
CHEROKEE ROSE

AAUW of GEORGIA SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

Message from the Co-Presidents

Greetings, Georgia AAUW! It has been a challenging but interesting time to be Co-President of Georgia AAUW during the time of the COVID-19 Pandemic. While we were unable to meet in person for 2020 and 2021 State Conventions, I am pleased to announce that this newsletter includes a registration form for a One-day Drive-in Georgia AAUW State Convention on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at Byron, GA. We are pleased that National AAUW's new CEO, Gloria Blackwell, will be joining us by ZOOM to open the Convention. After her remarks, there should be time for Q & A. After lunch, our Keynote Speaker, Cathy Cox, will share her message with us. Cathy, a former Georgia Secretary of State, is currently President of Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville. She was our speaker at the 2002 State Convention, so it will be interesting to hear her remarks on changes for women over the past 20 years! Of course, we will also have some business to attend to, election and installation of officers, time for branch sharing, etc. It would be great to have participation from all branches so we can re-connect and re-energize our AAUW connections. With no end in sight for the rising gas prices, please consider car pooling with other branch members. The registration fee is low to encourage your attendance. Please register ASAP so we will be able to complete our convention preparations. Looking forward to seeing you,

Laurie Shaw

Co-President, Georgia AAUW



Greeting from your most recently elected co-president!

It was last summer when I got “the call.” Laurie Shaw was calling on behalf of the Board asking if I would accept the AAUW of Georgia co-presidency with her. My first inclination was to say, “Thank you for asking, but NO.” Instead I said, “Yes.”

Now why would I do that?!

Well, I said “yes” because I love this organization. After three branches in three different states, serving on the state board in two states, and four terms as branch president—wouldn’t you think I had had enough?

Not on your life! Where else would I find an organization that: (1) has continually worked for equity and justice on behalf of women and girls; (2) provides access to the latest research on women’s issues; (3) provides opportunities for me to “give back” in an organized fashion; (4) provides long-lasting friendships; and (5) gives opportunities to meet new friends and entertain new thoughts and ideas at every level! A pretty good bargain—considering!

So all of that is why I’m looking forward to seeing many of you in Byron on April 23rd! It’s our opportunity to experience all of the above, but especially (after a three year lapse) to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Honestly, it’s my good fortune that Laurie asked me. It’ll be a pleasure to serve.

Mary Lynn Merkle

Co-President, Georgia AAUW

AAUW Fundraiser

Please consider bringing a gift basket, jewelry item, book, etc. that can be used for a silent auction fundraiser. We had a diverse number of items at the 2019 State Convention and are looking forward to some fun items. Remember to bring your checkbook or some cash so you can bid in this fun activity!

2023 Officer Nominations

The nominations committee chaired by Evelyn Merk was unable to get anyone to accept a nomination for Communications Vice-President or Co-President. I contacted Daisy Bourassa-Dowd, former Atlanta Branch member, now living and working in South Carolina, who has been the Communications Vice-President. She has agreed to serve another two-year term as Communications Vice-President and is willing to continue sending out the Cherokee Rose newsletter. This would still leave the responsibility for taking minutes at the State Convention and the Fall Board Meeting to an appointee of the Co-Presidents as Daisy cannot be in attendance at those meetings. I, Laurie Shaw, am willing to continue serving as Co-President with Mary Lynn Merkle, if no other person is willing to accept the nomination. Please give your serious consideration to accept a nomination for Communications Vice-President or Co-President. Georgia AAUW needs you—without you, Georgia AAUW could fold!



Personal Update - Daisy Bourassa-Dowd

Hi all! Just a brief update I thought I would share. On November 17, 2021 my husband Matt and I welcomed our first baby, Dean Robert Dowd. He is named Dean after my grandmother, O'Deane, who passed away in October 2021 and Robert after my father who passed away in 2013.

He arrived 11 weeks early! His due date was originally February 1, 2022. He was quite a surprise! My water simply broke early. We arrived at the hospital around 10pm on 11/16 and he was welcomed to the world at 1:45am on 11/17. Clearly he was just ready! He was an overachiever from the start. He was 3 lbs 8.6 oz and 17.3 inches long. That is huge for only 29 weeks of gestation! The doctors projected he would be in the NICU for 77 days, the full 11 weeks until his due date. He was hitting all of his milestones so quickly. He was breathing on his own, regulating his own temperature, and feeding out of a bottle way earlier than expected. The doctors released him after only 39 days. Dean came home on Christmas Day! He is now 4 months old and growing so fast! He is a little bowling ball these days weighing in around 12 lbs. We are so blessed to have such a beautiful, healthy, happy baby boy!



AAUW of Georgia State Convention

Saturday, April 23, 2022

Tentative Agenda

- 9:30-10:00 am Registration & Morning Refreshments
- 10:00 am Welcome–Laurie Shaw & Mary Lynn Merkle, Co-Presidents
- 10:15 am AAUW CEO, Gloria Blackwell via ZOOM
- 11:00 am AAUW Funds–Marlene Humphry
- 11:30 am Finance–Marlene Humphry
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Keynote Address–Cathy Cox, President, Georgia College &
State University
- 2:00 pm Business Meeting
Roll Call of Branches
New Officers
2023 Nominating Committee
Fall Board Meeting
Branch News and Events

Georgia AAUW State Convention April 23, 2022

Byron Welcome Center
209 Chapman Road, Byron, GA 31008
478-956-2409

Take Exit 149 from I-75, go west, turn right at 1st signal light, turn right again & follow road
.5 mile to the Welcome Center on left.

Registration from 9:30-10:00 am
Light refreshments provided

Keynote Speaker - Cathy Cox
President, Georgia College & State University
Reflections on Women, 2002-2022

Registration Fee--\$25.00
Includes morning refreshments
and a deluxe 2 salad lunch buffet, rolls, beverage and dessert

Caterer/Registration Deadline: April 15 so plan to register early

Send registration form below and fee (make checks payable to Georgia AAUW) to:

Marlene Humphry
141 Majestic Oak Circle, Byron, GA 31008

Registration Questions
mhumphry@cox.net or 478-918-3666

Registration Form for Saturday, April 23

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

BRANCH _____ MEMBER/CHAIR/OFFICER _____

I will be bringing an item for the Silent Auction Fundraiser. YES _____ NO _____