

Tar Heel News

American Association of University Women of North Carolina

Promoting equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change

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Introducing our new look! Let us know what you think! E-mail marty@penstrokes.com and type 'THN feedback' in the subject line!

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866-525-2155 phone/fax

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.

New ideas abound at leadership meeting

Marty Folsom
AAUW NC Communication Leader

The new is in! New officers and team leaders, new structure, new ideas, new enthusiasm – all for the purpose of furthering the mission of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in North Carolina.

Twenty-seven women from 14 branches participated in the first gathering of leaders to utilize the new AAUW NC structure, which creates teams, requires fewer board members and encourages broader participation by branch members.

It also allows branch presidents who are unable to attend a state leadership meeting to appoint a proxy to assure representation.

Four-year process

It didn't happen overnight. Over the past four years, ReConnection teams addressed six goals in order to streamline the state organization. The new structure created teams, to allow the state to better focus on goals. Read about the teams and their goals on pages 4-7.

"It's fun!"

Participants at the July 15 meeting, hosted by the Sandhills/Southern Pines Branch, quickly came to a consensus about the new structure: "It's fun!"

Instead of trudging through many reports, participants broke up into six groups, which reflect the new structure, to define their goals.

The discussions were followed with team reports, some of which resulted in written motions. However, rather than voting on motions as they were read, secretary Karla Atkinson collected them. When the reports were completed, all of the motions were presented,



AAUW NC leaders gathered at Southern Pines for the 2006 summer leadership meeting. From left: Joanne Hill, past president; Judy Atkinson, program vice-president; Nancy Shoemaker, president; Barbara White, membership vice-president; Karla Atkinson, secretary; Millie Hoffer-Foushee, treasurer.

discussed, and voted upon in quick succession.

The day moved fast and generated positive energy, along with the new ideas and comprehensive input for planning administration, advocacy, communication, fundraising, events and membership strategies.

Special thanks to Sandhills/Southern Pines Branch for great hospitality and a delicious lunch. Lois McCarthy is president. A photo of those attending is on page 12.

The next meeting is in Statesville, Oct. 20-21. All AAUW leaders and members are invited. (page 5)

Two Great Events in Three Days

Come to NC Women's Conference, AAUW NC Fall Leadership Conference in October

AAUW NC is partnering with other organizations for the NC Women's Conference, Oct. 19, in Charlotte.

Viewed as a way to reinforce the AAUW mission of promoting lifelong education for women and girls, as well as visibility for our organization, Barbara White, AAUW NC membership vice-president challenges each branch to send at least one member – more is better.

White is also coordinating efforts for an AAUW NC exhibit.

At least 1,500 women are expected to participate in this conference, organized by extraordinary women.

Come hear keynote speakers

Madame President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, president of Liberia and Kathy Mattea, Grammy-winning musical artist (page 3).

At least 65 notable speakers and panelists will populate this event, presented by Wachovia, sponsored by prestigious corporations and partnered by women's organizations from across the state. It includes time to network with other women and enjoy the exposition.

Members are also encouraged to attend the AAUW NC leadership conference, Oct. 20-21. Statesville Branch has arranged lodging for Wednesday-Friday nights (page 5).