

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On March 23, I set my GPS for Winston-Salem and was off to the North Carolina AAUW State Conference representing our branch.

My enthusiasm for AAUW only increased when I met energetic women from across NC who focused on our mission of supporting women in our communities. There is much dedication and hard work going on from the mountains to the coast.

The weekend was filled with sessions on Friday evening, Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon. I enjoyed hearing reports from other branches on their best accomplishments for this year. I heard women talk about Laundromat Literacy putting children's books in as many hands as possible, Greensboro sponsoring ten Start Smart and two Work Smart programs, and women educating their communities about why filling out the census forms is important. I learned about Tryon's yearly tea with local authors as a fund raiser, and that Asheville members have established a financial investment group as one of their special interest activities. Jacksonville members have organized a book study on students with disabilities for teachers to fulfill continuing education hours.

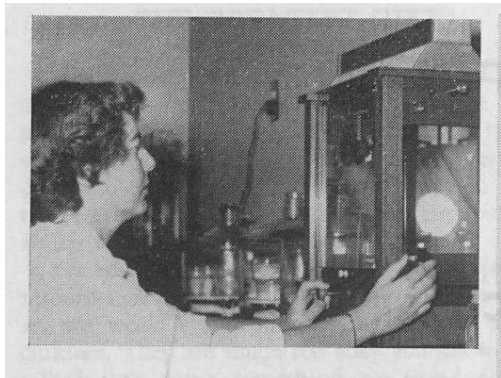
I spoke about how our relationship with Brevard College has strengthened this year with our sponsoring a Start Smart workshop in the fall, our two new interns joining us for the second semester, and how 40 young women from the college came to our first meeting and round table discussion. Throughout the conference I heard references to our book sale and how members across the state were appreciative and impressed with the effectiveness of our fundraiser and the scholarships we support.

The workshops I chose to attend on Saturday centered on social media. The first was *Marketing Your Message* and the second was *Moving Your Message Through the Digital World*. I learned that we are right on target concentrating on Facebook and our website.

COMING EVENTS

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|----------------------------|--|
| Apr 4
2:00 p.m. | Book Group
College Walk |
| Apr 9
1:00 p.m. | Board Meeting
St. Timothy's
Methodist Church |
| Apr 10
7:00 p.m. | Branch Meeting
Lutheran Church of
the Good Shepherd |
| Apr 24
1:00 p.m. | Bridge Group
To be announced |
| May 2
2:00 p.m. | Book Group
College Walk |

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BRANCH MEETING

7:00 p.m., April 10
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
The History of Ecusta Working Women
with Marcy Thompson

Hostesses: Aleta Tisdale & Gypsy Richardson

APRIL BRANCH PROGRAM



We are delighted to have Marcy Thompson, the Local History Librarian at Transylvania County Library, speak to us about “The History of the Working Women at Ecusta.” Her presentation will cover the early years of Ecusta’s operation and focus on the roles of women both as employees and in a broader context as part of the Ecusta family. Photographs and *The Echo*, Ecusta’s monthly publication, from 1940-1954 will be featured.

Ecusta came into being just after the Great Depression when one sixth of all local workers were on relief. By 1940, Harry (Hans) Straus, a German entrepreneur from New York, employed over 1,300 workers making very good wages and receiving medical care at the Ecusta Paper Mill, raising the area out of the depression. Ecusta was more than just a place of employment; it published *The Echo* to inform workers and to make everyone feel more “like a family.” Based on Straus’ belief that “productivity increases when people who work together also play together,” an array of activities from sport teams to dances, bands and music education were started.

Women played a central role in these activities. As in many industries after Pearl Harbor when men joined the armed forces, women’s roles became even more important in the plant and in the “victory gardens” they created.

As Marcy describes herself, “I am from Nebraska. I have a degree in Elementary Education from Chadron State College in western Nebraska and taught in small rural schools for several years. I then came to Appalachian State to get a degree in Library Science while also working in the Buncombe County Library System. After graduation I started working for the Transylvania County Library and spent many years as a Children’s and Teen Services Librarian. For the past 12 years I’ve been the Local History Librarian.”

Marcy is the “go-to” local history expert for many authors as well as residents researching local family history. She is in charge of planning library programs regarding local and southeastern regional history and doing collection development for the North Carolina Room related to Transylvania County families, businesses, organizations and history. Please join us for Marcy’s presentation on a fascinating period of local women’s history.

Ellen O’Brien, Program VP, with Carol Elliott, Publicity Chair

AAUW BREVARD CONTRIBUTIONS

Donations made since the February newsletter

Blue Ridge Community College Scholarship Endowment

Donor: Francis A. Aguilar
In Honor of: Norma & James Aguilar for Birthdays

Brevard College Scholarship Endowment

Donor:
Judith Johnson

If you or family members are looking for a gift idea, please consider contributing to one of the AAUW college endowments.

You can link to the forms at: <http://brevard-nc.aauw.net/donate/>

FAIR TRADE OPPORTUNITY

Fair Trade food items, including coffees, teas, olive oil and a variety of chocolate products, will be available at the April branch meeting. These high quality food items are produced by small-scale farmers and workers around the world and offered to you at a “fair price.” Every purchase you make supports fair wages, gender equity and safe, dignified working conditions in over 40 countries worldwide. The Fair Trade table will open at 6:30. Come early and see what’s available.

Kathleen Milligan



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Continued from p. 1

Throughout the weekend I was proud to be a member of our Brevard branch. We are well thought of and, even though Asheville has taken over as having the highest number of members in our state, we are right behind in second position. Numbers are all well and good, but when I think of the faces behind those numbers, I see good things happening at Brevard that will continue in the years to come.

We've met challenges this year, we have welcomed new members, and I am seeing more and more visitors from the community at our meetings. Our branch has an excellent public face in the *Transylvania Times*, on Facebook and through information on our website.

You have every reason to be proud of the work you do for AAUW Brevard and for the accomplishments of the goals we have set for ourselves.

I was happy to represent you in bringing our good news to the state and to learn more about AAUW, both state and national, and to see how the mission of our organization works in many different yet effective ways.

Paula Bennett Paddick

2018-2019 BRANCH CO-PRESIDENTS



As many of you know, the 2017-18 President-Elect had to step down last summer for personal reasons, and the Nominating Committee was unable to find a replacement.

So to lead our branch, five Past Presidents have stepped forward to share the office of President in 2018-2019. Each woman will be President for two months and lead the branch through the coming year.

The schedule of Co-Presidents is as follows:

- * August budget meeting & September meeting – Linda Thompson
- * October & November meetings – Paula Bennett Paddick
- * December & January meetings – Aleta Tisdale
- * February & March meetings – Karla Atkinson
- * April & May meetings – Betty Schenfield

As we go through next year, please note that questions, calls and emails should be directed to the current Co-President. This schedule will be included in the 2018-19 Yearbook so everyone will have it available at their fingertips!

Aleta Tisdale, for the 2018-19 Co-Presidents

Bridge Group

The AAUW Bridge group will meet on Tuesday, April 24 at 1:00 p.m. If you are interested please contact Linda Thompson.

Book Group

AAUW book group will meet in the downstairs meeting room at College Walk at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4, to discuss *Euphoria* by Lily King. On May 2, we will discuss *Books for Living* by Will Schwalbe. For more information contact Carol Carrano.

CRITICAL AAUW VOTES COMING UP

All members should have received notice that AAUW National has put three bylaws amendments before the membership for a vote this spring. These amendments would (1) create three-year staggered terms for national board members, (2) allow non-members to serve on the national board, and (3) eliminate the degree requirement for membership.



Bylaws amendments are not traditionally proposed outside national convention years, but these changes have been under consideration for several years.

The proposal for open membership has come up for vote a number of times. All comments and more information about the proposals can be found at: www.aauw.org/resource/national-election

At its annual meeting on March 24, AAUW NC approved a resolution that "...branches and members become familiar with the three proposed amendments and support their passage by voting in the affirmative prior to June 9, 2018."

Voting opens on April 25 and closes June 9 at 9 p.m. I encourage you to think seriously about the future of AAUW and exercise your vote.

Karla Atkinson, Bylaws Committee

INTERESTED IN THE DULCIMER?

Virginia MacDonald wants to start a beginning dulcimer group with a teacher. She is hoping that the group progresses so that they can play for nursing homes. Contact Virginia for more information.

BRANCH UPDATES

May Luncheon

The May 8 luncheon honoring Women Who Make a Difference will be held at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. The menu will be a salad potluck, and we will gather at 12:00 noon. Sign up sheets for the pot luck and dessert will be available at the April meeting.

If you are unable to attend the April meeting but would like to attend the luncheon, please contact Judy Baghose to let her know the type of dish you will bring.

Volunteers are also needed to set up the tables prior to and clear away after the luncheon. Please contact Judy if you can assist.

Judith Johnson, Special Events Co-Chair

2018-19 Branch Officer Nominees

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following officer nominees:

President-Elect: Roberta Carver
VP Programs: Nona Walker
VP Membership: Jeanie Bernard
Treasurer: Laura Ledford
Secretary: Susan Andresen

This is a wonderful group and our branch will be in very good hands. Congratulations to the nominees! We thank them for stepping up to lead as we move forward. Thanks also to the nominating committee for putting together this terrific slate of nominees.

Officer elections will be held at the April branch meeting.

Aleta Tisdale and Leslie Chepenik, Nominating Committee Co-Chairs

Tripping Around

Who: Any members, spouses or friends

What: Tour the Vance Birthplace, then lunch at the Glass Onion Restaurant

Where: Weaverville, NC

When: Thursday, April 19, 9:45 a.m. Carpool from 54 Quinn Drive, Brevard.

More Info: Call one of us!

Pinkie Byrd & Connie Kay Hughes

National Dues Increase

Membership renewal forms will go out in early April, and members will notice an increase in dues. Effective March 16, national dues increased from \$49 to \$59 per year, the first change in nearly a decade. As a result, total dues for annual membership will be \$80 (national \$59 + state \$11 + branch \$10). Of this amount, \$56 will be tax deductible.

Annual dues currently account for about 13 percent of AAUW National's yearly budget. The remainder is comprised of donations and corporate and foundation funding. We hope you will find the work that AAUW national does worthy of this increase.

Laura Ledford, Treasurer

Book Sale

Publicity coordinator, Sharon Pastorino, is looking for someone to partner with her. Please call Sharon to learn more.

T-shirts will be available at the next two meetings. There are S, M and L in stock at \$10 each. If you don't see your size, place an order and you will have your shirt before the sale.

Choice Books: We are still in need of someone who is familiar with eBay to help set up and "own" the account for our choice books sales. There is a full choice books committee that sorts, prices, will pack and mail, but the "eBay" person is missing. Please call Pinkie Byrd if you would like more information. This is an exciting part of the book sale and has earned up to \$6000 in past years. This means more scholarship dollars for our recipients.

The Book Sale committee will meet Monday, April 9 at 11:30 a.m., in the upstairs room at Food Matters. It is open to all members; we encourage anyone who wants to learn more about the workings of the sale to join us. There are many ways to be involved, before, during and after the sale for as much or as little time as you have to give.

Don't forget that anyone with large book donations can bring them to the Book Nook and we will meet them and help unload the books. Call Pinkie or Kristen.

Kristen Alpert and Pinkie Byrd, Co-Chairs

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Brevard Branch has had a total of 14 new members join us during the 2017-18 year! The name tags of our newest members are marked with orange dots. Please welcome all of them when you see them at meetings!

If you invite a friend to a meeting or event and they decide to join AAUW at that event, they are eligible for a scholarship (Shape the Future) which pays half of National dues. To take advantage of this benefit, please ask potential new members to bring cash or a check to the event!

New Member Bios



Fran Rasmussen graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute with a BS in Civil Engineering, followed by an MS in Structural Engineering from George Washington University. After college, she worked at a Naval Research Center as a civilian, first as an engineer and then as an engineering manager. She retired in 2015 after 34 years, is married and has two sons. Fran and her husband moved to Brevard in May of 2017. They have enjoyed local activities and hiking in the parks. They volunteer at Brevard Music Center and the annual Pumpkin Patch to benefit Silvermont. She is interested in helping with the book sale, membership and participating in the book club.

Carol Cartwright graduated from Ohio Wesleyan with a BA and completed an MA in English Education at Ohio State University. She lived in Cincinnati for 40 years, where she taught grades 1-9 for 11 years and then switched to grades 10-12 for then next 11 years.

Carol also taught GED literacy at Lebanon prison. She has two children in Philadelphia: Kate, an assistant district attorney; and Brian, who works for Deloitte and Touche. Her favorite hobbies are music and reading.

Nancy Richards graduated from Oberlin College with a BA in Art, Harvard Graduate School of Education with an MA in Education Counseling and Consulting Psychology and Episcopal Divinity School with an M. Div- Ministry. She is retired from ministry and currently fixes up and manages several rental properties. Nancy is an artist showing at Transylvania Arts Number 7 and lives in Cedar Mountain.



Cindi Spillman moved back to Brevard two years ago, although she has been coming to the area to since she was a baby. She grew up in Chicago, but attended Brevard High School and graduated from Furman University with a BA in Psychology. She came back to the area to help her mom, a Brevard College librarian, who has since passed. Cindi retired from corporate life and currently lives in Pisgah Forest. She is passionate about helping others find their artistic passions via her business ArtLab. Check out her website at artlabnc.com to learn more. Cindi is glad to have more time to join and explore organizations in her "semiretirement" life.

Maury Bandurraga, Membership Co-Vice President

AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

In *National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) v. Becerra*, the Supreme Court will decide whether the notices that a California law requires crisis pregnancy centers to post violate the First Amendment.

AAUW signed on to an *amicus* brief that addresses the deception and harm produced by crisis pregnancy centers which may refuse to disseminate accurate information about reproductive options. Denying women the full range of family planning and pregnancy-related medical services undercuts women's rights and has far-reaching consequences that could jeopardize their economic security and access to education.

NIFLA challenged a California law that requires licensed pregnancy centers to post or hand out information about the availability of low-cost or free family planning services, prenatal care, and abortion services as well as a phone number to contact to determine eligibility. This law also requires unlicensed facilities to post or hand out information that makes it clear that they are not licensed and do not have a licensed medical provider. The U.S. District Court rejected its argument, as did the U.S. Court of Appeals. The case was heard by the Supreme Court on March 20; a decision is expected by the end of June.