

## Tar Heel Branch connects members, community

By Doris Bernlohr, Tar Heel Branch President

Six members of the Tar Heel Branch connected in the Burlington/Greensboro area for lunch in February. This was our first opportunity to get acquainted with other members in our area. We enjoyed our time together and voted to do it again.

As a community project, our members have been invited to assist the Women's Resource Center with their very popular Herb Festival to be held April 23-25. The Tar Heel Branch and the Women's Resource Center are a perfect fit. We appreciate this opportunity to assist the Women's Resource Center which does so much to help women and girls in Alamance County. Tar Heel Branch member, Becky Mock, is WRC program director.

### The big question

The big question I get asked over and over is this "What is the difference between the Tar Heel Branch (a branch without borders model) and an online branch?"

One major difference is exactly what we are doing in Alamance County as explained above.

What do you do about programming is one of the most often asked questions. Programs may involve projects in different areas of the state, but will not be "meeting-based." If someone has a good idea you may plan a program, and you look for opportunities in your community that support the AAUW mission and get you involved.

### The BWOB model has minimum structure.

We hold board meetings via conference calls, and only when necessary. No matter where you live in the country you can participate. We also recently voted online to accept bylaws, elect officers, and establish branch dues. We communicate with each other using our Web site and a Google group.

This type branch is perfect for those who support the mission of AAUW, but have no branch in their community. It is also a better fit for those who have no extra time for another meeting.

Branch dues approximate those that a member at large of AAUW would pay, and membership will also get you connected to AAUW NC.

We welcome dual members. Visit our Web site at <http://tarheel.aauwnc.org> and see our updated brochure with the 2009-10 dues



Members of the Tar Heel Branch during the meeting in Alamance. From left: Doris Bernlohr, Mary Fran Schickedantz, Caroline Novello, Eloise Bruan, and Jenna Johnson. Doris Dunlap is not shown.

schedule and other information.

It is important to note that the Tar Heel Branch is the first "virtual" branch to have 17 primary members. These are people who are not members of other branches but who want a connection to the state organization and to other members who may live near by.

At the present time, the Tar Heel Branch has 29 members and we have been around less than a year. Four of our members joined us from Florida, Nebraska, Oregon, and Virginia.

An online branch differs in that it is simply a branch that tries to do all things in e-mail and over the Web. They recruit members from other branches who want to extend their AAUW lives into cyberspace.

### Want to know more?

Please check out our Web site at <http://tarheel.aauwnc.org> or contact a leader:

- Doris Bernlohr, President 336-586-7001  
[dbernlshr@bellsouth.net](mailto:dbernlshr@bellsouth.net)
- Nancy Shoemaker, Treasurer, 919-773-1340  
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## College/university partners meet; gain interest, build enthusiasm

"I never knew AAUW had so much to offer!"

Participants from colleges and universities throughout the state expressed this sentiment quite frequently during the meeting on the benefits of becoming college/university partners, held at Friday Center at UNC-Chapel Hill, April 3.

The event was hosted by Elmira Mangum, UNC Chapel Hill Senior Associate Provost and AAUW NC College/University chair. She enlisted several AAUW NC members to build on her message of the benefits of college/university partnerships. Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo, Mary Fran Schickedantz, Kay White, and Nancy Shoemaker made presentations to complement Dr. Mangum's.

Presentations included an overview of AAUW: college/university partnerships, individual membership options, campus connections to branches, and the work being done by the AAUW Chapel Hill branch. Among the many benefits highlighted was the new free e-student affiliate program for undergraduates attending partner institutions.

Participants were treated to a fabulous lunch and had time to chat and network. Two new members joined AAUW NC at the event and others took materials back to discuss with their campus colleagues.

Conversations have already started about holding similar events at other campuses. One suggestion is to hold at least two more events, with one each in the western and eastern part of the state.

Among institutions represented were Elizabeth City State University, Livingstone College, NC A&T University, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC Greensboro, UNC Charlotte, NC Central University, NC State University, Shaw University, and Western Carolina University.

See the PowerPoint Presentations of the entire event on the AAUW NC Web site:

<http://www.aauwnc.org/2009/04/09/presentation-to-campus-contacts>

### Metz named liaison

Nicole Callahan, Program Associate for National Girls Collaborative Project in Washington, D.C., has worked closely with AAUW NC to find a new AAUW Liaison for North Carolina. Sue Metz, an educator who has worked with the NSF funded gender equity program, "GET SET, GO," out of Wake Forest University and with other programs and projects for educational outreach locally in Guilford County, will become our new liaison. Sue begins with helping The Science House Girls Collaborative by working with funded projects and will be using her contacts through the AAUW to develop AAUW mentors to act as resource people for projects throughout our state.