions on May 19th.

New Officer Election and Installation

By: Mary Lynn Merkle

We will be electing and installing our officers for the 2012-2014 years at our May 19th meeting. The slate that has been placed in nomination is:

Program Vice-president—**Myra Carmon** (one year)

Membership Co-Vice-presidents—**Billie Collier** (two years) **Kay Collins** (one year)

Treasurer—**Huiping Du**

Nominating Committee—**Betty Arden, Pat Bevis, Phyllis Miller, and Frances Smith.**

Because the bylaws call for a five-member Nominating Committee, there will be a call for nominations from the floor to fill the 5th slot. And, of course, floor nominations for all offices may be made that day. Our president-elect, Sharon Bevis-Hoover, will also be assuming the office of president on that day. Following the election, Mary Hanson, who served as Atlanta Branch co-president from 2005-2007, will install our new officers.

Travel Group

The Travel Group will hold their next excursion in October 2012. It's been a fine year with trips as varied as the Bremen Jewish History Center's exhibit about Japanese-Americans who were sent to internment camps during World War II to the John's Creek Environmental Educational Center (and water treatment plant). And lunch at a special venue always rounded up the outing. Many thanks to our leader, Betty Arden, for her creative travel ideas, her flexibility, and her careful attention to details to make each of our outings more enjoyable.

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Calendar

- Cool Girls "Beautiful Me" day- May 11
- MissRepresentation screening- May 17
- Branch Annual Meeting- May 19
- Atlanta Women's Basketball Game- May 27
- Contemporary Literature meeting- June 6
- Combined Incoming/Outgoing Board Meeting-TBA

PLEASE ATTEND OUR MAY 19TH MEETING!

We will be:

- Electing our officers
- Selecting a Signature Project
- Voting on proposed bylaw changes
- Voting on our proposed Standing Rule changes
- Enjoying breakfast and good company