



AAUW Raleigh-Wake County Branch Summer Newsletter July, 2019



Welcome to Summer in the South!

While Summer is upon us, the Branch takes a short recess until the Fall. This does not mean your officers are sitting under magnolia trees, fanning themselves and sipping mint julips! No, each of them is hard at work planning for next year. Lots is happening in the Triangle area and the Raleigh-Wake Branch is certainly a part of it all! Continue to read to see what has been happening these past couple of months and then plan to join us again in the Fall at our kick-off meeting. Remember that we have moved so here is our new address:

Duke Energy Learning Center
Chavis Heights Neighborhood
781 Bright Creek Way
Raleigh, NC 27601



from the President's Pen

We've come to the end of our current season. You have worked hard, and you know it. I applaud you! Each of you has your respective communities and waterhole gathering spots. Some of these "spots" are at work, at home, at the store, at church. Somewhere during your day, you stop, drop, roll out in your conversation something you got from your third Tuesday to someone who in these "spots" needs real information. This action is the verb that defines who we are. We are in the present for the sake of the future.

Now we are purposefully in a place that can reach to the next settlement of sisters and the next "left out" generation. Remember: we're building the Ark. Not for everyone. We're building for those who will survive the flood that's coming to wipe out our freedoms, our rights, and the independence of our gender.

When women lead, peace and prosperity happen.

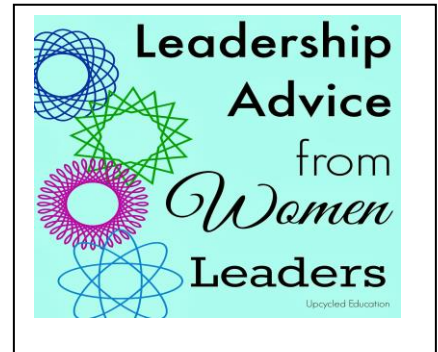
Have a safe and rest filled break. We will get back to work on our Ark in September. Bring the timber of new ideas for recruitment and knowledge dispensation with you. Bring someone with you needing knowledge who wants to be free.

Treka

Editor's Personal Note: I want to personally thank Elizabeth Margolis for being so welcoming to me as she prepared the Spring Newsletter for our Branch. She has decided to leave the role of newsletter editor, and I have agreed to fulfill that position for the coming year. Margie

Meet "Your" LEADERSHIP Team FOR 2019-2020:

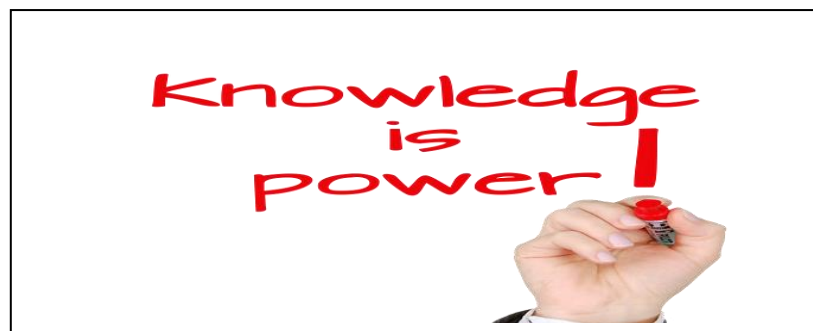
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Appointed Officers who also serve our Branch:

Newsletter:	Margie Maddox	maddoxmargie@aol.com
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Hospitality:	Brandy Burnett	torkwaseoshun@hotmail.com
Archivist:	Margie Maddox	maddoxmargie@aol.com

If you have an idea, question and/or concern, contact your officers. We need **YOU** to help make the Branch strong and active!



May 21st Program Highlights:

Our May speaker was Jenna Wadsworth who is currently the Vice Chair of Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board. Before her 30th birthday, this

Raleigh native had already made a name for herself in political circles, and is one of the youngest members of the Board to be elected.

She has been a strong advocate of environmental education, farmland preservation and local foods enhancement. She has entered into innovative programs with the Marines and the Navy to preserve open space and restrict development under vital military flight paths. She keeps a heavy calendar of speaking engagements, finding time also to be managing partner of a political and fundraising consulting firm. She has decided to run for the North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture position in 2020.

Her background includes graduating from NC School of Science & Mathematics in 2007; being elected Supervisor on the Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board in 2010; graduating from NCSU with a BA in Political Science and Women's & Gender Studies in 2011; and being elected Vice Chair of the SWCD Board of Supervisors in 2015.

With this impressive career path and her tremendous enthusiasm, there is little doubt that Jenna will go far. We wish her great success in all her future endeavors. Visit www.JennaWadsworth.com to learn more.



Jenna joined the Branch members for a photo after her presentation

June 18th Program Highlights:



Rebecca joined the group for a photo after her presentation

Our June program featured Rebecca Cerese who is the Health Engagement Coordinator for the NC Justice Center. Rebecca lead the six individuals in attendance through a very informative power point presentation sharing the basic premise of the Medicaid Expansion Option, the pros and cons to adopting it for North Carolina, and fielded questions from the group. On June 5th, there was a state-wide Vigil to highlight the importance of expanding Medicaid before our General Assembly retires its session. She stressed five important actions all of us can take: tell your story because every story matters; meet with your local representatives and check vote411.org if you do not know who they are; write a letter to the editor expressing your concerns; sign-up for action alerts from the NC Justice Center; and sign a petition at <https://tinyurl.com/yxkcsyzq>.

Speaking of enacting Medicaid expansion, [State budget negotiations are not moving in that direction](#). Even though close to 500,000 North Carolinians would be newly covered should the state choose to expand, conservative leadership is holding firm. In addition, not only is the General Assembly choosing not to expand Medicaid, they have made huge cuts to the state's current Medicaid Budget amounting to \$100 million!

Expanding Medicaid to hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians would be a huge boon to the health of our state - particularly in rural areas. It would also create jobs, lower costs of all of us, and save the state money. In light of North Carolina's loss of Title X funding, Medicaid expansion is all the more important to our health centers.

Both the [NC House](#) (in May) and [Senate](#) (a few weeks later) have passed versions of this year's budget. While the chambers work out their differences, it seems likely that Governor Cooper will veto the eventual budget that lands on his desk since both versions do not include Medicaid Expansion. Governor Cooper is strongly in favor of expanding Medicaid in North Carolina. There is also another bill H655 being discussed as a compromise.



AAUW: It was Relevant In The Past, And It Still Is TODAY!

Empowering girls/women since 1881. That is the first statement on the Official Website of AAUW. The four public policy priorities of AAUW are civil rights issues, education, and economic security and Title IX enforcements. Our Branch actively engages in promoting each of these areas. Each month our speakers inform us of women assuming leadership roles in our state. Supporting outreach programs uplifting girls/women in our community occupies many of our members' time and energy. Through awareness of political actions, our members continue to be informed related to issues impacting their lives in the Triangle area. Yes, AAUW remains as relevant as it was in 1881 when it started. Today AAUW continues to empower all girls/women. We invite each of you to be a part of it!

Consider Asking A Friend To Join the Raleigh-Wake AAUW Branch

The Raleigh-Wake Branch remains very active in the community and the following are but a few of the ways the Branch has enmeshed itself:

- The Communities In Schools of Wake County Program located in the Chavis Heights Neighborhood in the Duke Energy Learning Center is under the leadership of LaToya Montague, their Executive Director. This program assists young girls to stay in school, provides tutorial and role models, and encourages the development of the leadership potential which may assist them in future years. The Branch holds its monthly meetings in the Duke Energy Learning Center which is a focal point for this community-based group. Members may volunteer in any capacity as well as supply healthy snacks for these young girls attending the after-school program. [Granola bars, chips, fruit snacks, pretzels, fruit cups, Rice Krispy treats, Go-Gurt, snack crackers, popcorn, Pudding cups, bottled water and juice].
- Brandy Burnett is the Director of the Smart Girls/Smart Choices Program in the local area. This is an organization dedicated to providing resources necessary to embolden young girls to make positive decisions that maximize their full potential.
- Through the monthly programs arranged by Gregoria Smith, women in various leadership roles are supported. Not only does this provide exposure for these 'rising stars', but it also provides the membership with increased knowledge of the wide variety of roles/positions women are assuming throughout the state. As our Branch President Treka Spraggins often reminds us, this information can then be taken back and incorporated into the community in which each of us live/work/play on a daily basis.
- Denny McGuire functions as the Public Policy Liaison for the Branch. She represents the Branch at various functions and keeps us informed about the pertinent public policy issues.

Come Grow With Our Branch

Did you know that our Branch is considering forming a monthly Book Club? Joining together to experience field trips to interesting places in the Triangle Area? Or even meeting together to share a meal prior to attending the monthly meeting? Yes, all of these have been discussed but we need your input to make any of them a reality. Use your voice and contact a member of the Leadership Team today!

ATTENTION MEMBERS:



AAUW has sent an important Policy Update to its members! As you know, “we are at a pivotal moment in history, one that will define whether the most diverse class of elected officials in history can make major strides for women.... Anti-equity extremists are intensifying their efforts to turn back the clock by squelching fair-pay legislation, eviscerating Title IX, and most recently, restricting women’s reproductive rights----which have been shown to be tied to a woman’s economic security.

Now more than ever, we need to preserve the gains we’ve achieved when it comes to:

- Passing the Paycheck Fairness Act in the Senate.
- Encouraging employers to improve their practices, including eliminating questions about job applicants’ salary history when hiring.
- Protecting Title IX and building on civil rights laws to ensure women can learn and work in environments free of harassment.

Stand up for women today and uphold the important progress we’ve made. Because we refuse to go back!”

Kimberly Churches
AAUW’ s Chief Executive Officer

Have you ever heard of the VETO GARAGE?
At our May meeting, Denny shared this concept with us and it is often used in the NCGA. State law allows for the House to wait until the end of next year's legislative session to vote on an override. Legislative leaders have done this in the past while waiting for minds to change or for overrides opponents to be absent----or both. This stalling tactic is known as putting a bill in the "veto garage".



Meet Our Members

In this issue, we are piloting a section to provide an opportunity to know more about the members of the Raleigh-Wake Branch. After reading the information that follows, seek these members out, introduce yourself and make a "new friend".

Janet Bunger

Janet is a relatively new member to our Branch, but not to AAUW. She served as a Director and the Finance Vice Chair for the 2015–17 AAUW Board of Directors. While she held the position of being the Chair for the Finance Committee and the Investment Committee, she was a member of the AAUW Wasatch Branch in Utah. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from the University of Wyoming and another Bachelor's in Accounting from the University of Utah. She has previously worked in public accounting and as a financial adviser.

Janet moved to the area in 2018 to be closer to her kids and grandkids! She has two grandchildren here and three in New Jersey. At least she is physically closer to them than if she stayed in Utah. Living here has brought the opportunities to participate with an exercise group at the Morrisville Community Center and play bridge at the Cary Senior Center. Janet actually sometimes takes classes at both of the centers. Additionally, she has been active with a book club at the Cary Center which she really enjoys.

Janet's plans include looking to find something to help people register to vote next year, as well as learning more about the history of the 19th amendment--she recently learned that NC never passed it. She plans to continue to learn more about this issue and feels this may be one of the reasons North Carolina continues to have problems with various voting issues across the state. Janet has been involved in equity issues since the early 80s when she realized that there was a Plexiglas ceiling for women in the accounting world. Her lifelong goal is to see this issue solved so all of us can move forward as a country.

Joyce Gad

Joyce Hendley Gad grew up the oldest of five children on a cattle ranch in Ocala, FL. She was the valedictorian of her high school graduating class in 1963. She moved to NC to go to Duke University, but got her BA in history from NC Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount after getting married and moving there following her junior year. Joyce had a son, Russell, and a daughter, Natalie, while in Rocky Mount. Rocky Mount was a difficult place for a liberal, but Joyce found kindred spirits in the AAUW branch there, including neighbor Ann Chipley, who would later be important in the Wake County branch and on the state level.

While in Rocky Mount Joyce worked for the Employment Security Commission and in 1976 happily received a promotion to the home office in Raleigh. She has lived in Raleigh or Cary ever since until moving to Holly Springs in 2018 to live with her boyfriend, Ralph Pollack.

After leaving state government Joyce had a variety of jobs including marketing, office management, and support for medical office software, which included writing documentation, doing training and providing telephone support. Joyce was able to retire early at age 58 to indulge her love of travel. She has traveled to over 110 countries and plans to add the countries of South Korea and Mongolia later this year.

After moving to Raleigh in 1976 Joyce became active in the Wake County AAUW branch and ran the book sale for several years, including storing the books in her storage area. Joyce also became very involved in her church, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, including being president, secretary, treasurer, choir member, and chair of many committees. Since 1980 Joyce has been on the Board of Directors of RICH Park, a low-income housing complex owned in part by her

church. She was treasurer of the local chapter of the Older Women's League for about 10 years until it dissolved.

At some point Joyce lost touch with AAUW, but in 2010 was recruited to return by Nancy Shoemaker. Joyce was first active with the Tar Heel branch and then with the Wake County branch when it was revitalized in 2011. She served as branch secretary from 2015 to 2018.



Now it is time for Some Reports.....

Membership Committee Report Terry Wall, Membership VP

Last year, the membership of the Raleigh-Wake County branch climbed to 27! In addition, we have two College/University liaisons from NC State—Lisa LaBarbera Mascote (Women's Center director) and Sheri Schwab (Vice Provost for Equity & Diversity). That's the kind of news that a Membership VP loves to hear!

For various reasons, however--all understandable--those 29 members have never been present all at once for a branch meeting. We are delighted to see that women from all over the Triangle and beyond want to be branch members. But getting to meetings from Clayton, Durham or Fayetteville can be difficult sometimes. So, while we're grateful for the numbers, we'd love to see more of our members more often,

So, we hope that those of you who **HAVE** attended regularly will be willing to let others know that the programs this year have been some of the most inspiring and most worthwhile we've ever had. In addition, **Communities in Schools** (CIS) made a comfortable space available to us near Ligon Middle School at a time when rates at other places were climbing higher than our budget could cover.

Finding a meeting room has led to the formation of a partnership, thanks to the willingness of LaToya Montague, the CIS site director, to learn more about AAUW and to become involved with our branch. In exchange, members brought snack food to the May meeting that will be appreciated by children who are involved in the CIS summer programs. We hope that members will bring snacks again when school is in session this fall.

Speaking of budgets, members' dues contribute to our financial stability. Of the \$85 that our members pay, \$59 goes to the national AAUW (and must be paid first, if you want to join a branch.) Next the state dues must be paid (only \$11). Finally, your branch receives \$15 for every member. Each one of those memberships is valued and can be put to good use. Currently, we face only the cost of office supplies, since members provide hospitality at their own expense. With a rise in the amount we raise from dues, we might undertake projects that have some cost associated. Many of our speakers have suggested that we become partners in outreach initiatives that benefit women and children. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have the resources to respond affirmatively!

The fiscal year ends on June 30. Have you already renewed? How can you tell? If your name on the list you see below **IS NOT GREEN**, you **haven't yet renewed for 2019-2020**. Technically, your membership expires July 1, but payment is accepted NOW through the end of the year. Don't let your membership expire, however, because you pay the full amount for a partial year and keeping a continuous record of paid-up membership guarantees that your membership ID is available to you when you need to, e.g., check your payment status or order from the online store, <https://aauw.source4.com/>



To renew, follow these simple steps:

- First, have your credit card ready.
- Then, find your member ID (numbers only) next to your name on this list

<u>Member ID</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>
5033761	Nancy	Akley
5358351	Dalanda	Bond
Renewed	Dr. Leah	Bug
Renewed	Janet	Bunger
5300643	Brandy	Burnett
Renewed	Dorothy	Caldwell
5350468	Renata G.	Coates
Renewed	Linda	Henning-Cohen
5353931	Suzanne	Colton
Lifetime	Frances	Cope
Renewed	Joyce	Gad
5309113	Laura	Goodman
5349650	Alexandra	Griffin
Lifetime	Barbara Ann	Hughes
Renewed	Grace	Knechtel
171133	Catherine	Kuchinski-McCormick
Renewed	Lisa	Lowe
Renewed	Margie	Maddox
5138854	Elizabeth	Margolis

4451006	Jean	McGuire
Lifetime	Elizabeth	Norris
Renewed	Leslie	Sauerbrei
Renewed	Nancy	Shoemaker
Renewed	Gregoria	Smith
Renewed	Treka	Spraggins
Renewed	Terry	Wall
5357749	Shanetta	Williams
5205182	Donna	Wilson
Joined	Dianna	Wynn

- Next, go to <https://www.aauwnc.org/join/> (the state organization) & check Raleigh-Wake Branch.
- Then enter your member ID.
- Put in your name and email address in case something goes wrong.
- Click submit.
- The SUBMIT button transfers you to www.aauw.org and a **personalized renewal form**. Don't forget to add a donation to national if you wish, *then complete the online payment*.

If you would rather pay with a check, just let me know and I'll ask Lisa Lowe, our Treasurer, to send you an invoice with full details. If you have any additional questions and/or concerns, contact me directly.

Thanks, all, for your support of AAUW and of this Branch in particular. Please do continue and find out how rich and rewarding membership can be over the long haul.

Terry Wall
Membership VP
919-600-1018

Public Policy Report**Denny McGuire, Branch Liaison****ERA Status:**

Unfortunately, there has been little progress towards the goal of making North Carolina the 38th state to ratify the Equal rights Amendment. While both the House and State Senate had ERA bills introduced this year with more co-sponsors than ever before, the bills were sent to “unfriendly” committees which have not taken action on the bills. The current strategy outlined by Marena Groll of the NC ERA Alliance is to ask as many people as possible to contact the Chairs/Vice-Chairs of the House Judiciary and Senate Rules committees to champion the Equal Rights Amendment bills, HB271 and S184, which guarantee constitutional protections for women and girls. Visiting the lawmakers would be the most effective outreach, but calls would certainly be welcome too.

When you speak to the chairs, please reiterate that the bills were exempt from crossover deadline, and are active!

Make these 5 points:

1. On ten separate occasions, bills in support of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment have been introduced in the North Carolina Legislature.
2. On nine of those occasions, the NC legislatures failed to ratify the Amendment to guarantee women the same protection enjoyed by men under the U. S. Constitution.

3. Now, on this tenth try, NC has the opportunity to redress the situation by passing HB271 and SB184 and endorsing the simple, just words of the ERA: **“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”**
4. Importantly, 38 states need to ratify the Amendment; 37 have done so. NC could easily be the great 38th state, earning the respect and gratitude of women, men, boys and girls across the country.
5. Please act NOW. Grant HB271 and SB184 favorable reports and call for these bills to come up for a vote before this session ends!

People to contact:

House of Representatives:

House Judiciary Senior Chair Rep. Ted Davis, 919-733-5786 or email him at Ted.Davis@ncleg.net

House Judiciary Chair Rep Sarah Stevens, 919-715-1883 or email her at Sarah.Stevens@ncleg.net

Senate:

Senate Rules Vice Chair Senator Harry Brown, 919-715-3034 or email him at Harry.Brown@ncleg.net

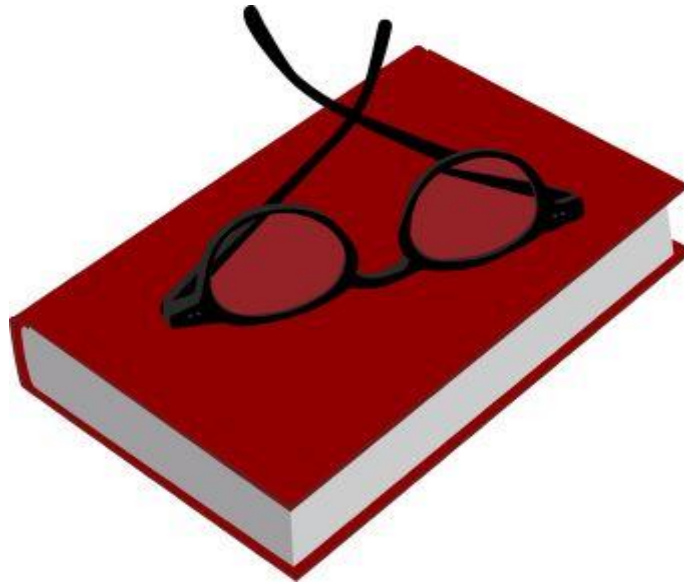
Senate Rules Chair Senator Bill Rabon, 919-733-5963 or email him at Bill.Rabon@ncleg.net



Budget Update:

First, the Governor and the Office of State Budget and Management develop a budget with the assistance of all state agencies. It is submitted to the legislature and then Budget Bills are prepared in both the House and the Senate. A Conference Committee will resolve differences between the two bills. Any budget item that is the same in both versions is not generally reviewed further by the conference committee.

One item that is still unresolved is the decision to expand Medicaid in North Carolina. The Governor has endorsed this expansion and many organizations, including AAUW NC, have supported it as well. Neither the House nor Senate budget versions include the expansion. This is a hot topic to watch and many policy folks are predicting that Governor Cooper will veto the budget bill unless the legislature addresses Medicaid expansion.



Books to Read:

For this issue of the newsletter, Denny has suggestions for two newish books on topics of interest to women and families. Both books are available through the Wake county library system. They are hard to read because they cover two difficult subjects, but are very informative and well written.

The first book is “Dopesick” by Beth Macy. Ms. Macy was a reporter for the Roanoke VA newspaper for about 30 years, so she knows how to write and how to research. The book covers the opioid explosion in rural Virginia and surrounding areas.

The second book is “No Visible Bruises—What We Don’t Know about Domestic Violence Can Kill Us” by Rachel Louise Snyder. The author explores the myths, the victims, the perpetrators, law enforcement and reforms. She does not like the term of domestic violence because it is not strong enough or inclusive enough. She used the term “intimate partner terrorism.”

Archives Committee Report**Margie Maddox, Branch Archivist**

Many of the items of our Branch's history have found a new home. They have been organized by year and delivered this past summer to the State Archives Building in Raleigh. Archivist Gwen Mays has been working with us to be sure materials will be saved and accessible to future generations who may be interested in the work that has been done by our Branch since its conception in 1909. If you find any items you would like to donate to the Branch's Archives, please contact Margie Maddox who is facilitating this process. In addition, Barbara Ann's scrapbook was restored and returned to her....what fantastic memories she has!





Next Meeting: September 17, 2019

Our Fall Kick-Off Meeting will be **September 17th**. We meet at 5:15 pm to socialize prior to beginning our program at 5:30 pm. Following the program speaker, a brief business meeting is held. Mark your calendars and we look forward to seeing you again in the Fall! Have a great rest of the summer!!!!

