



President's Message

Nancy Shoemaker
AAUW NC

Open the Gates!

We've got a new theme for AAUW NC for 2006-2008: 'Open the Gates!'

Please incorporate this in planning your branch programs and projects. It embodies a challenge from AAUW NC:

- To remove barriers to equity for all women and girls.
- to improve access to education as the gateway to women's economic security.
- To embrace change – open the gates that hold us back.

The theme encourages action! We join AAUW because we believe in the mission. Our dues support the work of the national staff and our contributions support research into issues of equity. But it is our action, individual projects across the state, that will make the most difference for the women and girls (and men and boys!) of North Carolina. Besides, as we work on projects, we develop the friendships that are such a key benefit of AAUW membership.

I'm looking forward to learning more about the activities of all the branches. Please do give me a call to set up a visit, and know that I'll be just as glad to be an 'unskilled laborer' in one of your projects as to give a talk at one of your branch meetings!

New Structure and SMART Goals

The July meeting in Southern Pines introduced the new AAUW NC structure with teams focused on Administration, Advocacy, Communications, Events/Programming, Fundraising, and Membership/Leadership Development. On page 10, you'll see the names of those who have signed up for the different teams. Please know there's plenty of room for more folks to join us – and jobs from small to large, so something should 'fit' the contribution you'd like to make. Call me if you want to hear more!

We are still working on the strategic goals we identified last year:

- Expand/build coalitions.
- Improve visibility.
- Diverse intergenerational membership/ Outreach.
- Increase flexibility/streamline structure – each team is challenged to document its own **SMART** goals to advance the mission or build our capacity to make a difference.

What's a SMART goal?

Specific –

what, exactly, are we planning to do?

Measurable –

how will we know whether we've done it?

Assigned to someone –

who's in charge?

Realistic –

let's not set ourselves up for failure; small steps are fine!

Time sensitive –

be sure the plan has an appropriate end date.

During the year, e-mail, phone, and in-person discussions will keep the groups in synch. The team leaders and the executive committee – with a liaison to each team – will report back to you on the progress. For more information, see www.aauwnc.org, in particular – www.aauwnc.org/06-07/Summer and www.aauwnc.org/newstructure.

Support the branches... Support each other!

The new structure is just a means so the AAUW NC volunteers can better support the branches

– and support each other when "life happens." I'd like to thank all those who took over for me on July 15 when I had to miss the state leadership meeting. Many of us have stories of how other members have provided support through the years – in AAUW and 'real life.' The bonds we form make our organization stronger. Celebrate those along with your programmatic accomplishments!

2007 Elections

The Nominating Committee will recommend candidates for president-elect, treasurer, and program vice-president. Interested? Know of a good candidate? Contact the committee ([page 10](#)).

Directory Updates

For updates to this information and a complete directory of branch/state leaders see <http://members.aauwnc.org>. Any branch officer who does not want to be listed in the password-protected directory should call 866-525-2155 or contact Nancy Shoemaker ([page 10](#)).



Musings on the current state of AAUW in North Carolina

By Elizabeth J. Laney
AAUW NC Past-President

We talk a lot about members: keeping them and needing new ones. AAUW members are intelligent and well-educated. However, I think the hand we forget is the new visitor, the new member, or the quiet member. We are buzzing about, hurriedly arranging for the next event.

Then we have the question of the young member, which every organization wants. However, sometimes we want to continue operating in the same old way and we want the young new members to do as we direct!! We want new and different ideas and we want creative thinking. However, it is difficult for old and experienced members to let others create different ways of doing.

North Carolina has a beacon of light!! President Nancy Shoemaker is leading AAUW NC into a new and different structure for the state organization, with teams, rather than committees. Members are grouped into teams according to tasks. The team leaders take a great deal of responsibility in coordinating state activities. The state president is depending on the teams to carry out projects.

The new High Country Branch is organizing with a structure similar to that which is being implemented in AAUW NC. It will have a few officers, who will lead teams in carrying out the projects of the branch. It will be interesting to observe if this new structure is more effective than the traditional organizational structure.

Editor's Note: Elizabeth 'Lib' Laney was AAUW NC president in 1992-1994. A life member and affiliate of Raleigh/Wake Co. Branch, she helped organize the High Country Branch in Boone, where she is serving as its first president. Lib has a bachelor of arts degree from the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina and a master's of library science from UNC-Chapel Hill.

At age 83, she regularly travels across the state, and is known to make treks to other countries. Romania and England were destinations of her recent journeys. She has lived from North Carolina's coast to the mountains, as well as in South Carolina and Lima, Peru. Her sister, Frances Jordan Wagner Cope, who invited Lib to join AAUW in 1968, is a Raleigh/Wake Co. Branch member.