



ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

2013-2014 Leadership

President

Sharon Bevis-Hoover
president@aauwatlanta.org

President-Elect

Myra Carmon
presidentelect@aauwatlanta.org

Program Vice President

Betty Arden programs@aauwatlanta.org

Membership Vice President

Billie Collier membership@aauwatlanta.org

Board Secretary

Marcy Nader
Board-secretary@aauwatlanta.org

Branch Meeting Secretary

Jo Dogali
Member-secretary@aauwatlanta.org

Finance Officer

Huiping Du treasurer@aauwatlanta.org

College/University Relations

Betty Slater
universityrelations@aauwatlanta.org

Diversity

Betty Slater diversity@aauwatlanta.org

Historian

Sarah Rondeau historian@aauwatlanta.org

Hospitality

Susan Diffenderfer
hospitality@aauwatlanta.org

Public Policy

Diana Witt publicpolicy@aauwatlanta.org

Public Relations

Betty Slater
publicrelations@aauwatlanta.org

Scholarship

Cecilia Cantrell
scholarship@aauwatlanta.org

Web Information

Terry Eshenour webmaster@aauwatlanta.org

Contemporary Literature

Kay Collins advisory@aauwatlanta.org

Travel Group

Betty Arden travel@aauwatlanta.org

Advisory Board Chair

Kay Collins advisory@aauwatlanta.org

Publications

Amira Saleh publications@aauwatlanta.org

AAUW Funds

Phyllis Miller aauwfunds@aauwatlanta.org

Philanthropy Chair

Mary Lynn Merkle
philanthropy@aauwatlanta.org

Communications Chair

Ruth Yurchuck
communications@aauwatlanta.org

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
MARCH 2014, VOL. 64 No. 7

March Branch Meeting



The March Branch meeting will be held at Oglethorpe University in the Turner Lynch Conference Room. This meeting will focus on Women's History.

The lunch menu will include a Cold Salad Buffet: Grilled Salmon, Orange Thyme Chicken Breast, Traditional Caesar Salad, Field Greens with Strawberries, Mandarin Oranges, Spiced Pecans and Bleu Cheese with Ranch and Balsamic Dressings, Homemade Ranch Potato Chips, Fresh Fruit Salad, Flatbread Crackers, dessert selection of the day, iced tea, lemonade, and water. The cost for lunch is \$17.50.

March Branch Meeting Details:

Date: March 8th

Time: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Place: Oglethorpe University (4484 Peachtree Rd NE Atlanta, GA 30319), Turner Lynch Conference Room

If you have not responded to the invite, please notify the Hospitality Committee at hospitality@aauwatlanta.org.

AAUW Atlanta – A Leader in Women's History

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover



AAUW Atlanta has long championed documenting and teaching Women's History. In fact, in 1976, the Branch published *Georgia Women: A Celebration*. Researched and written by Atlanta members, with additional contributions from colleagues in the Columbus and Macon Branches, the book was edited by Barbara B. Reitt. AAUW Atlanta distributed the book to teachers and schools throughout Georgia to fill a gap in existing teaching resources. *Georgia Women* can still be located in the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library, the DeKalb Public Library, Georgia schools, and the homes of Atlanta

Branch members.

Many people already know that Juliette Gordon Low, a widow from Savannah, established the Girl Guides – now the Girl Scouts – to teach flag history, knot tying, knitting, and first aid. The PTA also has its roots in Georgia. Originally there were two PTA's – one for whites and one for blacks; Georgians founded both. Alice McLellan Birney from Marietta, a mother of three, was concerned that well-meaning parents lacked and desired information child rearing. In 1897, she convened a National Conference of Mothers in Washington, D.C.,

Continued on page 4

Update on 2014 State Convention: March 28-29, 2014.

By **Bea Piddock and Diana Witt**

Our annual Georgia AAUW Convention will take place this year at the Hilton Garden Inn, 24 Liberty Drive, Cartersville, GA. The hotel is close to historic downtown Cartersville, off Exit 288 on Highway 75. The Cartersville Branch has graciously offered to prepare a social event for Friday night to be followed by a day-long program of events on Saturday, concluding around 4 pm on Saturday afternoon. The program is not officially set, but we plan to include:

Friday evening social events possibly a hospitality reception and dinner at one of Cartersville's historic dining spots. Look for updates about this.

The Conference Agenda (see page 3) is subject to change. Plan to arrive between 8:30 and 9:30 am for breakfast and registration. Our meeting will start immediately following this period.

We will have 3 representatives from National this year. Roz Homer, who is on the national board, will fill us in on what's happening at the national level and what national is planning that will help state and local branches thrive.

Char Singleton and Melissa Jackowski will do a demonstration of SALSA, AAUW national's new database tool. A lot of branches and state officers are looking for ways to target specific groups such as all at-large members, all student members, all members in a certain zip code, and blast email lists for newsletters, announcements, budget reports, events, etc. Also needed is a list of all branch and state members who DON'T have internet and need snail mail or telephone contact. This will be a chance for branches to see how Salsa can help them, and also to advocate for Salsa policies that will help branches the most.

Deb Karvey will give us an update about the GA Legislature this year. Many of us will have just attended the Lobby Day on March 12. Whatever happens in the legislature this year, it's safe to say that it was very short.

After lunch there will be a presentation by a panel of Georgia Student AAUW members and possible members. Students will report on their activities, and they will also share ideas on what AAUW can do for them. I particularly urge some of our non-Metro branches to offer input and discuss ways to reach out to students in their area. It isn't necessary to come to

Atlanta and advocate for our issues. It is often even more effective to meet with legislators in their home offices after the session is over. Plus there are many non-legislative issues younger women need advocacy and help with such as pay equity, sexual violence, and salary negotiation.

Our annual business meeting should be fairly simple this year. We need to approve the budget, and elect officers. We have some policies and procedures that need to be tweaked, but our bylaws are in compliance at this time. Our one-person-one-vote switch from the former delegate seating procedure is complete, but we need to discuss how we want to use this going forward.

Conference registration will be \$20, and will include breakfast and lunch. The link for the registration form was in the recent Cherokee Rose. If you can't access it, or need printed copy, please contact us and we'll see that you get what you need.

Hilton Garden Cartersville has reserved a room block for us at the rate of \$99 for either a single king bed or two queen-size beds, which will allow people to share rooms if they choose. We are going to run a raffle this year, and one lucky winner will get a free room. Another will get free conference registration. We want to remind everyone that you do get reimbursed for your mileage to this conference.

We hope to have a good turnout. Many of our branches have been doing really excellent events this year, and this is the best opportunity we have to compare notes with each other and work together to make AAUW stronger and more visible going forward. We hope to see all of you on March 28-29!

Georgia AAUW Co-Presidents:

Bea Piddock

Diana Witt

Lobby Day – March 12th!

March 12th
Room 328 Coverdell Legislative Office
9 AM

Please join us for Lobby Day on March 12th. We will be partnering with the Young Women's Task Force.

Our most important focus will be **House Bill 290**, the Family Care Act. We will also be keeping our eye on the following:

House Bill 797 would extend the time frame for victims of sexual offenses to request victim compensation from the state.

House Bill 875 "The Safe Carry Act" allows gun owners to bring weapons to churches, bars, and other public buildings has passed the house.

Senate Bill 280 is a proposal to repeal the Georgia Stand Your Ground Law.

Our legislators need to hear from us on these and many other issues. Please consider attending! Car-pooling and Marta are always options for getting to the Capitol!



Agenda for Georgia AAUW State Convention

March 29, 2014

8:30 to 9:30 AM: Registration and Breakfast.

AAUW National Update, Roz Homer

Salsa Demonstration, Melissa Jackowski and Char Singleton

Break

Public Policy Update, Deb Karvey

Lunch at 12.

Presentation by AAUW Student Members: How do students participate in AAUW and what do they need from AAUW Branches and GA AAUW? Possible discussion items: Advocacy using social media, equal pay initiatives, and job and salary negotiations.

Break

AAUW Business Meeting: Treasurer's report, election of state officers, update on state public policies and procedures, discussion of voting procedures under the new one-person-one vote guidelines, and the date for fall meeting in September.

Adjournment

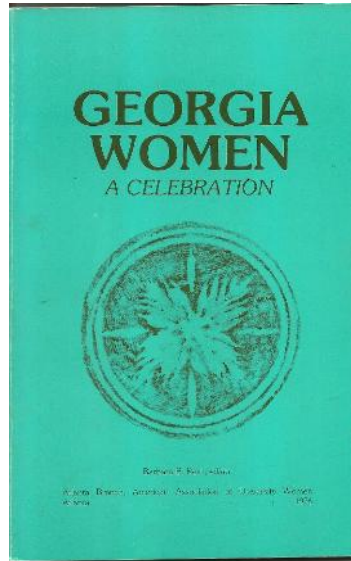
AAUW Atlanta – A Leader in Women’s History... Continued

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover

which became the National Conference of Parents and Teachers in 1925. Around the same time, Selena Sloan Butler, an 1888 graduate of Spelman College and a teacher in Atlanta’s segregated black schools, recognized parents’ desire for more information on raising children. She founded the Parent-Teacher Association for Negroes. Eventually, the two organizations came together as what we now know as the Parent Teacher Association.

The first female United States senator came from Cartersville. Rebecca Latimer Felton, a wife and mother, was active in political and community affairs following the civil war. She opposed the convict leasing system, which allowed individuals and businesses to lease the labor of convicts under substandard conditions, until the practice was finally abolished in 1908. She fought for compulsory education for all children, for vocational education for girls, and for the admission of women to the University of Georgia.

In 1922, in recognition of her service to Georgia, Governor Thomas W. Hardwick appointed the 87-year-old Rebecca Felton to serve as interim senator upon the death of Senator Thomas Watson. The appointment was short-lived but recognized the important role of women in politics.



Women’s History Month is a reminder of the many fascinating women whose lives are often undiscovered. I encourage you to pick up a biography, visit a historic site, or surf the web to meet those women. And remember the vision of AAUW Atlanta members in 1976 for *Georgia Women*.

February Meeting Recap

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover

Our February meeting focused on public policy in Georgia, with speakers on fiscal policy, human trafficking, and the Family Care Act.

Alan Essig, Executive Director of the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute (GBPI), updated us on the Governor’s proposal for the budget that begins in July 2014. During the recession, state revenues dropped significantly, resulting in significant budget cuts. As the economy and revenues rebounded, legislators and the Governor continued to cut the budget. As a result, over several years many departments, including education, experienced substantial budget cuts. This is the first budget proposal from the Governor that does not request additional budget cuts.

The vast majority of the new revenues will be required to cover the expenses required to keep the state running. The Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula has been underfunded for K-12 for several years.

The Governor’s budget proposal begins to reverse some of the cuts, although many remain in place. School districts should be able to restore the 180-day school calendar and provide very modest raises to a few teachers, but class sizes are expected to remain high, and programs that were cut, such as music and art, are unlikely to return.

The biggest non-budgetary issue that the GBPI is following is Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). In Georgia, eligibility for Medicaid is very low – around 38% of the poverty level. Under the ACA, it is possible to move that to 138% of the poverty level. The expansion is 100% federally funded for the first three years, and then drops off to 90% over time. The GBPI believes that the impact of federal funding in the state would provide sufficient revenues to offset the cost to the state, and the expansion would create many jobs.

For more information, visit www.gbpi.org, and sign up for their email updates.

Continued on Page 5

Public Policy March Update

By: **Diana Witt**

Things have been very busy at the Capitol this month, as this is one of the shortest legislative sessions in Georgia's history. Both AAUW GA and Atlanta Branch AAUW representatives have been attending Lobby Days at the capital this month. On March 12, we will be partnering with the Young Women's Task Force, one of national AAUW's partnership organizations, and meeting in Room 328 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building at 9 AM. Please consider attending this event. Carpooling and Marta are always options for getting to the Capitol!

Our most important focus will be House Bill 290, the Family Care Act. However there are numerous pieces of legislation in this session that AAUW members should keep their eyes on. I'll focus on 3 that are of most interest to our members:

House Bill 797 would extend the time frame for victims of sexual offenses to request victim compensation from the state. This bill includes young men and women who have been victims of sex trafficking and would allow them to access this fund.

House Bill 875 "The Safe Carry Act" allows gun owners to bring weapons to churches, bars, and other public buildings and has passed the house. In the past, the Senate has been reluctant to pass such legislation and public polling shows most Georgians oppose this. Please contact your State Senator and register your opposition to this bill.

February Meeting Recap...Continued

By: **Sharon Bevis-Hoover**

Dalia Racine, the Assistant District Attorney in DeKalb County responsible for prosecuting crimes against children updated us on Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC). Awareness of the problem and resources to fight it have grown in recent years, but CSEC remains a significant problem worldwide and in Georgia. Racine encouraged members to volunteer in Atlanta area programs such as Youth Spark, Wellspring Living, and Out of Darkness.

The Georgia Legislature is currently considering several bills impacting human trafficking. HB 797 seeks to amend criminal procedures to extend the time frame in which victims of certain sexual offenses can request victim compensation.

HB 771 seeks to extend the statute of limitations in civil practice for victims of childhood sexual abuse.

Senate Bill 280 is a proposal to repeal the Georgia Stand Your Ground Law. This bill has little chance of success, but it would hurt to tell your Senator that you report this repeal. Our legislators need to hear from us on these and many other issues.

Finally: Myra and I have both been very impressed by the GA ACLU's legislative activities. They too are at the Capitol on a weekly basis and publish an excellent guide to the bills being considered in each session. Follow this link to look at their legislative agenda for the 2014 session :

www.acluga.org/get-involved/legislative-work/legislative-agenda/

Each bill is identified by the number. The sponsors of the bill are identified, as is the committee that is managing the bill. There is also a short summary of what the bill actually means, and a statement of ACLU's position.

This is a really quick and easy place to review all the legislation that is important to us. This link provides access to a PDF that can be downloaded and printed out. I urge you to take a look.

Diana Witt

Public Policy Chair, Atlanta Branch AAUW

For more information on human trafficking, visit the Polaris Project at <http://www.polarisproject.org>, the Girls Educational and Mentoring Services at <http://www.gems-girls.org>. You may also contact Assistant District Attorney Racine, who is a 2014 Candidate for Douglas County District Attorney, at edracine@dekalbcounty.gov.

Sarah Swearer, an intern and volunteer at 9to5 Georgia, updated us on House Bill 290, the Family Care Act, which would allow employees to use sick leave for the care of immediate family members. The bill passed out of the House committee and is currently with the Rules Committee. A similar bill in the Senate is expected soon.

For more information, go to www.9to5.org and select the Georgia link.

Travel Group Update

By: Betty Arden

The AAUW Travel Group will meet at 10 am on March 13 at the Ansley Mall Kroger store to car-pool to the Federal Reserve Bank, 1000 Peachtree Street, Atlanta. A docent guided tour will be given at 11 am. Lunch will follow.

The February tour, "Return to Rich's: The Story Behind the Store" at the William Bremen Museum has been rescheduled for April 10th.

Call Betty Arden for further details.

Contemporary Lit Group

By: Kay Collins

The Contemporary Literature group will meet at 4:00 PM on March 3rd at the home of Mary Hanson to discuss *Gone Girl*.

If you have questions please contact Kay or Mary.

Submit Newsletter Articles

By: Amira Saleh

The deadline to submit articles for the March newsletter is March 25th. Please email them to me. I welcome any ideas or feedback you would like to send my way. Thanks!

Table of Contents

- March Branch Meeting Pg. 1
- A Leader in Women's History Pg. 1
- 2014 Georgia State Convention Update Pg. 2
- February Meeting Recap Pg. 4
- Public Policy March Update Pg. 5
- Travel Group Pg. 6
- Contemporary Literature Group Pg. 6

Calendar

March 3, 2014 - Contemporary Lit Group Meeting

March 8, 2014 - Atlanta Branch Meeting

March 12, 2014 - Lobby Day

March 13, 2014 - Travel Group Outing

March 22, 2014 - Cool Scholars

March 28-29, 2014 - AAUW State Convention

September 21 - 28, 2014 - 2014 AAUW Bookfair

Jun 18-21, 2015 - AAUW National Convention, San Diego