



President's E-Letter
October 15, 2015

A huge “thank you” to Denny McGuire and Mary Peterson who worked quickly and enabled members across the state to respond to two education bills in the NC General Assembly which put NC’s public education system in further risk. These bills dealt with the divergence of funds and “Achievement School Districts”. We are so excited to be able to use the same tool as national, **The Two Minute Activist**, to alert AAUW members in North Carolina of important notices that need our immediate attention. If you do not receive these notices, please go to the following site to become a Two-Minute Activist. <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

In place of regional meetings this fall, **we have planned a webinar** and are offering to present it on three different dates. Any member of any branch is welcome to “attend.” Just select whichever date is convenient for you! Our focus will be on the varied and rich resources from the convention available for branch programming. The webinar will be interactive so you will have the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. If you’re looking for great topics for programs, tools for recruitment of members, collaboration partners for community projects, or how to understand AAUW governance, this is the place for you. **All it takes is your phone and computer to connect** and to participate. **The date and time choices are: Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 4:00 pm, Thursday, Nov. 12 at 8:00 pm, or Saturday, Nov. 14 at 10:00 am.** We need a minimum of 5 registrants to hold the webinar on any of these dates. The registration and details will follow soon. When you receive the information, please see that it gets forwarded to your branch members.

Advocates of the Equal Rights Amendment are invited to participate in a statewide conference, “The ERA—Give a Damn” on October 24. **RATIFY ERA-NC.** A statewide organization dedicated to making the ERA part of the U.S. Constitution, is sponsoring the program, which will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Congregational United Church of Christ, 400 W. Radiance Drive in Greensboro. For more information, contact robertamadden@era-nc.org.



Do you know that AAUW NC has a member of the National AAUW Board who serves as our liaison? Her name is **Melissa Johnsen**. She fosters communication between the state president (co-presidents) and AAUW Board, provides updates and pertinent information, and serves as a guide and a reference for AAUW programs and issues. Melissa is from Colorado and has over 30 years of executive IT/Business management experience. She has extensive community service and has served on Planned Parenthood and NARAL boards, among others.

She asked us, “What resources do you and your branches need? How can the national board and staff support your work? What do members want to know or change about AAUW National?” We hope to get back to her with some answers after we hear from you.



Office Depot and Office Max

AAUW has partnered with Office Depot and Office Max to bring you a free national discount program. Members of AAUW can now save up to 80 percent off preferred products online and in stores! You will also receive free next-day delivery on orders over \$50! Go to Member Benefits at www.aauw.org

(You could print Title IX Resources to distribute to local schools with your discount!)

This month we would like to highlight **our newest AAUW NC board member, Ellen Garbarino, STEM Contact**. Ellen grew up in NJ, and graduated from New Jersey City University, and Christ Hospital School of Nursing, with a BA in Ed, and an RN. After many years as a Public Health and Hospice nurse in upstate NY, her family moved to the Boston area. Ellen joined the staff at Historic New England, coordinating the adult education programs and overseeing the 500 volunteers at historic properties throughout New England.

After ten years, Ellen accepted a position as Director (CEO and CFO) of a non-profit home health agency in Wakefield, MA. The agency provided home care for individuals in several communities north of Boston.

In 2000, she returned to education at Elderhostel, now Road Scholar. In 2009 she retired as Director of North American Programs, and moved to Laurel Park, NC. where she joined the Hendersonville Branch of AAUW. She chaired the Tea and Fashion Show fundraiser for two years, and continues to work on the committee. She also participates in the Garden Study Group and the Art Study Group, and is excited about working with STEM on the local and state levels.

Jean D'Addario
Co-President, AAUW NC