

AAUW Raleigh-Wake County January, 2019

BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Raleigh Women's March and Rally! The event is at Halifax Mall in Raleigh NC
Jan. 26, 2019, 12pm-4pm.

Expected break out as follows:

12:30pm Gather to march

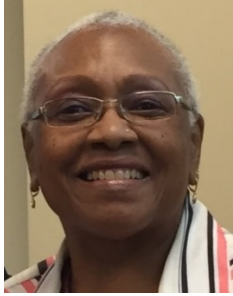
1:00 pm Step Off

2-3:30 Rally

The theme is Women United for Justice.

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from the President's Pen

Treka Spraggins

**Welcome Raleigh-Wake Branch Family!
On February 19th, we will be meeting in our *New Home!***

Here's the address:

The Copeland Center
781 Bright Creek Way
Raleigh, NC 27601

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

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

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

Last minute notice of League of Women Voters program

League of Women Voters

Timely Topics Program on School Vouchers

- **When:** Friday, January 25 at noon
- **Where:** Ridge Road Baptist Church
- **Cost:** FREE (Attendees bring their own lunch. Drinks and snacks provided.)

The speaker is Bonnie Bechard a retired UNC-Chapel Hill administrator and vice-president of the League of Women Voters of Lower Cape Fear. Her research into NC's school voucher program uncovered serious deficiencies after reviewing the curricula being used at more than 100 schools.

There is no charge to attend but you are asked to register on the [League of Women Voter's website](#)

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!

Did You Know? Stay in the know about our public schools

Education in North Carolina: Facts & Figures, 2018 Edition

This handy guide is designed to give you quick and easy access to key data that will support you in your work to improve North Carolina's education system. You can find more detailed charts and heat maps below, as well as links to additional resources.

<http://best-nc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/BESTNC-FactsFigures-July-2018-3.pdf>

Membership January 2019

As of January 10, 2019, the Raleigh-Wake Branch has 30 members. Our numbers are increasing slowly, but we never take the size of membership for granted. Instead, we value every woman who inquires about joining us and we encourage current members to introduce their friends to the branch by bringing them to meetings or events.

Members are asked to renew their membership by paying dues before June 30 of each year. Since July 1, 2018, we have attracted 5 new members. Only 3 of those members are active so far. By asking at the January 2019 meeting about members' knowledge of our inactive members, we discovered the current members know those who have joined and are willing to make personal contact that we hope will encourage them to come to a meeting or to propose interest groups they would enjoy.

Our relationship with NC State University has grown stronger in the last few years. Our membership now includes Dr. Leah Bug (an Education professor), Dr. Lisa LaBarbera Mascote and Dr. Linda McCabe Smith (College/University liaisons) and Delanda Bond (a graduate student). We plan to strengthen bonds and propose collaborative projects in 2019.

One of our members, now a resident of Springmoor, joined AAUW in 1952. Our newest member joined this month. Women of all ages and who live all over the

Triangle and beyond are members. We attract residents from Apex to Wake Forest. But driving into downtown Raleigh for evening meetings may not have appeal for all our members. If you have ideas for interest groups or projects, please be in touch with Membership VP, Terry Wall: terry.c.wall@gmail.com or 919-600-1018. We want to get everyone involved.

Meet one of our members: Linda Henning Cohen

Where did you grow up? Do you still have family there? Was your childhood experience formative in ways that still define you?

I grew up in Erie, Pennsylvania – a small industrial town. I no longer have family there. My father was a school teacher and a football/basketball coach and my mother was a housewife who did a lot of volunteering in the community. Opportunities to be involved in sports were somewhat limited for me during my teenage years. The local Y offered swimming and the chance to be a camp counselor. As a mother, I supported my daughter in many more athletic endeavors – which included soccer and basketball. She was All State in basketball and played four years of basketball at Yale University. Still expanding my horizons, I currently play golf.

Where did you go to college/university and what subjects did you like most? Did you undertake graduate studies? At what point in your life? Did graduate school lead to a change of professional interest?

I attended St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing in Cleveland, Ohio. I attended Canisius College in Buffalo, New York and earned a BA in Psychology. After my spouse finished law school, I returned to graduate school in Chicago, Illinois, and earned a Masters in Social Work and a Master of Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary.

What was your favorite part of your working life? Were there things you learned about life or about yourself from the career(s) you had?

I enjoyed helping people in my roles as an Associate Minister and as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

Did you belong to one or more branches of AAUW before this one? Where was that and what were your roles?

I belonged to Hinsdale/Oak Brook Area AAUW in the Chicago area and volunteered as Branch President. The Hinsdale/Oak Brook Branch organized a Home Tour every October and earned money for the national scholarships in Washington DC and also for

some local scholarships. One year while I was Branch President the Branch earned \$40,000 from the Home Tour. For that year, the Home Tour had only historic houses (7 of them). I volunteered on the AAUW-IL state board as Program Chair for 3 years and planned 3 state conventions. I also served the state of Illinois as Membership Vice President for 2 years and then became AAUW-IL State President for 2 years. During my decade of service to the AAUW-IL State Board (2000-2010), we started an ultimately successful movement to make Jane Addams' birthday an Illinois State Holiday. I also worked with branches that were struggling to survive as their memberships decreased. Later I joined the Downers Grove Area AAUW Branch.

What brought you to Raleigh? What would you say are the most important issues facing NC women today? Are they the same issues that face women in the rest of the country?

I came to Raleigh to retire and live in a warmer climate. Also, my spouse had an offer to work in a law firm in the Research Triangle. Education and the local school system appear to be issues in North Carolina. Supporting public schools was also an issue in Illinois as it appears to be in North Carolina. I am learning about the issues facing women in North Carolina as I attend more Raleigh-Wake Branch AAUW meetings.

Do you think there might be programs or projects that our branch could pursue to encourage members' involvement?

Having some study groups might be helpful although the location of where members live might be an issue. Several of the interest groups that Branches in Illinois sponsored included Book Groups and Movie Groups.

Do you have a sense of the future of local branches, i.e., will they to re-make themselves or become significantly more innovative in order to survive? Can you envision innovations that might bring new life to our branch?

While Membership Chair and President of AAUW-IL I worked with a number of Branches that were close to disbanding. Previous state board officers also had difficulty dealing with branches that wanted to disband. Branches disbanding was a difficult issue to deal with as a major problem was leadership, especially finding Branch Presidents. Also some Branches were dealing with an aging membership that could not easily participate in Branch meetings and programs.

Some Branches in Illinois, in order to deal with the leadership problem, rotated President to 4 persons during the program year. Also many Branches in Illinois would share a position with 2 members such as Co- Presidents or Co-Program Chairs. This made leadership more appealing and less work. This format could work in almost any Branch including Branches in North Carolina.

Smart Girls Smart Choices

Smart Girls Smart Choices, Inc. had a wonderful 2018! Some of the highlights included the girls participating in a rope course activity at Tree Runner Adventure Park. The rope course activity provided an opportunity for the girls to work on team building skills, increase their self-confidence and explore a new outdoor activity.

As the safety and well-being of girls in our area became a concern we felt it was vital that girls are able to quickly identify threats to their safety. Our girls participated in a Krav Maga self-defense class where they learned how confidence, defense tactics and strategies and their voice can protect them from potential predators. The girls participated in self-defense drills and a “mock attack” where they were able to immediately apply what they had learned in the class.

For more information about our program please visit www.smartgirlssmartchoices.com

Raleigh-Wake AAUW Public Policy Report submitted by Denny McGuire **News on the Equal Rights Amendment**

From The Washington Post

By [Laura Vozzella](#)

January 22 at 6:14 PM

RICHMOND — Legislation to make Virginia the 38th state to ratify the federal Equal Rights Amendment failed to clear a GOP-controlled House subcommittee Tuesday, a blow to advocates who thought they had enough Republicans — and momentum — on their side.

The vote might not be the last word in the long-running battle over the amendment, which would enshrine in the Constitution a prohibition on discrimination based on sex. ERA supporters vowed to try again with the full committee, which could choose to resurrect the legislation when it meets Friday.

Keep your eyes on Virginia!

Public Policy Good News/Bad News/Action

As everyone who follows the news already knows, this is certainly a time of confusion, concern and some optimism. Here are a few highlights of both state and national importance.

In Washington, the new group of Representatives and Senators includes more women than ever before and they represent a more diverse background—Native American, African American, Latina; sexual orientation and religious diversity. Unfortunately, some of the women elected will not be voting in a manner consistent with AAUW's Public Policy Priorities. The democrats have taken control of the House and a woman now serves as the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

As of this writing, differences between the President and the legislative branch have led to a partial shutdown of the federal government with some repercussions on state and local government and the public as the shutdown continues.

In addition, the US Department of Education is proposing new regulations that directly impact our AAUW national priorities. They are: rollbacks on Title IX and on school discipline policies. AAUW is directly opposing these proposed regulations and the State Board is expected to write a formal letter against the Title IX changes, asking not that they be modified but withdrawn completely. Stay tuned for more on this.

In North Carolina, several new women joined the General Assembly and a woman with a strong background in Civil Rights was elected to the North Carolina Supreme Court. While the conservatives maintained control of the legislature, the supermajority in the House was broken. (In the past two years any veto issued by the Governor could be over-ridden by the House.)

The NC General Assembly will convene in late January for what is called "The Long Session". This means that major policy discussions will be held and the legislature will adopt a two year budget which starts July 1, 2019. One topic that AAUW NC will be helping with is an attempt to make North Carolina the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the US constitution. Other legislative issues include expansion of Medicaid, gerrymandering, pay equity, paid sick leave and implementation of the NC constitutional amendments which were approved by the voters.

Want to become more involved?

Attend the **Raleigh Women's March and Rally!** The event is at Halifax Mall in Raleigh NC – Jan. 26, 2019, 12pm-4pm. Expected break out as follows:

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The **ERA-NC Alliance** will be looking for volunteers to help support passage of the ERA. It is expected that the bill will be introduced in early March. Stay Tuned for more on this.

Attend the state **AAUW Annual Meeting** in Greensboro on March 22-23. More information will be available soon.

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