

## AAUW NC PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Much of the last eight months have been spent planning and organizing details for our NC State Convention in Charlotte on April 16-17,2010. At the summer 2009 Board meeting in Hendersonville, we solicited ideas about program topics for convention which may be of interest to our members. We adopted the shortened, convention format which was used at the 2009 convention in Wilmington and based on members' evaluations of that convention, appeared to appeal to many members.

When we met in October in Boone, our main focus was discussion and reactions to the AAUW meeting in St. Louis. We had a report on that meeting and updates from Washington; a workshop on the mandatory changes needed in the state bylaws and what the branches needed to do to their bylaws; an educational session on WAGE and \$mart \$tart; the Leadership Corps, what it is and who is in it; and a session on how to create a healthy branch.

In planning for convention, packing workshops, association updates, two meetings, meals, a memorial service and a dinner celebration into one and one-half days was a challenge.

More disconcerting, however, was the realization that there would not be enough time at convention for discussion about our organization -- the well being of our state organization, as well as status of our NC branches.

There appear to be several indicators that all is not well in AAUW NC. State membership has dropped from 980 to 917 members this last year. Informally some branches have reported that they are having financial difficulties; others are struggling to put together just a bare-bones leadership structure. Another branch is dissolving.

Equally alarming is the fact that no one has stepped up to stand for President, Secretary or Membership offices at the state level.

It has fallen, then, to the remaining officers (Program VPs and Treasurer) to respond to this ailing organization.

The traditional structure of AAUW NC -- the traditional assignment of responsibilities among AAUW NC Board members -- the traditional channels of state and branch communications -- the traditional relationships between the state and the branches: All of these "doing business as usual" practices must be questioned and assessed.

We hope to develop a proposal for a statewide "convention" in late summer/early fall. This will not be a convention with programs or workshops. This will not be a meeting with a banquet or speakers or awards. This will not be a downtown-hotel gathering.

The sole purpose of this convention is to come to consensus on the future of our current AAUW NC. We will announce the gathering as soon as we have a date and location.

Organizing this second convention, then developing a list of recommendations which will be presented to the membership next spring, will be our focus until the end of our term as Program VPs.

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AAUW NC Program VPs