



American Association of University Women North Carolina Tar Heel News

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research

Winter 2017

Vol. 65 No. 1

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In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

If you have questions, comments, or need to request a particular form to be sent by regular mail, please contact us

866-525-2155 phone/fax
or
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Planning for Progress Continues at 2017 AAUW NC Annual Meeting

AAUW NC presidents and members from all over the state will convene again this spring to plan steps to further our AAUW mission and share success stories from across the state. Cherrie Wheaton, annual meeting coordinator, has announced that the AAUW NC Annual Meeting will be held in Greensboro on March 31 and April 1, 2017 at the Greensboro Downtown Marriott Hotel.

The meeting will follow a format that has proven successful in earlier years. The central location in the Piedmont is an easy drive for all AAUW NC branch members. There will also be suggested activities for those friends or spouses who may come but not attend the meetings.

The meeting begins with the Presidents' meeting on Friday afternoon. Dinner will be held at a nearby restaurant. Our informal "Wine and Wisdom" party will begin at 7:30 pm at the hotel with a thanks to the branch presidents for leading the completion of the Ann Chipley Endowment. The Greensboro branch will be hosting this evening program when branches share their best project ideas.

The Tar Heel Branch will have a brief annual meeting breakfast at the hotel at 7:30 am on Saturday morning. The morning begins at 9 am. New AAUW NC officers for 2017-2018 will be nominated and elected during the business meeting (see page 11). Our featured keynote speaker is Melissa Johnsen, AAUW Board Member and liaison to AAUW NC. Johnsen will address the issue of reproductive justice and lead an interactive small group exercise (see page 2). AAUW NC Juvenile Literature Award Winner Sheila Turnage will be a luncheon guest (see page 7). Each branch at the annual meeting will receive one free copy of Turnage's book to donate to its local library. Turnage's book will also be for sale. AAUW Fellows who are studying at NC universities this year will be introduced at lunch and make brief remarks. The Saturday activities will adjourn at 2 p.m. with a celebration to mark the completion of the Ann Chipley Endowment.

Registration begins in February. Branch presidents have registration materials. Details and registration forms are also available on-line at www.aauwnc.org.

Rooms have been reserved at the Greensboro Downtown Marriott at the group rate of \$125 for standard rooms. Be sure to register by March 3 to take advantage of the special room rates for AAUW members. Parking for overnight guests is complimentary. Daily parking for meeting attendees is \$2/car.

We are looking forward to a great meeting and opportunities to connect with other AAUW members. See you in Greensboro this spring!

Co-Presidents' Message:



AAUW NC Co-Presidents
Jean D'Addario



Sandra McLaurin

A quick hats off to our members and branches for so many things this past year — your contributions to and the ultimate completion of the Ann Chipley Endowment, which we will celebrate at the Annual Meeting on April 1; branches' completion of two sets of bylaws revisions during this year; and AAUW NC members' participation in women's marches throughout the state on January 21.

Staying the course after challenging elections, we have lots of work to do. A perfect follow up to the marches is planning to participate in Advocacy Day, March 14. (See page 6.) We also hope you will attend the AAUW NC Annual Meeting in Greensboro this spring. (See page 1). To cap off your commitment to being heard among millions of women's voices in these challenging times, attend the AAUW Convention in Washington D.C. on June 14-17. The national convention will include discussions, workshops, training sessions, and networking opportunities — all tools to further fine-tune your branches' voice in your community. (See page 10)

We want to acknowledge and thank Donna Wilson, Branch Advocate, and Ellen Garbarino, STEM Chair, for their service to AAUW NC and our Board of Directors. Both have resigned their positions. Diane Schneider has been appointed to replace Donna as AAUW NC Branch Advocate. Ellen had already defined STEM goals for the branches for 2016- 2017 so the position of STEM coordinator will not be filled for the time being.

We hope you are already planning to attend the AAUW Convention in Washington D.C. For more information, go to <http://convention.aauw.org>. We hope to see you there too!

The Impact of Elections on Women's Reproductive Health



Melissa Johnsen

AAUW Board Member Melissa Johnsen will be the keynote speaker and presenter at the AAUW NC Annual Meeting in Greensboro on April 1. She will define and trace the history the topic of *Reproductive Justice*. Reproductive Justice is an umbrella term meant to be more inclusive of women's reproductive health care and the communities of color.

Her background has prepared her well to address this topic. Her professional achievements include over twenty-five years with fortune 500 companies as a chief information officer, chief technology officer, vice president of IT operations, and IT strategic planning director.. She has also established two university endowments that support young women in STEM and reproductive health education for physicians.

Before relocating in 2013 to Colorado, Johnsen completed a 4+ year tenure with the Planned Parenthood-St. Louis board. As a board member for a state designated public/private non-profit, Missouri Health Connection, she promoted an electronic health information exchange. Melissa has served on the boards of Colorado-based NARAL Pro-choice, Progress NOW, Planned Parenthood – Rocky Mountains, and the Colorado Non-Profit Development Center. Johnsen is currently an independent IT and business consultant who provides pro-bono services for non-profits.

In her presentation Johnsen will follow the history of the choice movement and assess the current status of the Three Legs of the Women's Equality Stool (rights, health and reproductive justice.) She will describe the reproductive landscape at the national and state (NC) levels following the 2016 general election. Given this scenario, she will lead an interactive, breakout exercise to focus on brainstorming efforts at the local/community level. Participants will break into small groups to brainstorm and then report to the larger audience.

Members are encouraged to invite guests, students, and other organizational leaders from their communities to hear Johnsen's presentation. We are fortunate to welcome a national AAUW leader with expertise and hands-on experience promoting women's health choices.

Branch News and Project Updates

BREVARD

With mini-grant support from AAUW NC, the branch launched a Facebook page last year that was central to its get out the vote efforts this fall. See <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.Brevard.NC>. Over 1000 bookmarks were given out to shoppers at last year's June book sale to promote Brevard's Facebook page.

In addition, the branch's voter education plan included print and online ads in the local newspaper that ran once a week in the four weeks prior to election day. Posters and "looping" ads at the local theater and on cable television ran daily for a month. Four ads were designed, including three "topic ads" (education, health and economic security) and one "generic" ad.

Branch members also assisted NAACP with voter registration; some members participated in the NC Women Matter letter-writing project.



The above message on health, created as an ad and a poster, was one of four newspaper ads that ran for a month and were widely distributed in beauty shops, retail and grocery stores, churches and offices.

SANDHILLS/SOUTHERN PINES

President Tina Ganis reports that the branch is hoping to recruit new members from the faculty and administration at Sandhills Community College (SCC). Ganis and Kathy Greene, a branch officer on the faculty of SCC, have been working to strengthen the ties between the two organizations. Because several branch members are also members of the League of Women Voters, Ganis noted they were "doubly involved" in many efforts to inform voters and get out the women's vote.

GREENSBORO

Branch member Catherine Magid's goal was to leave no student unregistered before the November election. Under her leadership the branch registered thousands of voters especially on college campuses in the area. As part of the Get Out the Vote campaign, sixty hand written letters were also sent to women in small cities in NC, where the voter turn out is below the average for the state.



Barbara Carter and Catherine Magid (on left) spent several days registering voters at UNCG.

In the fall branch members were introduced to Greensboro's RCC (Renaissance Community Co-op) project. The RCC will alleviate an 18 year "food desert" in North East Greensboro with the opening of the community owned grocery store. The store will offer healthy living options, as well as strengthen economic development in the community.

The branch fall fundraiser, which supports activities for empowering women and girls, was held at the downtown Greensboro Historical Museum in early December. The Winter Fashion Magic event featured hors d'oeuvres, music, and dancing.

WILMINGTON

Wilmington currently has 62 members — many of whom spent considerable time planning the branch's fall fundraising event. *Lunch with Carolina Authors* has proven to be a profitable program. President Phyllis Leimer and Membership Chair Ava Bevins were interviewed on the radio to promote the November event. In addition to raising scholarship funds, this year's lunch focused on increasing branch membership by offering guests a "Shape the Future" opportunity to join AAUW for a reduced membership fee.

Amidst the celebrations during Wilmington's December holiday luncheon, there was plenty of opportunity to do on-site holiday shopping, with all sales proceeds from members' "regifted" sale items benefitting AAUW.

Branch News and Project Updates

ASHEVILLE

The branch's Advocacy/Public Policy worked in collaboration with a Voter Engagement Coalition of other non partisan organizations in the area to Get Out the Vote (GOTV). The coalition completed two voter registration drives in all high schools in Buncombe County, at area Senior Centers, and in other locations throughout the county.. The branch also helped organize candidate forums throughout the county and supported the development of a non-partisan voter guide distributed throughout Buncombe County.

Asheville has begun two STEM projects. One involves the Howard Hanger Hall Girls School, where members are working with middle school girls to promote confidence and self-awareness in those enrolled in Common Core math and other STEM classes. The second STEM project is a collaborative effort with AB Tech and Women in Technology.

The branch also provides a donation box at each of its meetings to collect art supplies, games, toys, and clothes for young children who are enrolled in the YMCA Empowerment Child Care program.

HENDERSONVILLE

AAUW and the League of Women Voters registered 124 voters and answered many more questions for visitors at their booth during the fall Apple Festival. In addition, some members participated in the NC Women Matter letter writing campaign.

A good part of early fall was spent planning the annual Tea & Fashion Show on October 24 at the Cedars. The tea is one of the branch's major projects to support AAUW scholarships.

Anniversary pins were presented to nine members who have been Hendersonville branch members for at least five years. AAUW Vice President Peg Holmes was honored for thirty years' involvement in AAUW.



Peg Holmes (center) joined (from left) Ann Green, Shirley McLane, Toby Linder and Katy De Kay to celebrate another year as members of the Hendersonville branch.

CHAPEL HILL

Member Michele Hoyman hosted two letter writing parties for the NC Women Matter "woman to woman" letter writing project. Members wrote fifty letters at the September meeting, then requested more to meet other members' desire to continue writing throughout the fall.

Professors from area universities provided three fall programs for the branch. In September the topic focused on the *Culture of Politics in North Carolina*. In October "chocolate" was the center of discussion to address *Entrepreneurial and Health Issues Related to Women*. The the final program in the fall was a presentation by Dr. Tanya Shields on *Gendered Labor: Race, Place and Power on Female-Owned Plantations*. The lecture centered on the story of Annie Palmer, a plantation owner in Jamaica.

CHARLOTTE

Charlotte's first program of the fall featured an update on the future plans of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library. At the meeting, branch members took advantage of the chilly fall weather that morning by distributing car wash tickets to members to sell to friends and neighbors as a fundraiser for the branch. The branch took 50% of sales!

Following the November election, Joyce Waddell, a branch member who was re-elected to the NC State Senate District 40, spoke about "Being a Member of the Minority Party" and other facets of political life.

STATESVILLE

Congratulations to another branch that now has a Facebook page!

The branch has outlined several initiatives to strengthen its C/U partnership with Mitchell Community College (MCC). For example, BackstoryBuzz was designed so that the MCC faculty, staff and students could benefit from on-campus programs. At the same time BackstoryBuzz is offering more branch visibility in the community. The October BackstoryBuzz program featured a moderated discussion on *The Influence of the Media*.

Before the November election, the branch created voter education posters and provided other AAUW print media for campus distribution. Another key to branch visibility will make use of the college's new electronic signage.

Branch News and Project Updates

WINSTON SALEM



Dr. Virginia Newell is now an AAUW Honorary Life Member.

The Winston Salem branch held its annual Fall Luncheon in early October to honor Dr. Virginia Newell, retired professor emeritus from Winston-Salem State University (WSSU). For over fifty years Newell provided leadership and support in AAUW's efforts to empower women and girls. She was cited for community activism and becoming the single force to acquire computers at WSSU, later creating the

foundation for a computer science program at the university. Dionne Jenkins, JD, was the keynote speaker at the luncheon. As General Counsel for the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School System overseeing compliance with Title IX, she brought the branch up to date on Title IX in the local schools.

The branch also reports that it's "on the move" with a project entitled, "Love your Book." Led by branch members Norma Bernhardt and Judy Atkinson, the project is a partnership with South Fork elementary School and its media coordinator. Every 1st grader in the school received a book in November.



Winston Salem members are "on the move." (from left) Kathy Pearre, Judy Atkinson, Janice Imgrund, Julia Archer, Dionne Jenkins, Vanessa Duren-Robinson, Marilyn Caldwell, Ellen Morris and Phyliss Dunning.

TAR HEEL

AAUW NC was a visible presence at the Bennett V conference that kicked off the campaign to get more women to vote in November. The Tar Heel, Raleigh/Wake County, and Greensboro branches had a virtual booth at the event. Organized by Tar Heel branch leaders, the booth offered a look at several AAUW resources on public policy; research reports on women in leadership, the pay gap and other gender equity topics; and AAUW It's My Vote GOTV Toolkit. Visitors to the booth had chances to win door prizes.

Several AAUW and Tar Heel Branch members attended the conference, planning for their branch's participation in the letter writing phase of the GOTV campaign, and promoting membership in AAUW NC.



AAUW NC members had a good showing at Bennett V and were actively recruiting conference participants to join our organization.

RALEIGH-WAKE COUNTY

The branch prepared for the upcoming November election by organizing a training session for members. Kate Fellman, Program Director for *You Can Vote*, led the session. *You Can Vote* is a non-partisan grassroots effort to educate, empower and equip those eligible to vote in North Carolina. She trained and mobilized over 650 volunteers in 2016 to educate 100,000 voters at a time when changes in the laws can be overwhelming. With over 15 years of experience in community organizing and electoral politics, Fellman focused the branch training on how to insure North Carolinians were prepared to vote and not disenfranchised as a result of multiple changes to our voting laws.

Carey Rudell was the featured speaker at the November meeting. She is program director for Go Global NC — a non-partisan, nonprofit organization working overseas and domestically to help business, policy, and education leaders position North Carolina for economic success. Rudell set the tone for two presentations on the power of AAUW grants to align local projects with the AAUW mission. Community Action Grant Recipient (CAG) Brandy Burnett (a Raleigh-Wake branch member) spoke on the success of the Smart Girls Smart Choices project. Beth Dehghan outlined a proposal to seek CAG support from AAUW for two projects she is coordinating through the Women NC organization.

Branch News and Projects

BRYSON CITY

Congratulations to the Bryson City branch for placing its get out the vote ad in the Smoky Mountain Times. Rick Byron, a Bryson city alderman since 2103, ran as a candidate for the NC Congressional House District 11 seat in the November election.

TRYON

AAUW NC President Jean D'Addario was the guest at the branch's literary tea in October. Proceeds from the tea are used to send rising junior girls to a summer STEM program at Clemson. Branch president Priscilla Yeager reported a great turnout. Maureen Copelof, former Brevard AAUW president, also attended. Copelof was the Democrat candidate for a seat in NC House District 113.

Partners for Breakfast Project

Public Policy Advocate Denny McGuire has announced a new opportunity for branches to become involved in helping children.

North Carolina is among ten new states selected to join Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom (PBIC), an initiative that aims to increase the number of students at high-poverty schools who are eligible to participate in classroom breakfast programs.

This program moves breakfast from the cafeteria to the classroom and provides food for every child, regardless of income level. This means children won't go hungry because they are too ashamed to take part in the program.

Eligible North Carolina schools can apply for a PBIC grant that will be used to adopt a classroom breakfast program. The grant helps high-need schools and districts cover the up-front costs associated with the startup and implementation of classroom breakfast programs.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Districts can start applying now. A large amount of money will be granted for the next two years. Even though NC has been chosen to participate, schools **MUST APPLY** to be considered.

Branches are encouraged to contact local education leaders to review the status of the community's breakfast programs in schools. The PBIC initiative may be an ideal solution to already-overburdened budgets. Contact Denny McGuire for more information jmcguire11@nc.rr.com.

Reminders: AAUW NC Goals!

At its summer meeting in Greensboro, the AAUW NC Board established several goals for 2016-2017.

Ellen Garbarino, former STEM Committee Chair, introduced two STEM goals for each branch. Each branch will hold one program on a STEM subject at a regularly scheduled branch meeting. In addition, a representative number of branch members will participate in one STEM event.

To keep open the lines of communication between AAUW NC officers and branches, each board member has been assigned two branches. Co-President Sandra McLaurin reported that this project is also designed to establish more frequent and better two-way dialogue between branch and state leaders.

The Board also discussed electronic communications, including the improvement of the president's e-letter and the development of an e-newsletter to supplement the Tar Heel News publication. The board continues with updating AAUW NC policies.

Women's Advocacy Day 2017

Now that the Governor's election has finally been decided, many organizations will be able to more fully consider what their legislative agendas may look like for the 2017 session. North Carolina Women United (NCWU) will be holding Women's Advocacy Day on March 14, 2017 in Raleigh. At that time, NCWU will be releasing its legislative agenda. Organizations are encouraged now to share any agenda items/issues with NCWU that may be a good fit for developing the 2017 agenda. AAUW NC — long-time member of NCWU—will have a visible presence at the Legislative Building on March 14.

NCWU member Pat Orrange noted that the issues on the 2017 agenda may seem similar to those on the 2015 agenda. "Good policies are good policies, even if they didn't pass last time."

The primary goal of Women's Advocacy Day is to share thoughts and opinions on the issues that matter to women with their elected officials through in-person meetings. NCWU provides information on the list of issues that members consider to be "hot topics," as well as talking points on all of the bills on the 2017 legislative agenda. Issue experts on the bills are also available at the Legislative Building during Women's Advocacy Day.

A reception is also planned in Raleigh at Cantina 18 the evening before Women's Advocacy Day. Register and watch for updated information at <http://www.ncwu.org/>.

AAUW: Several Steps Forward in 2016

(excerpted from AAUW publications)

AAUW Action Network supporters in all 50 states sent over 200,000 messages to state and federal legislators in advocating for AAUW issues. They played a key role in achieving six new equal pay laws in California, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, and Utah. Supporters celebrated 44 years of Title IX with Sen. Harry Reid, and 714 resource guides were delivered to Title IX coordinators in 29 states. In addition, members organized more than 900 get-out-the-vote events in 46 states, and hosted more than 200 Equal Pay Day events nationwide. We also launched the *AAUW In the Statehouse* newsletter, which to date has 1,767 subscribers. AAUW Action Network staff thank the members and supporters who helped make these accomplishments possible.

Pay Equity Pledges Increase

The White House announced 44 new employers signed the Equal Pay Pledge, bringing the total to over 100 businesses that have committed to advance equal pay. AAUW commends these companies, which include eBay, AT&T, Yahoo, and Zillow Group. They join the ranks of other large companies, including Amazon and PepsiCo. The provisions of the pledge include conducting a company-wide gender pay analysis, reviewing hiring and promotion processes to reduce unconscious bias, and including equal pay efforts into equity initiatives. Anheuser-Busch made news when they signed the pledge after urging from the public and AAUW members.

Lawsuits on the Loose

NC Policy Watch (www.ncpolicywatch.com) makes predictions for issues that will be the focus of upcoming court battles. These predictions include several ongoing cases that involve partisan and racial gerrymandering.

Carcaño v. McCrory is the ACLU and Lambda Legal lawsuit challenging HB2. The U.S. Justice Department also has an ongoing legal battle challenging the bill.

A number of legal experts, organizations and stakeholders predicted litigation would arise from a surprise special session held in December. See article on page 10. For example, the redesign of the state educational system, in which the legislature transferred power from state school board to the state superintendent, is being challenged.

A bright note from a Federal Court of Appeals in July 2016 was its decision to strike down North Carolina's "monster" voter suppression law. However, that decision is also being appealed to the Supreme Court.

AAUW NC Juvenile Literature Award

Sheila Turnage is the 2016 AAUW NC Juvenile Literature Award winner for her third novel, *The Odds of Getting Even*. A native North Carolinian, Turnage has spent most of her life surrounded by the poetry and humor of rural NC. She writes books, articles and poems, and enjoys writing about the South in general and NC in particular.

Three Times Lucky, her first novel for kids, was set in the fictitious town of Tupelo Landing, North Carolina with a population 148 minus one (murdered). Readers are introduced to Mo and her best friend, Dale—cofounders of the (probably) world-famous Desperado Detective Agency. This Newberry Honor winning book was followed by *The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing*. *The Odds of Getting Even*, Turnage's latest children's book, again involves the adventures of the two young female sleuths in Tupelo Landing.

Turnage will be present at the AAUW NC Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 1, 2017 and will be happy to sign your books.



AAUW NC Juvenile Literature Award 2016 winner Sheila Turnage accepts her award from AAUW NC President Jean D'Addario. The award was presented at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Society in Raleigh in November. Each branch at the annual meeting will receive one free copy of Turnage's book to donate to its local library.



It comes as no surprise to Robert Madden that many believe the Equal Rights Amendment was passed long ago. Madden is co-chair of the newly organized ERA-NC Alliance — a non-partisan arm of the National ERA Coalition that kicked off its plans in April. Marena Groll serves as the other co-chair. Madden and Groll are members of AAUW NC.

Madden notes that in a 2016 poll for the national ERA Coalition, an astonishing 94 percent of those polled said they would support an amendment guaranteeing equal rights for men and women. Ironically, 80 percent of those polled also believed the ERA had already been passed!

The ERA was first written and proposed in 1923 by Alice Paul. Since then the legislation has had bipartisan support and opposition. In 1972 the ERA passed both houses of Congress and was then submitted to state legislatures for ratification.

In 1977, the amendment received 35 of the necessary 38 state ratifications. Even after Congress extended the ratification deadline to June 30, 1982, no additional states ratified the ERA and it died.

Madden noted, “The formation of the new ERA-NC Alliance is a sign that we will never, never, give up.”

ERA-NC Alliance now has nine lead organizations:

RATIFY ERA-NC; NC4ERA; NC National Organization for Women; NC Business and Professional Women; American Association of University Women of NC; League of Women Voters of NC; Women’s Forum of NC; Democratic Women of NC and North Carolina Women United.

In addition, the Alliance has attracted several member organizations and numerous individual ERA supporters. The first annual business meeting of the Alliance will be held in Raleigh on March 13, the day before Women’s Advocacy Day.

Senator Floyd McKissick and Representative Carla Cunningham expect to introduce the ERA in the 2017 session of the NC General Assembly, which convened in early January. ERA-NC will hold a news conference when the legislation has been introduced. If the bills are not given hearings in the respective committees, the coalition will lead a public citizens hearing. Madden is challenging all AAUW members to “Organize. Don’t agonize!”

To join these efforts, become part of www.era-nc.org.

School Voucher Wish List for 2017

Lindsay Wagner, former Education Reporter for N.C. Policy Watch and now Education Specialist for the A.J. Fletcher Foundation, offers her wish list “in the spirit of transparency and accountability” for North Carolina’s school voucher program. For more of her comments, see <http://www.ncpolicywatch.com/2017/01/06/north-carolinas-school-voucher-program-accountability-transparency-wish-list-2017>

Prevent publicly funded private voucher schools from discriminating against anyone. Private voucher schools can pick and choose anyone they want to educate, and are free to turn away any student who applies.

Require publicly funded private voucher schools to reveal how they spend taxpayer dollars. Last year only 3 of 400 voucher schools were required to file and submit a financial audit to the state. The overwhelming majority of private voucher schools are free to spend taxpayer dollars out of the eye of the public.

Require publicly funded private voucher schools to be transparent about their students’ academic progress and adhere to standards of high quality education. There’s no requirement that private voucher schools teach core subject areas or other set curricula. Though all private voucher schools with 25 or more voucher students are required to administer a nationally normed standardized test of their choosing, and to make those test results on the aggregate a public record, only 17% of participating private voucher schools were required to make those standardized test results public last year.

Require private voucher schools to employ licensed and vetted teachers and be accredited. There is no requirement in the school voucher law that teachers have to be licensed. Teachers don’t even need a college degree—only a high school diploma. In addition, teachers do not have to undergo a criminal background check — only the head of the school is required to pass muster on this important safety measure. Also private schools participating in the school voucher program do not have to be accredited by a nationally respected accrediting organization.

Notes on Nasty Women...

Editor's Comment: Information for this article was excerpted from "Has Anything Changed for Female Politicians?" — an article written by Kate Walbert and published in *The New Yorker* on August 16, 2016. Its relevance to the November election is very timely.



Jeanette Rankin 1880-1973

In 1917 the national newspapers are filled with accounts of the arrival, in Washington, of Jeannette Rankin as a Montana Republican representative to the House—the first woman to serve in Congress. She defeated Jacob Crull, a prominent Montana politician, who committed suicide following his defeat. The *North Platte Semi-Weekly Tribune* puts the blame squarely on Rankin's shoulders in its lead: "The sting of defeat, administered by a woman—Miss Jeannette Rankin, congresswoman from Montana—made Crull... commit suicide."

Born on a ranch outside Missoula, in 1880, Rankin writes twenty two years later in her college journal: "Go! Go! Go! It makes no difference where just so you Go! Go! Go!" Long before she enters Congress, she forges her commitment to issues affecting women and children, in the years following her graduation from the University of Montana in 1902.

She is the sole woman among eight contenders for the Congressional seat; her slogan—"Let the People Know"—is a promise to hold the politicians in Washington accountable to their constituents. She also pledges to fight for eight-hour workdays for women, child-labor laws, and a constitutional amendment for women's suffrage. "Nothing else will go so far toward overcoming the prejudice against women in office and nothing would be greater aid to the feminist movement than to have the higher offices filled by women," she says.

Rankin wins the general election by a plurality of 7,567 votes and enters the House on April 2, 1917. According to a professor of economics at the University of Montana, one of the biggest problems facing Rankin is the "mental baggage" her male colleagues have carried around..." The *New York Sun* warns of all that will have to change: "Profanity will become a lost art in the lobby; no more throwing of inkstands and fisticuffs; women's bathrooms will be constructed."

In an extraordinary session called by President Wilson to debate war with Germany, the question is not how Rankin will vote but how a woman will vote. (Suffrage has been won in Montana. Many of the leaders of the national suffrage movement have urged her to vote for war; anything less, they assure her, will irrevocably set back the cause.)

Thirty-two Republicans, sixteen Democrats, one Socialist, and one Independent voted against the war resolution in the early hours of April 6, 1917, Rankin among them. The following day, the headlines focus solely on her, reporting that she's hysterical as she votes, her appearance "that of a woman on the verge of a breakdown," and that "she pressed her hands to her eyes, threw her head back and sobbed." She denies it.

Rankin has a credibility issue, as critics ask voters whether they really want to "keep a woman in Congress." Her perseverance, however, is legendary. She is defeated in the G.O.P. primary and then roundly loses as a National Party candidate. There are no women in Congress the following year, when Congress finally votes to pass the Nineteenth Amendment. She returns to the House in 1941 and achieves instant notoriety when she casts the sole vote against going to war with Japan.

Following her Congressional terms, Rankin spends the intervening years working for peace and disarmament, traveling the world, and never swerving from her dedication to pacifism. She leads women in a march against the Vietnam War. At 87 she becomes the first inductee into NOW's Susan B. Anthony Hall of Fame. After her death she was honored with a statute in the Capitol. Yet she somehow remains, according to one academic, among the Western "orphans in women's history."

At the age of 91, Rankin appeared with Gloria Swanson on the Dick Cavett Show. When asked if "men have pretty well botched things up...", she replied, "Well men have done very well considering they worked all on their own, and never took the help of women."

A little more than a year before she died in 1973 — still a stylish dresser and walking with a cane — she tells a journalist, when asked if she would relive her life, "I would do it all again...but this time, I'd be nastier."

AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION JUNE 14-17, 2017 WASHINGTON D.C.

<http://convention.aauw.org/register/>

Leadership for Women, by Women



- workshops
- training
- panel discussions
- networking
- bylaws/amendments
- new friendships

REGISTER BY MARCH 31 FOR EARLY BIRD RATE!

2016 Ends with Sweeping Special Sessions in Raleigh

In addition to expanding Hurricane Matthew recovery legislation, the NC General Assembly also quickly approved changes to state government before they adjourned for the year. Many of these changes are being challenged in court by Governor Cooper's office and other civil rights organizations. These sweeping "reforms" were part of HB17 and SB4 that were signed by former Governor McCrory before he left office:

Making gubernatorial Cabinet appointments subject to Senate approval.

Reducing the number of gubernatorial appointments to UNC schools' boards of trustees and the state Board of Education.

Dividing election boards evenly between the two major political parties, ending majority by the governor's party. Parties would alternate the chair of the state board, with Republicans holding the chair in even (election) years. County elections boards with three current members would grow into four-member boards with an equal partisan split.

Cutting the number of employees who serve at the governor's pleasure from 1,500 to 300.

Removing the right to make a constitutional challenge in a direct appeal to the state Supreme Court from Superior Court. Cases would have to be first heard by all 15 members of the Court of Appeals before the state's highest court could review the challenge — rather than by a Court of Appeals panel.

Merging the State Board of Elections with the State Ethics Commission into an independent, quasi-judicial regulatory agency with the authority to issue subpoenas and compel witnesses to testify. The commission would be run by an executive director and overseen by an eight-member board, evenly divided along party lines.

Requiring that political party affiliation be listed on the ballot for Supreme Court candidates.

Two pieces of legislation failed during the fourth special session of the NC General Assembly in December. HB2 — the controversial "bathroom" bill — was NOT repealed. HB3, the Regulatory Reform Act of 2016, also died.

The Regulatory Reform Act of 2016 included many provisions from the regulatory reform bill that died last session. This Act included energy efficiency standards exemptions, solid waste amendments, the repeal of vehicle emission inspections in certain counties, a riparian buffers study, a prohibition of certain storm water control measures, stream mitigation amendments, and the elimination or consolidation of several environmental reports. Provisions in the proposed 2016 Act would generally weaken current environmental regulations.

Four AAUW Takeaways from the 2016 Election

(material has been excerpted from AAUW publications)

2016 Shocker

For the first time ever, America elected a president with no background in politics or public service, who touted his role as a business leader as his main qualification for office.

Congress Stays the Same (Mostly) But a Good Night for Women in the Senate

The GOP ended election night still controlling both chambers of Congress. It hasn't changed that much. Women did make impressive gains in Senate representation this cycle. In 2017, there will be 21 women serving in the U.S. Senate — the highest number in history. The chamber features a record number of three women of color as Senators-elect.

AAUW-Supported Ballot Initiatives Did Well

Voters in Maine, CO, WA, and AZ voted to increase their state minimum wages. AZ and WA approved new paid sick leave programs. AK passed an initiative to automatically register all qualified voters when applying for a Permanent Fund dividend. In addition, CA passed a number of AAUW-supported initiatives.

Voter Suppression Tactics in Motion

All told, in 2016, 14 states had new voting restrictions in place for the first time in a presidential election.

Nominees for AAUW NC Officers in 2017-2018



Cherrie Wheaton spent 23 years teaching social studies in Montgomery County, MD and Coatesville, PA. She especially enjoyed teaching in middle school, training teachers, and leading her department and grade level teams. After moving to Greensboro in 2007, she became active in AAUW Greensboro, participating in their book club, serving on the program committee, co-chairing fund raising committees, and serving as a board member. From 2014 to 2016, she served as branch president. During this time, the branch held three Tech Savvy events, increased its College/University Partner institutions, held "Start Smart" workshops, and increased scholarships to NCCWSL. Under Cherrie's leadership, the branch initiated the process of becoming a 501c3 entity, and attained this status this past summer. Cherrie is also a member of the Tar Heel Branch and the AAUW NC Board of Directors. **Cherrie is a candidate for AAUW NC Co-President.**



Jane Terwillegar has been a member of AAUW since 1996. She served two terms as President of Northern Palm Beach (NPB) County Branch and two years as President of the NPB Charitable Foundation. After moving to NC in 2012, she joined the Greensboro Branch where she is currently secretary, as well as a member of the Tech Savvy and C/U Liaison Committees. Jane is also a member of the Tar Heel Branch. Jane grew up in Western New York and graduated from Elmira College (BA) and from New York State University at Geneseo with a Masters in Library Science. She holds an Ed.S from the University of GA. **Jane is a candidate for AAUW NC Co-President.**



Diane Schneider became an active AAUW Charlotte Branch member in 2005. She served as president-elect, and then as branch president. Diane continues to support the branch, now chairing the Start Smart committee for a second term. She planned workshops for January in collaboration with Wake Forest University-Charlotte Campus and another local women's group. She hopes to promote future workshops in the greater Charlotte area. She also serves on the board of the Tar Heel Branch. Diane gets much of her inspiration and enthusiasm for AAUW from her work as an educator and part-time tutor for teens and young children. **Diane is a candidate for AAUW NC Branch Advocate.**



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Greensboro, NC

Mini Grant Projects Drive Programs

Congratulations to Chapel Hill and Greensboro — the first branches to receive mini grant funds in this 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Greensboro AAUW is planning to initiate a city-wide **Work Smart** program. **Work Smart** is the sister program to **Start Smart** — similar in content but targeting women in the workplace instead of women in college. Both programs are sponsored and owned by AAUW. Branch member Laura Tew is planning the first pilot in February with Greensboro's City Commission on the Status of Women.

Greensboro will use a second mini grant to present **Triad Tech Savvy 2017**. This will be the 4th year the branch has sponsored the day-long program for 6th-9th grade girls and their parents with support from AAUW and AAUW NC.

Chapel Hill will be working with UNC-Chapel Hill to present the **We Are Worthy Project** on campus. The focus of the project is to provide tools that help young women achieve self confidence, vision and other leadership skills. The **We Are Worthy project** is directed to women of color on campus. In response to project participants who asked for a book to help them meet the project goals, the branch will use mini grant funds to supply copies of *Year of Yes: How to Dance It Out, Stand In the Sun and Be Your Own Person* by Shonda Rhimes. Members of the branch will also be volunteering at the project programs, thus continuing to strengthen their ties to The Women's Center on the UNC-CH campus.