

AAUW Raleigh-Wake County

Spring Issue

April, 2019

BRANCH NEWSLETTER

This is probably the longest newsletter to date thanks to many activities and a new member of the newsletter team. Welcome to Margie Maddox. See below for more about Margie!

Remember we have a new permanent meeting place. Come join us at our monthly meeting! We meet on the third Tuesday of the month from September through May.

5:15 pm Hospitality and networking

5:30 pm Program

6:30 pm Business meeting

Here's the address:

The Copeland Center

781 Bright Creek Way

Raleigh, NC 27601 <https://www.google.com/maps/@35.7708325,-78.6278965,19z>

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From the President's Pen

Lights! Camera! Action! Ladies....guess what. We're being found and discovered! Start carrying your membership cards! Laminate them cause regular handling (show & tell) is going to cause wear around the edges. Beef up on your AAUW info to share mental memory menus. Somebody—you don't know---is going to ask you a question about us. Be ready!

It was just a matter of time, pending presenting of social & community need, and eminent domain of elected women coming to power. AAUW is the filter and fodder for fostering, planting, nurturing and launching leaders. Not to mention we lead period in the national compass of research and information.

We're in the

Right place

Doing the right thing

For the right people

For the right reasons

Remember: bullets don't change policy. Ballots do.

***Our Mission: Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.**



LEADERSHIP FOR 2018-2020

President:	Treka Spraggins	VP, Program:	Gregoria Smith
VP, Membership:	Terry Wall	Secretary:	Brandy Burnett
Treasurer:	Lisa Lowe		

Officers who serve by appointment have been asked to continue. They are:

Newsletter:	Elizabeth Margolis	Webmaster:	Lisa Lowe
Public Policy:	Denny McGuire	Hospitality:	Brandy Burnett

Other branches have appointed members (or committees) to address areas such as:

International Affairs, AAUW Funds, College/University Relations, Diversity & S.T.E.M.

If you have an interest in any of these areas, please make it known to any member of the newly elected leadership team. By expanding programs, we may well attract new members with compatible interests. Every member of the branch has leadership skills. Step up and offer YOURS to fortify the branch!

A Note of Welcome

A very warm welcome to a new member of the newsletter team, Margie Maddox. Margie volunteered in February to work on the newsletter and has already made huge contributions. She's been out interviewing members and speakers, studying archives, and writing writing writing!

Here's a little bit of Margie's background.

(Dr.) Margie Maddox has had a very productive professional career as a College Professor of Nursing for roughly 37 years teaching in 6 Universities across the USA. In addition, she practiced as a geriatric nurse practitioner. She and her husband decided to return to North Carolina to enjoy their retirement years; they lived here from 1970-74 while Margie worked at Duke Medical Center and Marvin

completed graduate work at UNC. In addition to writing professionally, Margie also has honed her skills through newsletter editor roles in professional/community organizations. Besides being a “people person”, Margie enjoys gardening, traveling and politics. Although returning to the area in 2004, Margie only recently joined AAUW and hopes to remain active with this Branch as an assistant to the newsletter editor and by helping with the Branch’s archives.

*Report on the 2019 AAUW North Carolina Conference:
CONNECT! CELEBRATE! COLLABORATE!*

Over 83 participants from all across the State gathered Greensboro to network as the two-day Annual Meeting unfolded on March 22-23. Excitement was in the air as Branches shared ideas for programs and increasing membership, a new President and Branch Advocate were elected during the Business Meeting, the new AAUW website was launched complete with an award to honor its webmaster, First Lady Kristin Cooper’s keynote Address, and discussions related to passage of the ERA, Women Running for Office in NC, Work Smart Salary Negotiations and Women’s Economic Status in NC.

The Annual Meeting began with a two hour session on Table Talks. Branches across the State had the opportunity to share programs and ideas that were successful, and help brainstorm how other Branches might incorporate the program ideas into their own calendar. Two examples of program ideas came from the Gaston Regional Branch. One related to hosting a ‘Vintage Fashion Show’ and asking members to explore items they might have in their attics, boxes, etc. Members, and/or community friends, would model the items and create a written script tying into Women’s History as being seen as “Fashions Through the Ages”. A second program idea involved purchasing a book of women’s history monologues from Thousand Oaks, California. This book, **Profiles of Women: Past and Present**, contained brief descriptions of women in history with drawings of them in their typical garb. Several Branch women created their own outfits and speeches, and then presented the information to members in a monthly program.

These programs were open to the public and were very successful fundraisers for the Branch.

Following a Cocktail Party Social and formal dinner, the participants were entertained by three women as all engaged in a 'WATCHFIRE Party'. Watchfires were used by the suffragettes outside the White House Gates as they held a 24-hour vigil while they sought the right to vote. Sue Metz from the Greensboro Branch spearheaded this project and after researching the event, she wrote a script reenacting the events leading up to this monumental achievement. This three person dialog included original speeches, letters, banners and posters, as well as a Suffragette song playing in the background. All of this was taking place as the fireplace roared in the background and members participated by either cheering and/or heckling the three women. A copy of this script will be made available to Branches who may wish to incorporate this as one of their monthly programs. Following this, many stayed while a documentary of RBG was shared to further inspire the participants of this meeting.

Saturday morning began with local Girl Scouts leading the members in a salute to the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance as the Business Meeting began. The members present formally elected Jane Terwillegar as the new AAUW President, and Judy Balsanick as the new Branch Advocate; the Branch Advocate functions as the liaison between the AAUW Board and the individual AAUW Branches. Cherrie Wheaton was recognized as the out-going President and given a glass paperweight memento. Nancy Shoemaker was recognized for all of her contributions since 2005 related to making the AAUW the outstanding website that it is today [www.aauwnc.org]; Nancy encouraged all to view the newly re-formatted website and is actively seeking photos. In 2020, AAUW plans to celebrate **The Right To Vote** on August 26 with a play performed along the stairway in the Governor's Mansion in Raleigh. Women will be portraying Suffragettes. Volunteers are needed to help make this event successful. There will not be a meeting in Washington DC in 2020. Instead a virtual program on the topic of **Women's Equality** is planned for January and will be available to Branches if they wish to incorporate it into their program calendars.

The next two hours were devoted to Breakout Sessions on a variety of topics: Lillian's List, ERA, Women in NC Politics, Women's Economic Status in NC, Work Smart Salary Negotiations, The Justice Center, and 2020 Plans in NC. Each of these was well attended and provided a wealth of information.

Finally there was the presentation of the Book award to Carol Boston Weatherford for her book: Schomburg: The Man Who built A Library.

At our Branch April meeting Grace Knechtel showed us a copy of the book which will be presented to Wake County Public Libraries from AAUW.

Branch News and Programs

Our April Program: The group heard from Dr. Shauntae Brown White of Dressing for Success. We learned that the program is about much more than clothing. They offer several programs and support services for women in transition. Dr. White, author and Communication Consultant, spoke about ways our Branch could partner with Dress for Success, an organization that helps women put their best foot forward in job interviews and self-presentation in the workplace.

While a national organization, there are chapters in both Raleigh and Durham to help women as they enter the workforce, complete an interview needed to return to school, and/or begin a new career. Each applicant is given one new complete outfit to assist in her initial presentation and then a whole week’s worth of clothing if she is hired. Dress For Success also provides a 10 week workshop to help build the women’s confidence, help her understand finances, as well as just generally dealing more positively with her life situation. Clients are referred from local shelters like InterAct or Women’s Shelters, and they also work with the women to help them achieve their goals. There are numerous volunteer needs available for our members if anyone is interested in pursuing this option further. If interested, explore dfstrianglenc.org/volunteer for additional information.



From L to R, Terry Wall, Dr. White and Branch President Treka Spraggins on April 16.

110th Anniversary of Our Branch

By Margie Maddox

On February 19 the Raleigh/Wake County Branch met to celebrate our 119 anniversary. In a social setting, members shared past activities of the Branch. The following list represents some of the interesting facts about the Branch's history through the years.

Did You Know?

- We are the oldest Branch in the state which takes us back to 1909.
- During the 1940's and 50's, membership consisted primarily of faculty from local colleges and professionals in state educational, health and welfare agencies.
- The Branch was involved in the early efforts in fighting for the passage of the ERA.
- We have had our own website since 1996.
- The primary foci of the Branch has remained education for women and girls, issue advocacy and voter education.
- Our Branch co-sponsored the gubernatorial debate on Women's Issues during the 1980's.
- Many of our Branch members became volunteers working with people with low literacy, GED students, and in high school libraries.
- We became involved in the Women's Vote Project in the 1990's by helping with the mailing of Voter Guides and making calls to women who had failed to vote earlier.
- Members of our Branch distributed Voter Guides in the 4th District.
- We joined other women's organizations in presenting the NC Women's Legislative Agenda to the members of the General Assembly in 1999.
- In 1993, the Branch sponsored the Wake County Board of Education Candidates' Forum.
- Our projects have included the Teaching Excellence Award and the Women in History Essay Contests.
- During 2000, outreach activities included participating in a booth at the Celebrate Raleigh Community Education Fair and at the Book Festival in Cary.
- The Branch established the AAUW Ellen Black Winston Endowment Fund honoring former members.

- The Branch supported the Elizabeth and Adelaide Johnson Research and Development Endowment honoring longtime editors of the State AAUW Newsletter, **Tar Heel News**.
- Through the years, the Branch has hosted both the State AAUW Conventions as well as the South Atlantic Regional Conference.

Source: North Carolina AAUW History 1947-2001 by Clara B. Allen (2001) Chapel Hill Press.

We hope to save many of the items of our Branch’s history so these important events will not be lost. The first activity will be to restore the beautiful scrapbook that Barbara-Ann Hughes shared to its former glory. Once that is accomplished, plans will be discussed related to a permanent home in the State Archives Building for our Branch’s documents and their place in history.

 On Friday, April 12 our Branch President Treka Spraggins and Vice-president Terry Wall presented during a Webinar titled ***The Status of Women: Employment & Earnings—Be Your Own Advocate for Jobs in High-Growth Fields***.

The webinar covered many topics, among them policy recommendations, paid internships, apprenticeships, recruitment, counselors, and educators. Treka and Terry covered---what you can do to seek out high growth fields

Our New Partnership and New Meeting Place

By Margie Maddox

March 2019 meeting

As we sat around tables in the Duke Energy Learning Center located in the Chavis Heights Neighborhood, LaToya Montague, Executive Director of Communities in Schools of Wake County, shared information at the February Branch meeting. This organization first opened its doors in 1990 with the vision to “help schools remove the barriers that put students at risk of wasting their potential.” The Learning Centers are dedicated to afterschool tutoring, mentoring and homework assistance within the community. These Centers provide a link for students beyond the world of academics and strive to provide case management and be a resource referral service for students as well as their families.

LaToya, who was named “Tar Heel of the Week” (March 24, 2018) as well as the National CIS Alumni Service Award, “All in for Students”, described the Learning Centers as being in partnership with the Raleigh Housing Authority and open to all residents. While it has been estimated that the Learning Centers served over 2,700 students, LaToya has the dream that Community in Schools program would be enmeshed into every school in Wake County. Nutritious snacks, academic assistance with certified educators and hands-on activities are open a fraction of the activities the Learning Center can provide students in attendance. Behavioral issues are also addressed with the goal of helping each student to remain grounded within the school rather than being suspended from it.

Treka Spraggins has known LaToya for several years, therefore this partnership seemed like a natural expansion of their previous experiences together. Treka shared that she envisions our Branch to offer support to the children by periodically supplying snacks and healthy treats. In addition, the children’s parents will be given AAUW information packets to increase their knowledge of AAUW as well as invite them to join us at a Branch monthly meeting or two. Additionally, Treka shared her hope to have joint collaboration efforts (e.g.: speakers and information sharing) with the goal of promoting the growth of both programs and to further develop community-based relationships.

Hearing about the activities the Learning Centers offers children in the Chavis Heights Community provided an increased awareness of the resources available to all children living in Wake County. Being in partnership with the Communities in Schools in Wake County certainly provides the Raleigh-Wake Branch the potential to develop a “win-win” relationship with an excellent resource within the community. Community in Schools offered us their meeting space free of charge! Truly a “win-win.”

We see a terrific potential synergy between this organization and Brandy Burnett’s Smart Girls, Smart Choices which our Branch continues to support and mentor.

For a start, we’d like to contribute snacks to the Communities in Schools organization. Individually packaged shelf-stable snacks are best. Here are some suggestions.

- Granola bars
- chips

- fruit snacks
- pretzels
- fruit cups
- Rice Krispy treats
- Go-Gurt
- snack crackers
- popcorn
- Pudding cups
- bottled water
- juice

Raleigh-Wake AAUW Public Policy Report

submitted by Denny McGuire

ERA Status and a book recommendation

ERA Status in North Carolina as of April 5, 2019 Good News—On March 5 the legislation was filed in both the NC House and Senate to endorse ratification of the Equal rights Amendment to the United States constitution. Both bills were cosponsored by more members than in years past. All Democrats in both houses signed on as either sponsors or co-sponsors of the bills, but now we need some Republicans, too.

Bad News—The House Bill 271 was sent to the Judiciary Committee and the Senate Bill 184 was sent to the Rules Committee and there has been NO ATTENTION or ACTION on either bill in a month.

It is now time to take action. Please ask your House lawmakers to make sure that H271 is heard in the Judiciary Committee, found favorable, and sent to the floor for a vote as soon as possible.

Ask your Senate lawmakers to send S184 from the Rules Committee to an appropriate committee to be heard. We want that committee to find favorably and send the bill to the floor for a vote as soon as possible.

Update: At their April meetings, both the Wake Commissioners and the April Town Council passed resolutions of support for the ERA. This would make North Carolina the 38th state. On April 30, Jerry Nadler, Chair of the

House Judiciary Committee plans to hold a public hearing on the ERA. This would be its first public hearing since 1983.



From L to r: Cheryl (Cherrie) Wheaton, co- president of AAUW NC, Denny McGuire--Co-chair for Public Policy and Advocacy, Laura Garmendia-- Co-chair for Public Policy and Advocacy, at the legislature on March 5 when legislation to approve the ERA was introduced in the House and Senate. There were more than 100 people there to promote the ERA.

Book Recommendation

I just finished a detailed history of the church bombing in Birmingham Alabama in 1963 that killed four young black girls. The book details the event, the impacts on the immediate families and the decade's long effort to bring the suspected bombers to trial. The book is "Bending Toward Justice: The Birmingham Church Bombing that Changed the Course of Civil Rights" by Doug Jones. The author is currently a US Senator representing Alabama but in previous years he served as prosecutor for two of the trials. It gets a bit political at the end but the chapters on the bombing and investigations are really well done.

A Brief History of The Equal Rights Amendment

By Margie Maddox

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA): Yesterday and today

“Equality of rights under the law shall not be abridged by the United States
or by any State on account of sex.”

In 1923, Alice Paul, Head of the National Women’s Party, first proposed this statement to Congress and the process to amend the US Constitution began. With the approval of both the House (in 1970) and the Senate (in 1972), the next step was to seek ratification by three fourths (38 states) of the state legislatures. By 1973, thirty of the needed states had ratified the amendment, and by 1977, there were 35 states. The remaining ratification of the additional three states has been an uphill struggle.

While there already is the USA Constitution’s 14th amendment, an ERA amendment would take this a step further by guaranteeing equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex, and requiring states to intervene in cases of gender violence (e.g.: domestic violence and sexual harassment), guarding against pregnancy and motherhood discrimination, and federally guaranteeing equal pay.

With the 1982 extension of the ratification deadline, the deadline has been rendered academic; therefore states continue to actively discuss the ERA ratification. The Nevada Legislature ratified the ERA on March 22, 2017, and the Illinois General Assembly followed suit on May 30, 2018. This means that only one additional state is needed to ensure the ERA will become a reality. Virginia, North Carolina and Minnesota were certainly on the move, but the Virginia State House stopped its progress in February, 2019.

Filling the galleries as both the NC House and Senate began their late afternoon sessions (March 5, 2019), many individuals were recognized related to their presence indicating their support for the initial dialogs concerning the passage of the ERA. Earlier in the day, many of these same individuals met with their legislators in an effort to increase their awareness/knowledge of the ERA. On March 6th, HB 271 was officially introduced, although it has not been assigned to a committee to further the discussion of this amendment. SB 184 has also been introduced and passed its first reading and was assigned to the Rules Committee. Both bills have numerous sponsors and co-sponsors.

The Minnesota House passed an ERA bill (March 7, 2019) with discussion continuing to speculate if their 2020 State ballot will provide an opportunity for voters to weigh in on this change to their State’s constitution or will the State itself adopt the ERA.

This process is not without challenges. For example, five states (Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska, Tennessee and South Dakota) have all voted to rescind their ratification. While the Constitution addresses only a State's power to ratify an amendment and not its power to rescind it, this may proceed to another obstacle to the ERA ratification process. The language of the amendment related to the word 'sex' versus 'gender' remains an issue as does the inclusion of abortion rights in the implications of the amendment.

With North Carolina actively engaged in the process of ratifying the ERA, and the fact that only one more state is needed for this ratification, members of our Branch are encouraged to remain actively alert as the ERA is debated. Will this be an opportunity for North Carolina to help make history or will the State be just another footnote similar to Virginia?

Did You Know?

About this national program for student empowerment:

<https://studentempowerment.us/> It provides education and support in Civics, STEM, parenting, and other important topics

Resources

You can sign up to receive AAUW's ***Washington Update*** E-bulletin at <https://www.aauw.org/resource/washington-update/>

AAUW National: web site <http://www.aauw.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AAUWMembers/>

AAUW Raleigh-Wake County branch: web site <http://rwc-nc.aauw.net/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/aauw.raleigh/>

Listserv for Women's March: Email us at womensmarchonraleigh@gmail.com

Please send suggestions for content to Elizabeth Margolis elizabethamargolis@gmail.com