

***Minutes of the AAUWNC Annual Business Meeting***

**Saturday, March 31, 2012, Country Inns and Suites, Burlington NC**

Lill Van Order called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. Minutes of the March 2011 Annual Business meeting were presented. Correction submitted by Salisbury branch, they were in attendance. The minutes were approved as amended by Peg Holmes and seconded by Grace Knechtel. Minutes from the 3/30/12 Board Meeting were also approved and seconded.

Debra Massey-Richardson asked for three volunteers for the reading committee of the March 2012 annual business meeting minutes; following members volunteered: Bernie Carpenter, Kay White and Doris Bernlohr.

Debra called roll and counted 33 members present. There were 20 branches in attendance with 6 missing.

**Financial Update:** Denny McGuire gave an update summary of the treasurer's report. Denny mentioned a few items: Cash on Hand as of 7/1/11 \$11,624., Key Expense items included Mini-grants \$2,444, newsletter/communication \$1,154, Partnership with NOW for lobbying \$1,000, Reimbursement for food, postage etc. \$292, NCWU membership \$75. Total Expense \$4,965.00. Estimated Income items: membership \$600, annual meeting registration \$1,111. Cash on hand as of 2/29/12 \$14,585 minus catering bill \$481.27. [Financial update attached]

**Bylaws Committee for 2013:** Lill Van Order asked for volunteers to serve on the bylaws committee 2013; following members volunteered: Grace Knechtel, Pat Abell, Peg Holmes with Nancy Shoemaker serving as advisor. Anticipate beginning on this project within a month to present to the State in September. FYI: Bylaws are barebones while policies are more detailed and an issue that has not been reviewed since 2009. Branch bylaws may have to be adjusted after state bylaws completed. Bylaws must be in compliance with National since laws for non-profits have changed. Impact will be in national wording in the NC bylaws and how we operate more by policy in the local branches.

**Nominating Committee Report:** Motion passed to continue with four elected officers for the 2012-2013 term:

President: Mary Peterson

VP of Communication: Karla Atkinson

Financial Officer: Denny McGuire

Branch Advocate: [absent] Sandra McLaurin

Peg Holmes motioned to accept - seconded by Janice Imgrund.

**Election and Installation of Officers:** Lill Van Order, Co-President of AAUWNC swore- in the above mentioned members for the term beginning July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013.

**Resolution of Defense of Marriage Amendment updated Present and vote:** Karla Atkinson gave a detailed explanation of AMENDMENT ONE. Amendment one says "marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this state." So who gets hurt

if Amendment One passes? Families, all unmarried couples, children of unmarried parents, employees in the public/private sector and the economy. It is already illegal in NC for people of the same sex to marry. This amendment will have no impact on this law. Amendment One is a civil rights issue. Karla strongly suggests that AAUWNC take a public stand AGAINST the amendment. Add as Resolution # 4; Whereas, the passage of Amendment One will cause protracted legal battles at private and public expense. Denny McGuire motioned to vote AGAINST Amendment One, seconded by Charlotte DiVinci - unanimously accepted.

Karla gave an update of future activities: [1] Denny summarized the success of the mini-grants initiative at the meeting last night [2] Expect the Tarheel News by mid-May. [3] Nancy Shoemaker is working on a weekly e-mail newsletter.

**Coalition with NC Women Matter:** Statewide coalition of organizations formed to engage and activate women in the state who recognize the importance of ensuring women's voices are heard. Strictly a get out and vote effort. Branches can participate by contacting AAUW members that do not vote and offer assistance such as a ride to the poll or contact Assist Living facilities and help residents' complete absentee ballots.

"There being no further business to discuss, the meeting is hereby adjourn at 2:15 pm."

# **AAUW of North Carolina**

## **Resolution *AGAINST* Constitutional Amendment On Same Sex Marriage**

**Whereas**, same-sex marriage is already illegal in North Carolina so Voting No on this amendment is NOT a vote to legalize same-sex marriage. This anti-gay amendment is redundant, a distraction from the real economic challenges we face; and

**Whereas**, this amendment puts discrimination into the North Carolina Constitution, a document that should protect all citizens' rights; and

**Whereas**, this amendment is bad for business as corporate executives have indicated that this amendment would make it more difficult to recruit a diverse workforce; and

**Whereas**, passage of this amendment would cause protracted legal battles at private and public expense; and

**Whereas**, this amendment would prohibit the protections for civil unions already in existence such as allowing insurance benefits for domestic partners; and

**Whereas**, this amendment could interfere with domestic violence protections for unmarried couples; and child custody and visitation rights that seek to protect the best interests of children; and

**Whereas**, this amendment harms vulnerable gay young people by sending a negative message that their state and their neighbors consider them second class citizens, undeserving of the basic rights and protections.

**Whereas**, recent polling indicates that more people were against the amendment than support it which means that we can defeat the effort to put discrimination into our constitution;

**Therefore be it resolved**, that AAUW of North Carolina pledges its resources and will focus its efforts to defeat this amendment; and

**Therefore be it finally resolved,** that AAUW of North Carolina encourages its branches and members to work to defeat the amendment by doing the following:

- Bring awareness of the pitfalls of the amendment to their branch and their community;
- Organize actions to bring attention to the amendment;
- Get out the vote to defeat this amendment;
- Join in coalition with other organizations working against the amendment

The American Association of University Women promotes equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

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