

President's e-letter
May 20, 2017
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The AAUW NC Board met by conference call on Monday, May 16. Of the many items that we covered, I am including several in this e-letter, HB2, Annual Meeting 2017, and STEM.

First, at the annual meeting on April 2, AAUW NC passed a resolution concerning HB2. The fourth “be it resolved” clause of the resolution that was passed at that meeting said “AAUW of North Carolina urges its board to recommend that the AAUW national board change the AAUW diversity statement as soon as possible to include gender identity and gender equity.” At the May 16 AAUW NC Board conference call, the board acted on this request and voted to do so. A letter will be sent to the appropriate persons.

Secondly, the date of the 2017 annual meeting has been set for Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1. Even though other sites were discussed, it was agreed that the meeting should be “in the center of the state.” As soon as a site is selected, the membership will be notified.

Third, Ellen Garbarino, as chair of the STEM Committee, recommended that AAUW NC set the following STEM goals for each branch;

1. Hold one program on a STEM subject at a regularly scheduled branch meeting. The speaker could come from within the branch membership, or from the community. A member of another branch with a successful STEM program might be a good resource. Greensboro runs a very successful Tech Savvy program.
2. A representative number of branch members will participate in a STEM event. The event could be run by the branch alone, or an event run with the school system, the Girl Scouts, etc. Branch members could volunteer at an already existing event run by another community organization.

The STEM Committee is developing a list of branches with successful track records running one or more STEM programs. This list will be sent to each branch to be used as a resource for branches considering a program. The Committee is encouraging the use of resources found at aauw.org, including, How to Host a STEM Program in Your Community. More information on STEM will be coming later.

Some of you heard about the **Laundromat Project** from Dr. Christine Ganis, President of the Southern Pines/Sandhill Branch. For you who didn't, we have this about the project. “Laundromats can be boring places for kids, except in Moore County since 2014. The Southern Pines/Sandhills Branch of AAUW, advocated for early literacy by providing over 4,000 books in three locations, including two laundromats. Branch President, Dr. Christine Ganis, a psychologist, saw an opportunity in a local laundromat when children had nothing to do. What they did do was whine to their caretakers that they were bored, and push each other in carts, to the annoyance of patrons. Ganis reasoned, “If these kids had age-appropriate books to read, and could even keep them if they liked the subject, all the better.” So the branch embarked on a pilot

project, using consignment books and small donations to fuel their efforts. A few AAUW members from various locations around Moore County volunteered to stock a basket with children's books, checking every few days to weekly. The Literacy Council provided storage space for larger donations, and a student intern to help stock nearby. A local pediatric practice, with multiple locations, agreed to provide publicity in its newsletter, and solicit books from families who had extra unwanted books - a lesson in altruism as well. So the community benefitted with peaceful laundromats, parents were less stressed, and children are reported to be asking to go the laundromat! Children are learning to appreciate books, reading, and the value of passing on books no longer wanted with kids who had no books. While it is not known for certain if parents are reading to their children, the Southern/Pines/Sandhills Branch strongly suspects the parents are being asked to read to them.

From Jean: Many of us have been busy updating our bylaws to conform with the AAUW mandated changes. Hopefully you have completed the task and sent them on to AAUW. If you have not yet completed this task, please call me (Jean) at 1-910-540-7702 and let me suggest ways that you can complete the task. You can upload your new 2016 bylaws to the national office through the MSD. I will be happy to walk you through that process or you can just go to www.aauw.org, put MSD in the Search Box and keep clicking on MSD until you get there. Once you see your branch name, click it and on the left side MSD menu options choose Branch AA & Bylaws List. The MSD is also where each branch president needs to update the names of any new officers, the treasurer needs to submit names for Membership Payment Program, and file the IRS tax form, and where member records can be updated throughout the year. The bylaws were due May 15 and the other updates should be completed by June 30 to be ready to begin our new year on July 1.

How to Access the Member Services Database (MSD)

Watch the AAUW Video on How to Navigate the Site and Log In!

Visit www.aauw.org.

1. Click **Login** at the top of the page to the left of the Join button.
2. Enter your member ID and the password that you've already created. Then click Login.
 - **Forgot your password? Reset it.**
 - **No password? Create an account.**
3. After logging in, type MSD in the search box at the top of the page, or scroll down the AAUW homepage and click the **Member Services Database** link.
4. Click the Enter the MSD button, then click Enter Member Services Database.