



ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

2013-2014 Leadership

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
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May Branch Meeting Just Around the Corner



I hope this newsletter finds you well! Around the corner is our annual May meeting at Ansley Golf Club which features the election and installation of new Atlanta Branch officers. It is also when Billie Collier will collect membership dues for 2014-2015 so make sure to save the date!

May Branch Meeting Details:

Date: May 17th

Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Place: Ansley Golf Club, 196 Montgomery Ferry Dr, Atlanta, GA 30309

AAUW Georgia Holds Successful Convention

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover



The Georgia AAUW State Convention was held in Cartersville on March 28-29 with excellent attendance from seven Branches and two universities. Nine members from the Atlanta Branch participated. The Cartersville Branch hosted a wonderful evening reception in downtown Cartersville with entertainment from the Cartersville High School jazz ensemble and provided gift bags to all attendees.

National Update

The following morning, Roz Homer, AAUW National Finance Vice President, brought greetings from the AAUW National Board of Directors. She shared a video from Lisa Maatz, Vice President of Government Relations, who encouraged all members to join the AAUW Action Network and the Washington Update.

In 2013, the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) provided \$100,000 in case support. Ms. Homer encourage us to introduce a plaintiff to our community, to apply for an LAF Campus Outreach Grant, and to stay informed by signing up for LAF Express online updates.

AAUW's latest research report *Women in Community Colleges* influenced a number of Branch activities throughout the country, and AAUW research continues to be used to inform Congress. In 2014, AAUW will release *Moving the Needle*, an update on *Why So Few*, our report on the lack of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). In 2015, AAUW will release a report on *Women in Leadership*.

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AAUW Holds Successful Convention...Continued

By Sharon Bevis-Hoover

AAUW continues to grow our STEM programs Tech Savvy and Tech Trek with the support of corporate sponsors Praxair and the Alcoa Foundation. AAUW's [Give a Grad a Gift](#) program allows members to give recent college graduates a free, one-year AAUW membership.

Salsa Presentation

Melissa Jackowski, Grassroots Advocacy Manager, and Chardonmay Singleton, State Field Organizer, discussed Salsa, an online tool used to communicate with AAUW members and supporters. Salsa supports the AAUW Action Network, Washington Updates, and petitions. During the 2014 session of the Georgia General Assembly, AAUW Georgia began to send updates on local matters to members and supporters in Georgia. Please let Communications Chair Ruth Yurchuck or me know if you have ideas for ways that we can use Salsa to communicate with an audience beyond our membership.

AAUW Student Forum

Chardonmay Singleton led a panel of students from Georgia State University and Valdosta State University in discussing what AAUW means to them and what they need from AAUW.

Nicole Poole from Valdosta State University first learned about AAUW through Elect Her, and she is working to bring Elect Her to Valdosta State. AAUW's focus on advocacy and education are her priorities. She is also hoping to bring AAUW's Start Smart to her university to help women learn how to negotiate their salaries.

Toni Apatira is a member of the Georgia State University Student Affiliate Group. She also first learned about AAUW through Elect Her. Her priorities are equity for women - especially equal pay - and education. She was surprised to see that elected student leadership positions at GSU are all held by men, and she noted the importance of women continuing to pursue elected office in order to change the status quo and as an example to oth-

ers. She is also concerned about women's issues in the international community.

Ashley Prescott first learned about AAUW when she attended an Elect Her event at Chattanooga Technical University, and she is working to bring Elect Her to Valdosta State where she is a senior. She is passionate about women's rights and believes that educating girls at a younger age about women's issues is key to increasing their personal empowerment. She also raised concerns about girl on girl hate; she believes women must respect each other in order to gain the respect of men.

Diana Dey is a founding member of the Georgia State University Student Affiliate Group and a member of the Atlanta Branch. She is from Ghana and first learned about AAUW from the American Embassy. Upon arriving in the US, she was surprised to see that we have a challenge with teenage pregnancy similar to what she had observed in Ghana. She believes that education is key to addressing this challenge, and she is also focused on equal pay. She said that persistence was the key to starting the GSU Group, which currently has 91 members.

All of the students stressed the importance of support from experienced AAUW mentors, and they specifically noted the support of Deborah Van Patten in Valdosta and Myra Carmon at GSU. They suggested that to increase our impact AAUW must be very visible on campus and that we should reach out to faculty. They also value the events that we sponsor for students. They note that we increase our impact when we collaborate with other women's organizations.

College Leaders to Attend NCCWSL

By: Betty Slater

Student leaders Alika Turner (Georgia Perimeter College, Social Work and Business Management) and Aesha Kirk (Georgia State University, Pre Law) will be attending the 2014 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). NCCWSL will be held at the University of Maryland, June 5 through June 7.

Alika and Aesha are excited to attend this conference. NCCWSL provides student leaders with a wonderful opportunity to hone their leadership skills and become empowered to implement change on campus and in their communities. Thank you to the Atlanta Branch members who provided support for sending these women to the conference.

AAUW Strategic Plan

By: Ruth Yurchuck

The AAUW Board of Directors recently approved a new Strategic Plan. The full plan is available at <http://www.aauw.org/resource/strategic-plan/> (login required).

There are two important changes of note:

1. The Vision Statement now reads , "AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential."
2. The Value Promise has added "and girls" before "have a fair chance."

We encourage you to review the new Strategic Plan. It will be posted to the Members Only section of our website or you can access it at [aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

Equal Pay Day- April 8th!

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover



AAUW will mark Equal Pay Day on Tuesday, April 8th, with a nationwide effort asking members of Congress to stand up for equality by co-sponsoring and passing the Paycheck Fairness Act. Equal Pay Day is the symbolic date in April when women's earnings catch up to men's earnings from the previous calendar year.

AAUW's The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap found that women typically are paid about 90 % of what men are paid until they hit age 35. After that, median earnings for women fall to 75-80 % of men's earnings. The Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 84/H.R. 377), which has 207 co-sponsors in the House and 54 co-sponsors in the Senate, would help create stronger incentives for employers to pay workers fairly, empower women to negotiate for equal pay, and prohibit retaliation against employees who share salary information.

Volunteers Needed to Assist Branch Historian!

Branch Historian Sarah Rondeau needs volunteers to assist in processing a large backlog of Bookfair records now that the Georgia Archives is permitting the Branch to again deposit our Branch records there.

Also needed are volunteers to identify and label photographs.

2014-2015 Membership Dues

By: Billie Collier

This is a reminder to all members that the 2014 - 2015 membership dues will be collected at the final meeting of the year on Saturday, May 17, at Ansley Golf Club. For most members it will be \$77 of which \$46 is tax deductible. Exceptions would be students, lifetime members, and past branch presidents over 65.

Before the May meeting you will receive an email or phone call to inform you of the amount of your dues. If you know that you are not going to be at the May meeting, you can mail your dues to Billie Collier. Dues must be paid no later than June 15th for your name to appear on the National Roster.

Thank you for your help in getting our National dues paid on time.

Atlanta Branch Receives GA Membership Award

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover

At the AAUW Georgia State Convention, Laurie Shaw recognized the Atlanta Branch with an award for the greatest number of overall new members with fifteen for 2013-2014. Many thanks to Atlanta Membership Chair Billie Collier and to all members who reach out to the community.

In Memory of Mayme Stiyer

Long time AAUW Atlanta member Mayme Stiyer passed away on March 14, 2014 at the age of 96. Mayme was a dedicated volunteer and devoted her life to helping others. A memorial service will be held in the Chapel of Decatur Presbyterian Church on April 8, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

New AAUW Georgia Officers

At the recent Georgia AAUW State Convention, Diane Sakmar from the Cartersville Branch was elected Co-President for 2014-2015 and will serve alongside Bea Piddock from Cobb County. Diane succeeds Diana Witt. Debbie Karvey from the Cobb County Branch was elected Communications Vice President and succeeds Betty Slater.

The AAUW Georgia Board will meet on September 6, 2014.

Public Policy Update from State Convention

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover

At the recent Georgia AAUW State Convention, AAUW Georgia Public Policy Chair Debbie Karvey reviewed the results of the 2014 Georgia General Assembly.

AAUW was well represented with the legislators, and we raised the visibility of AAUW. Our primary focus this year was passage of the Family Care Act, which would allow employees to use sick leave for the care of immediate family members. We met with a number of legislators to seek their support, but found many were unwilling to commit their support, and the bill failed to make it out of the Rules Committee. We did succeed, in collaboration with the League of Women Voters and other organizations, in defeating a push to shorten the number of early voting days.

Travel Group Update

By: Betty Arden

The AAUW Travel Group will meet at 10 am on April 10th at the Ansley Mall Kroger store to car-pool to the William Bremen Jewish Heritage Museum (1440 Spring Street, Atlanta; 678/222-3724).

The group will enjoy a docent-guided tour of the exhibit, "Return to Rich's: The Story Behind the Store." Senior admission is \$8.00 and regular admission is \$12.00. A lunch is also offered with dishes inspired by the Magnolia Room.

Questions? Call Betty Arden.

Contemporary Lit Group

By: Kay Collins

The Contemporary Literature group will meet Monday, April 7th at 4:00 PM at the home of Mary Hanson. We will discuss *Unbroken* by Laura Hilgenbrand.

Our May 5th meeting will be at the home of Elaine North. We'll be discussing *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Frye* by Rachel Joyce.

If you have questions please call Kay Collins or either hostess.

Submit Newsletter Articles

By: Amira Saleh

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

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Calendar

- April 7, 2014 - Contemporary Literature Group
- April 8, 2014 - Equal Pay Day
- April 10, 2014 - Travel Group Outing
- April 19, 2014 - Cool Scholars - A Beautiful Me Preparation
- April 19, 2014 - Atlanta Branch Board Meeting (2 pm)
- April 26, 2014 - Bookfair Steering Committee Meeting
- May 5, 2014 - Contemporary Literature Group
- May 8, 2014 - Travel Group Outing
- May 10, 2014 - Cool Scholars - A Beautiful Me
- May 17, 2014 - Branch Meeting - Election and Installation of Officers
- May 21, 2014 - Cool Scholars - Scholarship Reception
- June 2, 2014 - Contemporary Literature Group - Select Books for 2014-2015
- September 21 - 28, 2014 - 2014 AAUW Bookfair
- Jun 18-21, 2015 - AAUW National Convention, San Diego