

Cherokee Rose Newsletter



March 2017

Spring is here ... get ready for GA AAUW Convention

The state convention, hosted by Atlanta Branch, will be held the weekend of **April 21st and 22nd** in Dunwoody, GA. The hotel is located in the Perimeter area near the Perimeter Mall. Atlanta will host a reception at 6:00 PM Friday evening at the **Hilton Atlanta Perimeter Suites at 6120 Peachtree Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, GA**. On Saturday, April 22nd, the program and business meeting will begin at 9:00 AM with registration from 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM.

State Convention registration form is included in this newsletter.

Atlanta and the state leadership team look forward to Georgia branches gathering from around the state to share stories, friendships and commitments for the future. The program theme: SUPPORT HER will promote involvement and support for AAUW mission as well as each other.



Hilton Atlanta Perimeter Suites
6120 Peachtree Dunwoody Road (Near Perimeter Mall)
Atlanta, GA 30328 / 770-668-0808

CONVENTION SPEAKERS:

Amanda Hammett



Amanda Hammett is an entrepreneur, speaker and author who started and ran multiple multi-million dollar businesses before the age of 26. She has spoken over 800 times in the past five years to millennials on the topics of leadership, resilience and entrepreneurship. This experience has given her the ability to act as a "millennial translator" to companies that are looking to attract, motivate and engage top millennial talent.

Gail Buckner



Gail Buckner is a Democratic member of the Georgia State Senate, representing its 44th District since 2008. She was formerly a Georgia State Assembly representative of district 76, encompassing parts of Clayton County from 1990 to 2006. Senator Buckner is pursuing a shared passion for ERA ratification in Georgia. This will be a terrific opportunity for AAUW of Georgia members to get some traction in grassroots advocacy for a primary role in the organization's public policy initiatives. She is Chair of Ratify ERA, Georgia.

Traci Jensen



Traci Jensen is a member of AAUW National Board of Directors. She is president of the AAUW West Harris County (TX) Branch. Traci earned her bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University and her master's and doctoral degrees in curriculum and instruction from the University of Houston. She has been a classroom teacher, a professor of education, and a political candidate for the Texas State Board of Education. Traci regularly lobbies the Texas legislature on issues pertaining to public education.



AAUW BRANCH STORIES:

AAUW of Georgia applauds all our branches and the work they do ... and support each other in efforts to start up a new branch, build membership and carry on with long-standing traditions of community involvement and giving. During state convention in April, we look forward to all Georgia Branches sharing updates about programs and events together.

ATLANTA BRANCH

Atlanta Branch is hosting AAUW of Georgia State Convention in April. There is a great program planned for Saturday, as well as a reception Friday night, with Cobb County and North Fulton Branch helping out with food and beverages. We are grateful for Atlanta Branch's hospitality and fellowship. Save the date – it will be a great weekend with guest speakers, friendship and mission support.

Recently, at the February meeting, Atlanta Branch members were introduced to Atlanta Women for Equality (AWE), a non-profit organization providing free legal advocacy for low income women and girls facing sex discrimination in the workplace or at school, and working to expand economic and educational opportunities for women and girls. AWE also works with schools and workplaces to meet

Atlanta Branch would also like to let students know that an important annual conference will be taking place in Atlanta this summer. On **June 20, 2017**, the Judson Women's Leadership Conference will take place at the Cobb Galleria. This nonprofit organization provides students an avenue for leadership training and networking at this event. Similar in scope and focus to NCCWSL, it is a local and affordable option for interested students. For additional information please go to the website: <http://www.jcifoundation.org/>

CARTERSVILLE-BARTOW BRANCH

Cartersville-Bartow branch STEM activities have really taken off this winter. The middle school Women in STEM group has learned how to make paper (using dryer lint as an ingredient!), made lighted Christmas ornaments using LED light strips and their knowledge of electrical circuitry, and are currently involved in a 3D printing project.

We are also attempting to get a viable AAUW organization going at Georgia Highlands College, with a women's film series scheduled on March 7 (A League of Their Own), 13 (Fried Green Tomatoes), 15 (The Color Purple), and 24 (mother/daughter night: Spirited Away), all of which will involve tabling and information about AAUW.

In an effort to network with other local organizations, we invited members of United Voices for Humanity to speak at our February meeting. This recently formed group seeks to mitigate the atmosphere of fear and hatred, particularly toward non-native born residents, in our community and to foster understanding and acceptance. (More information is available on their Facebook page.)

Finally, after deciding to discontinue our annual book sale because of almost insurmountable difficulties (lack of a storage facility, torrential rains during the last – outdoor – book sale, etc.), we have come to the conclusion that there is no easier way to raise enough funding for two to three scholarships. So we are trying again, with a newly offered storage site and a chance to do a smaller scaled sale at the May Market Festival, May 6-7, at the Rose Lawn Museum house in Cartersville. If you are in the area that weekend, please stop by to see us!

Four girls from the high school STEM group have just returned from Washington, D.C., where they were invited to present their astronomy research at a Smithsonian program. Co-sponsored by our branch and the Tellus Museum, the girls were able to make the trip with the help of a \$500 check from AAUW and an additional \$500 contributed by individual branch members. Sightseeing in D.C., including the National Women's History Museum, topped off their stay, and the girls will share their experience with us at our March 11 meeting.



COBB BRANCH

In what has become hopefully an annual community middle school project to join our local scholarship drive for non-traditional female students attending schools in Cobb County is an 8th grade girls STEM essay contest (modeled after the success of the program sponsored by the Houston-Peach Branch.)

FEBRUARY BRANCH PROGRAM RECAP



Erika Gravett, Title IX* Coordinator at Kennesaw State University presented an overview at the February Branch Meeting of the Title IX process on campus and clarified that the Title IX Director is responsible for addressing violations of school policy. Some cases may be directed to law enforcement as a criminal investigation. With a very detailed presentation complete with supporting documentation Erika was able to provide a comprehensive look at examples of Title IX cases on campus and how those issues are handled through the university. Erika fielded a great many questions from members and guests seeking clarification and understanding of Title IX. I think we all would agree that we learned a lot

and greatly appreciate Erika sharing her expertise in the field. The continued impact and enforcement of Title IX is pending potential changes that will be determined by the current administration.

** Title IX is a law passed in 1972 that requires gender equity for boys and girls in every educational program that receives federal funding. Many think this applies only to athletics ... however, Title IX is a key component of 10 areas of education that also includes: Access to Higher Education, Career Education, Education for Pregnant and Parenting Students, Employment, Learning Environment, Math and Science, Sexual Harassment, Standardized Testing and Technology.*

KSU 9th Annual Women's History Month Commemorative Program

On March 4th there were 125 women who attended the event, including Pam Flournoy (AAUW Cobb) who was honored for initiating this annual program to acknowledge women who make a difference. The program, *Women Supporting Women*, included two AAUW members on the panel (Dr. Amy Stevens, Women Veterans Advocate and Shameka Wilson, KSU Director of Women's Resource Center.) AAUW Cobb was one of the sponsoring organizations with KSU Alumni Association.



Panelists (l-r) Dr. Amy Stevens, Dr. Julie Newell, Holly Tuchman, Dr. Lucretia Payton-Stewart, Deborah Pike, Haley Kilpatrick and Shameka Wilson

HOUSTON-PEACH BRANCH

Our major fall event was our 51st Annual Used Book Sale October 20-22 at the Galleria Mall in Centerville. Months of book sorting and pricing paid off well with another successful sale. We are already receiving donations for next fall's sale but we haven't started pricing them yet.

We gave out hundreds of books at our Reading is Fundamental (RIF) distributions at Westside Elementary School in Warner Robins on November 4 and February 3. We also distributed books to the Cherished Children Day Care on November 3 and February 9. We have one more distribution in May scheduled for Cherished Children.

Houston Peach Branch is currently accepting applications for the annual Community/Eleanor Granum Award. This volunteer award is given in honor of our founding Branch President, Eleanor Granum.

Also in progress is our Second 8th grade girls writing contest. Applications are being solicited in Houston and Peach County Schools and homeschooled students can also apply.

The Branch will be awarding its first STEM scholarship to Shari Dexter, a senior at Middle Georgia State University, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She is to graduate in December 2017.

Sharon Dawson and Laurie Shaw participated in the Women's March for Justice in Atlanta on January 21. It was an amazing day to be part of a global demonstration of men and women advocating for many, many different causes.

NORTH FULTON



On Saturday, February 11, the North Fulton Branch met for its annual Valentine's Day brunch and business meeting. Mixing business with a fun time, everyone wore red and enjoyed the food and drink prepared by our Branch President, Anna Marie Hoffman.

After the food was consumed, members discussed our budget for the rest of this fiscal year as well as possible future projects for 2017-18.

North Fulton members also attended the Women's March in Atlanta in January.

VALDOSTA BRANCH

AAUW Valdosta Affiliate – Annual Sister-to-Sister Summit

The Valdosta Affiliate of the AAUW has been empowering young women for the last nineteen years by sponsoring an annual Sister-to-Sister Middle School Girl's Summit. Each year a different theme has been explored. Nevertheless; the same messages of promoting self-worth and tolerance of others are echoed as session leaders problem solve issues that affect the middle school girl.

Peer pressure, self-esteem, stereo typing, bullying and making life choices are some of the timeless issues that have been addressed. During the past seven years, topics dealing with cyber bullying, cultural diversity, women in science and STEAM sessions have been developed as interactive sessions presented in a workshop approach. These sessions engaged each of the girls in real life problem solving experiences. Annually, a Valdosta State University planetarium presentation has been another favorite noted by the girls in reflective letters about their summit experience. The Arts dealing with music, dance and self- expression through short writing and speaking opportunities have also created many memorable learning experiences for each middle school girl attending. Since each year's program has highly motivated the girls, our young women have naturally responded to each event with enthusiasm and curiosity. Each year, a woman of distinction presents a keynote talk. It inspires the girls to reach their own personal and social goals, with an attitude that nothing is impossible to achieve in life if it is backed with a plan, hard work, and determination to succeed.

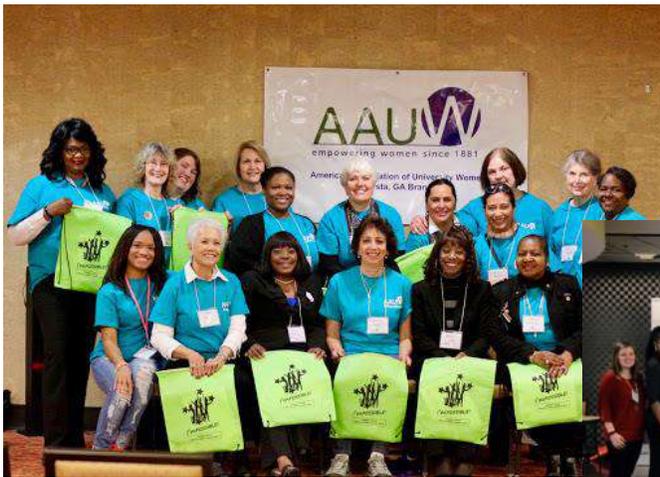
The Valdosta State University Center has been the setting for the majority of summits. Each middle school girl attending has had the experience of spending a day on Valdosta State's University Campus. This campus day experience has been the seed planted that encouraged many of the girls to look at higher education as a real possibility.

The goal each year (one which proves to be challenging) is to raise enough funds through both community donations and membership donations to pay the expenses that help make such an event possible. The average cost for each girl to attend has been about thirty dollars which includes a facility cost, meals, t-shirts (with donor names inscribed), bags and other supplies. Each year our Valdosta AAUW Affiliate plans on serving one hundred girls from the surrounding communities.

Recently, past attendees who are now in high school and college have taken a role in fund raising processes. Young women leaders, who have attended the program in the past as middle schoolers, now have stepped up as Big Sisters to advocate as speakers at local civic organizations. They have worked with mentor AAUW members organizing fund raising events during spirit nights at local restaurants.

We, The Valdosta AAUW Affiliate, are proud of the positive ripple effect that The Annual Sister-to-Sister Summit has had on our young middle school girls. They leave the summit more positive and more focused on making informed choices both during their challenging middle school years and most important in their future. The effect of the knowledge and experiences gained during the annual summit has given each girl the opportunity to make better informed decisions that will affect both their life and the quality of their home, school and the greater community where they reside. On March 4th, 2017 the theme/ logo celebrated was ___ "I'm Possible!"

Yetta McMillan, AAUW of Georgia Co-President and her mother, Betty Dinkins, attended Sister to Sister this year ... and were treated to a wonderful event and tradition.



AAUW of Georgia Public Policy Updates



AAUW of Georgia and other Georgia Job and Family Collaborative organizations worked hard this session to pass the **Family Care Act (SB 201)**. With a new sponsor, Senator Butch Miller, the bill has taken on very positive traction. Georgia House will vote on FCA next week. Call your representative to vote YES for SB 201. All the members of the collaborative are ecstatic with the positive support in this year's legislature.

Additional bills are tracking through the 2017 General Assembly that are of concern for our mission to promote equity and justice for women and girls.

HB 51: Has been introduced to redefine the process for investigation of campus assault cases. The purpose is to handle these cases outside university jurisdiction. This bill will marginalize students, campus security and Title IX impact. AAUW of GA does not support this bill. This bill passed out of the house and is now in the senate.

HB 338: is the return of Governor Deal's Opportunity School District 2016 Amendment introduced in the house as a bill... This bill will create a Crossover Supervisor for failing schools that will not report to the state board of education and entails bringing in for-profit entities to oversee an unrealistic platform that is a danger to public schools. Some refer to it as "OSD Lite". This bill was approved by the house and is now in the senate.

HB 280: is a bill to promote concealed carry on university campuses. Hopefully this will not get positive traction, but has already moved from the House to the Senate. This bill has passed and moved on to the senate.

HB 515: Is a bill pushed through the house regarding voting districts. SR 6 and HR 7 had hearings on redistricting, but this bill was pushed through without proper vetting or opportunity for public comment and maps were not made available. This bill passed the house and is currently in the senate hopper.



9to5 and LWVGA Lobby Day Events at the Capitol

NOTES / IMAGES FROM WOMEN'S MARCH ATLANTA, JANUARY 21, 2017



there.

Like many women across this country, my reaction to the election of a man whose campaign had disparaged women, LGBTQ people, other minorities, and immigrant communities quickly morphed from disbelief to “How can I stop Trump and this Congress from reversing a half century of human rights progress in this country?” I badly wanted to participate in the Women’s March for Justice in D.C., but that not being feasible, I was happy to learn that Atlanta would have its own march. I knew I needed this moment of communal solidarity to lift my spirits and kick start my activism. I was determined that, rain or shine, I would be

The day of the march arrived along with rain and a forecast of severe thunderstorms. After several friends decided not to participate, I worried that this would not be much of an event. My first inkling that I might be wrong came when I had to drive all the way to the top level of the MARTA garage to find a parking spot. My next occurred as we descended the stairs to find a line of people that snaked completely around the train station, with more folks pouring in behind us. My heart surged: this was going to be BIG!

Four of us arrived at the site to witness a massive crowd and suddenly improving weather as the rain let up and the sun burst forth. It felt ordained! It seemed to take forever for the crowd to actually start moving, but a news text soon told why: we were part of what would prove to be an historic event in Atlanta - 63,000 marchers! There were women of all ages, but plenty of men and kids as well. Most of the signs people carried were variations on the theme of “women’s rights are human rights”. There were signs of unity: “United We Stand, Together We March”, and “Men of Quality Do Not Fear Equality”. Some signs expressed frustration, like “I Cannot Believe I Still Have to Protest This S...!”, and some were inspirational, like Gandhi’s words: “Be the Change You Wish to See”.

But perhaps the one that summed up all of the individual messages with a clarion call for engagement, was a large sign evoking the iconic poster of a wartime Uncle Sam with the finger pointing at the reader and those famed words “I WANT YOU”, followed by a plea to “END HATE; ACT NOW”

The march was all I expected and more. The energy and determination of the marchers was palpable, and I left on a high, knowing there was work to be done, but feeling sustained and energized by the experience! **Kathy Rivers, North Fulton Branch**

Why did you go to the Women's March and what was it like?



This is what we were asked. There were 3 of us from the North Fulton AAUW Chapter, who arrived at the Center for Civil and Human Rights on 1-21-17. None of us had done this before. The surprise was how many others, 60,000 others in fact, old, middle aged, young, women, men, children, black, white, brown, who were there with us.!

We marched, read signs, read tee shirts, chanted slogans, and talked to others about why we came to the Women's March. Their reasons reflected our reasons: protecting women's rights, healthcare, the environment, education, voting rights, LGBT rights, immigration, and human rights. Just being with so many people who share similar beliefs is uplifting and powerful.

The day was exciting and inspiring. At the end of the March, each of us said "I am so glad I did this." Here is our picture! **Linda, Bonnie, Lu**

Houston-Peach members **Sharon Dawson and Laurie Shaw** participated in the Women's March for Justice in Atlanta on January 21. It was an amazing day to be part of a global demonstration of men and women advocating for many, many different causes.



Who would have thought that pink pussy hats would be such a sustaining image for women's rights, solidarity and protest?

Words cannot express the impact of participating in an historic event such as the women's march ... and the fact that it reached around the globe speaks to the commonality of the struggle for equality, tolerance and justice. This is what women do ... with their friends, their sisters, their families and their children!



Debbie's marching partners: Sharon, Dana and Judy (ATL)

If you participated in the march, bring your photos and stories to share at convention ... we need to carry on the dynamic and the energy to sustain the struggle and the mission.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Please note that candidates nominated for state officer positions will be presented in a separate posting to members.

- Co-President 2017-2019
- Treasurer (2017-2019)

NOTICE

Changes to the AAUW of Georgia Directory

Page 18 - *Valdosta Branch*
Co-Program Vice Presidents
Beverly Richardson-Blake
1520 Howell Rd, Lake Park GA 31636
H: 229-247-6633
W: 229-333-5432
E-mail: brblake@valdosta.edu

Membership Vice President
Delete work phone currently listed



Georgia AAUW State Convention April 22, 2017
Hilton Atlanta Perimeter Suites
6120 Peachtree-Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, GA 30328
770-668-0808

Exit Hammond Drive, GA 400 or Peachtree-Dunwoody Road, I-285
Room reservations for Friday, April 21st are available at **\$109.00** plus tax for a single/double/triple room. Please make your reservations by **Friday, April 5th**.

Friday, April 21st

The Houston-Peach Branch invites all GA AAUW members and guest to a reception at the Hilton Garden Inn / Hilton Inn Perimeter Suites from 6:00 until closing.

Saturday, April 22nd

Registration from 8-9 AM

Program speakers:

Traci Jensen, AAUW National Board Member
Amanda Hammett, Millenial Translator
Senator Gail Buckner, Chair Ratify ERA, Georgia

The **Registration fee of \$40** includes a hot lunch buffet and a continental breakfast. Attendance numbers need to be provided no later than **April 5**, so plan to register early.

Send registration form and fee (make checks payable to **Georgia AAUW**) to:

Yetta McMillan
5998 Tate Drive, Austell, GA 30106
678-596-372 / yettamcmillan@att.net

Registration form for Saturday, April 22nd

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

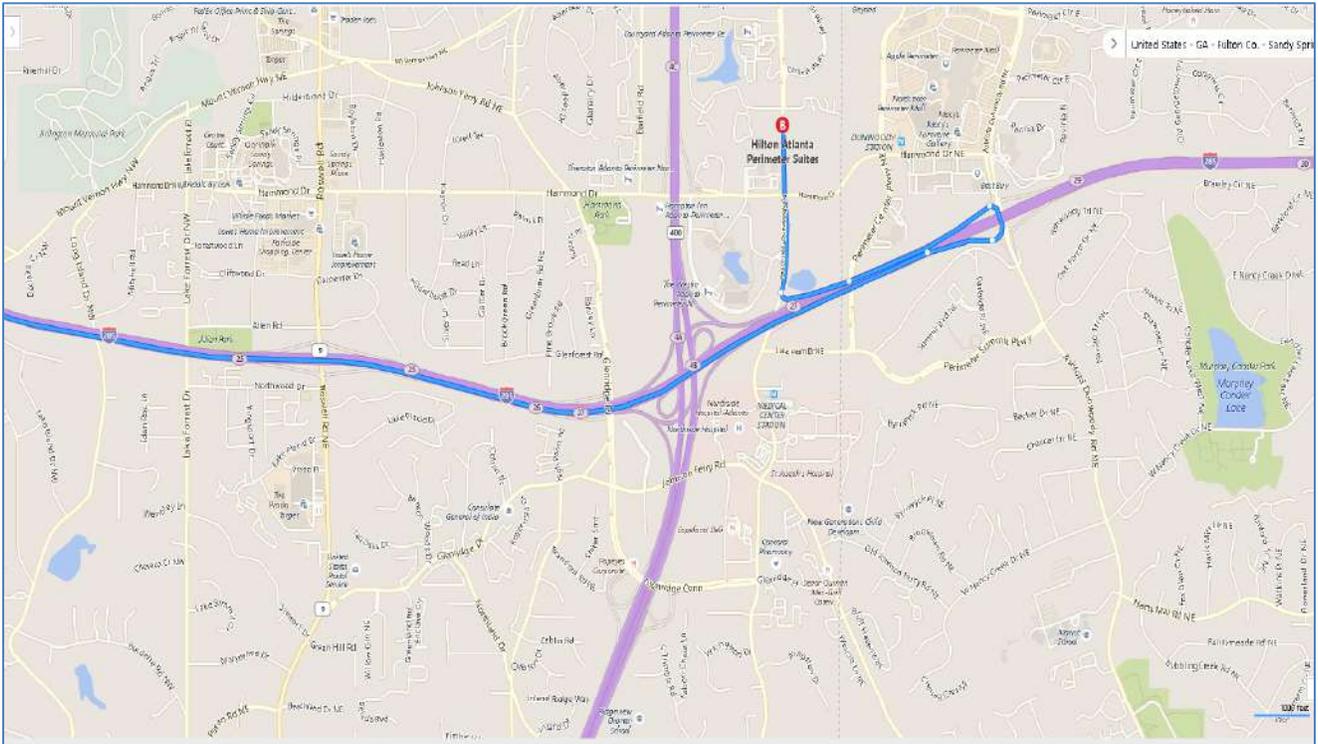
E-MAIL _____

BRANCH _____ MEMBER/CHAIR/OFFICER _____

STUDENT/SCHOOL _____ FOOD RESTRICTIONS: _____

DIRECTIONS

Hilton Atlanta Perimeter Suites, 6120 Peachtree Dunwoody Road, Atlanta 30328



From the south:

I-75 North to

285 West to

Exit 29 (Ashford Dunwoody)

Follow directions to Peachtree Dunwoody (loops onto 285 E to Exit 28 / Peachtree Dunwoody)

OR: Left onto Ashford Dunwoody to Hammond Drive

Turn left onto Hammond, Turn right onto Peachtree Dunwoody

From the north

I-75 South to

285 West to

Exit 29 (Ashford Dunwoody)

Follow directions to Peachtree Dunwoody

From 285 W / I-75 intersection,

You can also take **GA 400** North to

Hammond Drive exit

Turn right onto Hammond

Turn left onto Peachtree Dunwoody