

AAUW Tar Heel Branch – Annual Report (March 2014)

Results of the Ballot [1]

Though the final deadline for casting ballots has not yet passed, the results are clear: Michelle Evans will be President and Lyndee Champion Ivey will continue as Treasurer. Karla Atkinson and Lill Van Order continue as directors-at-large. New directors will be Chesney Reich, Diane Schneider, and Christi Whitworth. Our thanks to 2014 Nominating Committee: Doris Bernlohr (Chair), Jean D'Addario, and Diane Schneider.

Special thanks to Nancy Shoemaker (Co-Founder of the THB), Grace Knechtel, and Mari Pino del Rosario who are leaving the branch board!

Membership [2]

As noted in the membership report posted on the website, this was a challenging year for both retention and recruitment, but at 89 members as of Feb. 1 (about half members of other branches) we have opportunities for growth. Indeed five more members have joined us in the last few weeks. If you see an opportunity for recruiting on campus or in your community, please speak up: remember that someone who's not ready to join a community-based branch may find the virtual branch a good fit for a couple of years as they get familiar with AAUW.

Also, the board has approved formalizing the policy we've used for the last couple of years: Primary members, who value AAUW but are facing financial hardship, may renew at less than full dues (\$65) by sending a note with their check of at least \$20.

Finances [3]

Branch finances are in good shape. Over the five years of the branch, we've accumulated assets of over \$1000, not a vast sum, of course, but enough to fund our dues discounts (see membership) and it is available to provide seed money for initiatives recommended by branch members.

Projects and Programs

Vance Granville Community College [4]

AAUW has announced that Vance Granville Community College (VGCC) in Henderson is one of the 11 campuses receiving Campus Action Project (CAP) grants for spring semester 2014. In 2013, AAUW published its latest gender equity report: *Women in Community College: Access to Success*. CAP applications in the fall of 2013 were tied to the recommendations in that report. VGCC has titled their project "An Educated Woman, An Educated Future" with topics focusing on goals for finishing a four year degree, self-care, and follow-through to completing a college degree. Key components of the program are breaking barriers and continuing to support women at the grassroots level.

Jacquelin Heath, VGCC Program Head/Instructor of School-Age Education, is the Project Coordinator. Michelle Evans, co-president of the Tar Heel Branch (North Carolina's statewide, virtual branch) is the AAUW of North Carolina contact. Michelle met Jacqueline at the first event held February 24. The second event was held on March 5. Nancy and Michelle will both attend the May event.

International Women's Day

The THB provided support for International Women's Day in Rockingham County held on Saturday, March 8. AAUW/NC President Mary Peterson provided a workshop and the THB supplied materials for the booth. The event was held sponsored by the Mercedes Parra Foundation.

STEM

The branch is supporting the Greensboro branch's TechSavvy project with a financial contribution of \$100. [5]

The branch supplied AAUW related materials and a couple of door prizes to a woman-only hackathon at UNC Chapel Hill on March 22. This was organized by undergraduates at UNC Chapel Hill and UVA with attendees from several other colleges and a couple of high schools. Most of the colleges involved were already college/university partners of AAUW, so the attendees were encouraged to join as e-student affiliates. [6]

On Sunday, March 23, we partnered with the Raleigh branch to support the AAUW NC co-sponsorship of a MomsRising Women's History Month, recognizing key women from history and allowing kids to question a panel of women with careers in STEM fields. Along with STEM and Pay Equity materials, we set up a Raspberry Pi and had a display of books to help parents introduce that low-cost, accessible computer to their kids. [7]

Voter Education

The THB Wake County group and the Raleigh/Wake County branch each contributed \$100 to support the Wake County League of Women Voters in their use of the national League's Vote411 system to provide an online voter guide for the 2013 Wake County Board of Education Race. [8]

Moral Mondays

Many of the THB members showed their advocacy skills at various Moral Monday events across North Carolina. We are so proud to have THB members representing the branch.

Editorials

Congratulations to members who have published op-eds, letters to the editor, and blog posts about issues important to women. A special thank you to: Gailya Paliga, Robbie Madden, Doris Bernlohr, Naomi Lambert, Tazra Mitchell, and Tara Romano.

Board actions

The board met twice by conference call: November 18 and January 29. Decisions from those discussions were formalized in a vote in March, most notably approving the financial hardship discount policy noted above. [9: minutes]

Since the April 2013 meeting, the board did review the survey from last spring, and made some adjustment. [10]

Future thoughts

STEM opportunities (new board member Christi Whitworth)

STEM projects continue to be an important part of the AAUW mission. We would like to expand our participation in this area with help from the THB membership.

C/U Campus Connections (new board member Chesney Reich)

We hope to connect with more C/U representatives and worked directly with them to enhance our offerings at our affiliated colleges and universities.

Coalition Support

As the theme of the state meeting, we thought it would be important to talk about continuing the support of coalitions throughout the coming year.

Branch of 2025

What will a branch of 2025 look like? Is our branch a way for AAUW members to help experiment with new structures?

References

1. Information on candidates: <http://tarheel.aauwnc.org/2014/02/28/slate-for-2014-2015/>
2. Membership report:
<http://tarheel.aauwnc.org/2014/03/22/membership-report-spring-2014/>
3. FY13 financial report (not yet reviewed):
<http://tarheel.aauwnc.org/2014/01/22/fy13-financial-report/>
Interim report 6/1/2013-3/7/2014:
<http://tarheel.aauwnc.org/2014/03/07/financial-report-372014/>
Interim list of donors, FY14:
<http://site.tarheel.aauwnc.org/2014/03/20/thanks-to-our-donors/>
FY14 budget:
http://aauwtarheel.files.wordpress.com/2014/03/budget-for-thb_2013-to-2014_proposed.pdf
4. Vance-Granville Community College Campus Action Grant
<http://aauwnc.org/2014/01/aauw-campus-action-project-supports-vgcc-students/>

5. Triad Tech Savvy
<http://greensboro-nc.aauw.net/techsavvy/>
6. PearlHacks
<http://pearlhacks.com>
7. "Remarkable Women, Remarkable YOU!" Women's History Month Event
<http://www.ncwu.org/make-history-for-women-close-the-wage-gap/>
<http://www.aauwnc.org/2014/03/womens-history-month-event-in-raleigh/>
8. Raleigh/Wake County post on 2013 elections:
<http://rwc-nc.aauw.net/2013/09/11/elections-october-8-and-november-5/>
9. Minutes: <http://tarheel.aauwnc.org/tag/minutes/>
10. Survey from spring 2013:
<http://site.tarheel.aauwnc.org/2013/06/18/results-of-the-branch-survey/>