



New Bern contingent on Advocacy Day at the Legislature Building in Raleigh. From left: Jean Cochran, Elizabeth Eisele, Eleanor Govesky, and Mary Peterson. Cochran is a prospective member. The others are members of the Twin Rivers branch. After attending the NCWU press conference, the group talked with Senator Pete Bland and Representative Alice Underhill, who are our legislators. They had lunch with Underhill, a Twin Rivers Branch member, in the Legislative Building cafeteria.

membership

'M-Team' leaps out of the box

By Barbara White, AAUW NC Membership Vice-President, with Queen Thompson and Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo
Plans for AAUW NC 2006-2007 membership activities were already in motion when state leaders and branch presidents gathered for the summer meeting in Southern Pines. The ideas of the membership team prove it pays to think 'out of the box.'

- AAUW NC is a partnering organization with the NC Conference for Women, October 19, in Charlotte. Branches have been encouraged to send at least one member. AAUW NC will have an exhibit.
- The formation of a public policy intern position has been implemented. Intern will receive an AAUW student affiliate membership and college credit from Meredith. AAUW NC will provide programming expenses and membership but no salary. The membership team provided the advocacy team with information regarding the intern program, to enable them to support the position and help guide the direction for the intern's activities, include utilization of 2-Minute Activist postings.
- The AAUW NC Recognition Program has been revamped for ease of participation by branches. All branches are encouraged to participate.

The membership team:

- Met with University of Phoenix representatives to discuss potential collaborations with AAUW at both state and branch (Raleigh) levels. (University of Phoenix serves non-traditional students).
- Discussed idea of a student affiliate group (SAG) in the Raleigh Area with some members of Raleigh/Wake Co. Branch, as a way to recruit college students as AAUW members and provide interaction leadership opportunities with the SAG for under-40 members of diverse groups (expand in the future to other communities with colleges/universities).
- Identify future leaders in AAUW NC. Provide mentoring and opportunities for developing leadership skills.
- Identify other opportunities for reaching potential members from under-represented groups in AAUW (age/ethnicity as starting point).
- Work with Kinston Branch to try to keep it from disbanding.
- Make contact with all C/U member institutions in North Carolina and identify areas of mutual concern for action items in the future.
- Circulate "AAUW NC Membership Diversity Score Card Project" sheets to all branches to determine NC demographics.

'Team Advocacy' sets goals, plans strategy for change

By Mary Peterson, AAUW NC Advocacy Team Leader

They began their work before the summer meeting and came prepared to set the wheels in motion to address issues affecting women and girls. Those present on July 15 engaged in enthusiastic discussion and are in agreement with the goals and strategies presented.

- Participants were asked to sign the petition requesting changes in the UNC Healthcare system to give greater access to healthcare and improve the healthcare given to all NC residents. This complex issue is included under healthcare on the NCWU draft agenda. Read more at <http://rtpnet.org/aauwnc/06-07/Summer/index.htm> – click on UNC hospital background and NC healthcare background.
- The AAUW NC public policy program will be presented and voted on at the Fall AAUW NC meeting. It includes an intern program for the 2007 General Assembly. The advocacy team will work closely with the intern. Barbara White, membership vice-president, announced during the meeting that the internship is set up, based at Meredith College. The intern will be under the supervision of the Meredith public policy professor and will have strong interaction with NC legislators. Expect to hear more about our intern in months to come!

Other items proposed that AAUW NC:

- Join with LWVNC and the NC Justice Center as leaders (we would include others who support this issue) in lobbying the General Assembly to provide more education money for low-wealth school districts. This issue is tied to the *Leandro* lawsuit, on which Ashley Osment led a workshop during the AAUW NC 2006 convention.
- Work with the diversity chair to promote better access to the legal system for all citizens. Your socio-economic group should not be a factor in having access to the quality of your legal representation.
- Work with the program vice-president to have a Women's Agenda Assembly as part of our Fall AAUW NC meeting. (page 5)
- Work with the NC Center for Public Policy Research and other organizations on education about the issue of aging (birth to death is the new definition of aging). Be a lead organization in supporting this report when it is submitted to the General Assembly (probably 2007). See the "blog" at <http://news.aauwnc.org> to learn more.

How will you use AAUW's new Voter Turnout Manual to increase women's participation in the 2006 election?

AAUW members have a new resource to help reach out to women and encourage them to vote: *Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout: A Manual for Community-Based Campaigns to Mobilize Women to Vote*. It presents a step-by-step plan to maintain and grow the women's vote and maximize local civic participation - download your free copy today at www.aauw.org/issue_advocacy/index.cfm

Association: 'show me the money'

AAUW's programmatic theme is 'Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security.' Despite women taking the lead in college degrees, the wage gap between men and women still exists. [See AP reporter Ben Feller's story in *The News and Observer* at www.newsobserver.com/110/story/446025.html] Start planning pay equity activities now for the coming year. Equal Pay Day is April 24, 2007. Great ideas for year-round pay equity programming, as well as creative ideas to mark Equal Pay Day, are in AAUW's *Pay Equity Resource Kit*, on the web at www.aauw.org/issue_advocacy/actionpages/payequity.cfm. Lisa Maatz, AAUW director of public policy and government relations and LAF interim director, asks that branch programming and public policy chairs across the state become aware of and utilize this important theme resource.