



Cherokee Rose Newsletter

February 2015

STATE CONVENTION

Georgia AAUW State Convention is coming to Kennesaw, **April 24-25**. Mark your calendars and plan to participate and engage with AAUW friends and colleagues from Georgia and from our national office.



We will have a dynamic speaker and AAUW treasure from the national office come share this time with us: **Lisa Maatz**

As AAUW's top policy adviser, Maatz works to advance AAUW's priority issues on Capitol Hill, in the White House, and in coalition with other organizations. She is a sought-after speaker across the nation and in our nation's capital, and has a large and devoted following on Twitter. Lisa also provides leadership to several coalitions working to advance opportunities for women and girls, including the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education and the Paycheck Fairness Act Coalition. Recently featured in the book *Secrets of Powerful Women*, Lisa has developed a reputation for her strategic approach to legislation and advocacy. She has done similar work for the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Older Women's League, and was a legislative aide to U.S. Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY). Her grassroots advocacy career began when she was the Executive Director of Turning Point, a battered women's program recognized for excellence by the Ohio Supreme Court. Lisa is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Ohio University, and currently serves on the university's Diversity Alumni Advisory Board. She has two master's degrees from Ohio State, and holds an adjunct appointment with the Women and Politics Institute at American University.



Carmita McCall

AAUW Career Development Grantee will share her experiences and goals. Her work is focused on strengthening non-profit and human service organizations, primarily in impoverished and underserved communities. At Valdosta State University, she works on issues as varied as science, technology, engineering and math (STEM); empowering girls; juveniles in the justice system; and public health.



Hilton Garden Inn, 895 Cobb Place Blvd. NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144 is the location of the Georgia AAUW State Convention in 2015.

Friday, April 24th, 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, there will be a reception in the courtyard of the Hilton Garden Inn. Getting together is always one of the key pleasures of attending convention. Getting caught up and sharing personal and branch events is fun way to kick off convention. After the reception, members will be free to gather together for dinner. There are many local options, some within walking distance. A list will be provided

Saturday, April 25th, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, the convention program will offer speakers, programs and installation of new officers. There will be a mandatory business meeting to 'round out' the day's activities. At the convention, an agenda will be provided and the registration form is attached to the newsletter, as well as state officer nominee BIOS. The newsletter and registration form will also be posted on the state website.



One Member One Vote:

With the change to a new voting procedure, everyone will receive an individual electronic ballot with the names of nominees for two state officer positions: Co-President, 2015-2017 and Finance Officer, 2015-2017. In addition, the ballot will include a proposed bylaws change to be voted on by the membership. You will receive advance notice about the survey before it goes out. Look for these ballots to come to your e-mail by **March 15th**. Georgia AAUW will use Survey Monkey to submit and receive your ballots. Voting will be anonymous. Instructions for completing your selection will be included as well as an indication of the last date to submit your ballot – **April 10th**.



Georgia AAUW Public Policy Updates

HB 92 is the new version of the **Family Care Act** introduced in the 2015 Georgia General Assembly Legislative Session. AAUW is actively involved with the Georgia Job and Family Collaborative and 9to5 to get this bill passed. The bill is sponsored by District 31 Representative Tommy Benton of Jefferson. The new bill has been enhanced with more detailed definitions and now includes grandparents and grandchildren, as well as parent, child and spouse as immediate family. The bill is a small step forward for working families in Georgia to be able to balance the care of family with work by providing flexible use of sick leave, when it is offered, whether paid or unpaid.



Senator Rene Unterman

Representative Andy Welch

DMST Lobby Day

SB 8 and **SR 7** had immense support on the day the bill and resolution, respectively, were up for a vote in the Senate. On February 12th, at the Freight Depot, over 500 people gathered for a DMST* Lobby Day event sponsored by Georgia Cares, Wellspring Living, Street Grace and Youth Spark. These groups work tirelessly to protect and provide services to children that are victims of sexploitation as well as fighting for tougher laws and penalties for those engaged in victimizing children. AAUW members and other attendees worked the ropes at the capitol to encourage a 'yes' vote from their senators for the bill and the resolution. The bill's sponsor, Senator Rene Unterman, was ecstatic with the 52/3 vote the bill received. *DMST: *Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking*.

HB 194 is a bill proposing changes to early voting parameters and on February 18th, League of Women Voters of Georgia Lobby Day found attendees speaking with representatives and asking them to vote “NO” on the bill when it came up for a vote. It would basically eliminate one full week of early voting. Statistics show that 30-40% of early voting occurs during the first week throughout districts in Georgia.



Senator Gloria Butler

Elizabeth Poythress, President LWVGA

Kelli Persons

League Members

In addition to lobbying for early voting, the league was officially recognized in the Senate Chamber for their continued contributions to the citizens of Georgia as well as celebrating the 95th anniversary of the League of Women Voters.



Around Georgia:

News from some of the Georgia branches to highlight activities, community involvement and AAUW mission-based programs. Branches will also have an opportunity to share updates and accomplishments at state convention.

Atlanta Branch

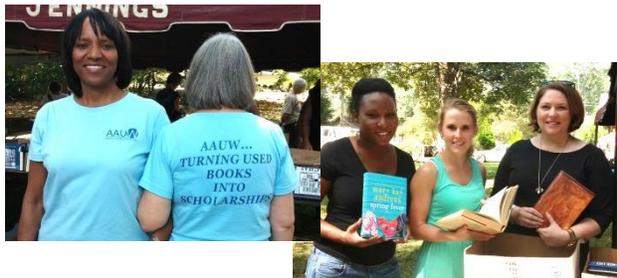
Atlanta Branch and members maintain are very active in the community and promoting AAUW mission and programs. Activities and programs shared on branch website: <http://Atlanta-ga.aauw.net>

Cartersville-Bartow Branch

The Cartersville-Bartow branch has developed a STEM program in partnership with the Tellus Science Museum. Tellus education director Cantey Smith and AAUW member/STEM chair Tanya Hyman (a middle school science teacher and former local scholarship recipient) have collaborated to create a six-part science experience. On six Wednesdays and Saturdays from January through June, twenty-five middle school girls will come to the Tellus for a talk by a female scientist and a hands-on make-and-take based on one of the galleries of the museum (gems and minerals; motion/transportation; paleontology; planetarium/observatory). Parents will be invited to join a kickoff luncheon for the first event of the series. It's a major undertaking for a small branch, and we hope it will be a success.

We've also worked to move the Family Care Act forward in the Georgia legislature. After a training session with a lobbyist from the Georgia Job/Family Collaborative, three AAUW members and another constituent met with Rep. Paul Battles in December at his local office to make our case for its passage. Although he did not promise to support the bill, it is certainly on his radar now, and he is well aware of its importance to us.

Finally, our book sale, our signature project in the community, again netted enough for us to award three scholarships to non-traditional female students. Pictured below are two 2014 scholarship winners and our STEM chair hard at work at the book sale and two members modeling our new T-shirt design.



Cobb County Branch

Following a successful AAUW Book Fair (55th annual) in September at Perimeter Mall, Atlanta, North Fulton and Cobb County branch members gathered in November for a brunch at the home of Alta Birdsong to celebrate our volunteers and talk of plans for our next book sale.

In October, the branch was honored to have guests from Kennesaw State University. Dr. Gail Scott, AAUW Student Chapter Advisor and students, Tori Sowell, Jessica Dean and Simone Kenya spoke to the group about female student life and community involvement on today's university campuses. Later in October, the Cobb Branch, under the direction of Yetta McMillan, hosted a wine-tasting fundraiser at the Marietta Wine Market. It was a great success, a lot of fun with a raffle and door prizes, as well as providing funds for local contribution to KSU AAUW Student Chapter.

Holiday Party



On December 7th, Cobb members gathered together to enjoy an exceptional holiday concert performed by the Michael O'Neal Singers in Roswell, GA. After the concert members and family enjoyed the festive ambience of Roswell aglow with the spirit of Christmas. A lively group enjoyed dinner together at Pastis, with excellent food and wine and merriment. It was a great social outing enjoyed by all.

On January 13th, AAUW Cobb County co-sponsored with LWV-Marietta, AKA Sorority and East Cobb PTA a legislative forum to highlight current issues facing the Georgia General Assembly as it starts the 2015 session. Cobb Representatives were presented with questions and concerns from the attendees. We are grateful to Marie Shockley and Yetta McMillan and Cobb members that worked together to make this forum a reality.



Dr. Amy Stevens, Advocate
GA Military Women

At our most recent Cobb Branch meeting on February 10th at Sterling Estates found a dynamic duo addressing us about Female Military Veterans transitioning to civilian life. This was presented by one of our members, Dr. Amy Stevens, an advocate who provides a Facebook outreach for GA Military Women - and her colleague, Kim Scofi, with Battle Buddy of United Military Care.org. It certainly was an eye-opening look into the challenges of women serving in the military, especially as they transition back to civilian life. Some of the stories relayed spoke to homelessness, PTSD and mental challenges adjusting to so many changes. Amy shared the heartbreaking story of a Cobb County resident, Kisha Holmes, a female military veteran, who recently killed herself and her children. It was a wakeup call that rang across the local and national news. At this time, Amy and Kim's organizations are looking for individuals to step up and help out in even the smallest way – donating time, donating household goods, donating funds ... anything and everything to support those who have served and/or continue to serve us.

Columbus Branch

It is thrilling to see the dedication of this group to re-establish branch activities ... we hope to learn more about their efforts at convention.

Houston-Peach Branch

The branch continues to keep busy with branch meetings and activities, with focus on annual book sale as a primary fundraising member activity in the Warner-Robins area. Check out the recent news on the branch website: <http://houstonpeach-ga.aauw.net>.

Macon Branch

The branch maintains an annual tradition to host a book event as a major fundraiser for contributions to AAUW and community

Milledgeville Branch

Georgia AAUW and members welcome our newest branch in Milledgeville. With genuine interest to begin involvement with AAUW a branch has been started in Milledgeville with new members and some returning members. This is exciting and we wish the branch great success as they become involved in the community and grow in membership and friendship.

North Fulton Branch

The North Fulton Branch enjoyed a wonderful holiday gathering in December, and started 2015 out with our branch meeting on January 10th at the home of Janet Zetterstrom. New members introduced themselves and updates were provided by the Scholarship Committee and Book Club, after which we had a good final discussion of how we want our branch to be led. Members voted to keep the model we currently use with a President, Membership VP, Finance Officer, and two or more additional board members.

Our meetings for the rest of the year include: February 14 at member Fran Russell's home, when changes to our Bylaws will be discussed and we will talk about short member bios to be posted on our web site. On March 14, since the usual date for our annual book-discussion meeting falls on the same date as the Roswell Reads program, we will participate in the Roswell Reads luncheon. In April we will visit the Center for Civil and Human Rights. May, the final meeting for 2014-2015, will find us at new member Brenda Atwell's home for our Pot-luck Planning Meeting and Installation of Officers.

New this year at our meetings, is our selection of a worthy group or cause to support. At past meetings we have collected items for Mary Hall Freedom House and North Fulton Community Charities. In January we collected wish list items for Klaretta Young's Kindergarten class. Klaretta, a former recipient of a North Fulton Branch scholarship, is currently a member of our Scholarship Committee.

Our web site is <http://northfulton-ga.aauw.net>. We also have a Facebook group: AAUW North Fulton GA Branch. If you are on Facebook, please "like" us, as well as the group: AAUW Book Fair.

Rome Branch

The membership in Rome continues to promote membership and community involvement in Floyd County.

Valdosta Branch

At the Sister-to-Sister Summit hosted by the AAUW Valdosta Branch, girls of middle-school ages come together each year for a day of mentoring, learning, and socializing. Sister-to-Sister is recognized by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) as an event to bring girls together “in an energizing and supportive environment to address the challenging issues of adolescence . . . and empower them to make positive choices in their lives.” Find out more at <http://valdosta-ga.aauw.net/> (click on the Sister-to-Sister tab).

AAUW's *Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America* poll showed that in adolescence, girls experience a dramatic drop in self-esteem and lose the confident, strong voices they once had. At the Sister-to-Sister Summits, girls will have opportunities to speak out and be heard.

The AAUW invites you to join girls from the South Georgia area at the Sister-to-Sister Summit on **March 7, 2015**. We welcome girls of all races, ethnicities, national origins, religions, and abilities to come together for this event.

Nominated Officers: Georgia AAUW 2015-2017



Yetta McMillan

Austell, GA

Co-President

Please take time to read Yetta's bio and learn of her qualifications to serve as co-president of Georgia AAUW.

My name is Yetta Harvey McMillan and I am a native of the great peach state of Georgia. I was born in Fort Valley, Georgia, but my family moved to Chicago, Illinois shortly after my birth for employment. They then moved to Washington, D.C. for a few years. Eventually we moved back to South Georgia. At the age of nine we landed in the Atlanta metro area. I am the daughter of two retired educators. My Mother was a Media Specialist on the college level and in the public school system. My Father is a retired high school counselor with over 40 years of service. I have one younger sister, and the love of my life is my husband Elridge McMillan, III.

Professionally, I am presently a Complex Project Billing Specialist for a Fortune 500 telecommunications company. I have been with them for over 15 years. Prior to telecom I worked in television as a Television Producer. I have worked for WSB-TV (Atlanta), The Weather Channel (Atlanta), WJLA-TV (Washington, D.C.), and others. I am an alumnus of Clark Atlanta University where I majored in Mass Communications/Broadcast Management.

My life's passion is community service. I grew up in the United Methodist Church where community service was a priority. I have serviced as President of UMW, Chair of the Single's Ministry, Youth Counselor, and the lists goes on and on. I have been part of several mission trips. My most memorable was my trip to Zimbabwe Africa through the United Methodist Church. Our mission was to construct a high school and provide supplies for the students. I am a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. which consists of over 230,000 members globally. Last but certainly not least, I have been a member of The American Association of University Women (AAUW) since 2011 in the Cobb Branch. I am currently the Vice President of Membership, and I have served as Treasurer for two years prior.



Mary Lynn Merkle

Atlanta, GA

Treasurer

Please take time to read Mary Lynn's bio and learn of her qualifications to serve a second term as treasurer of Georgia AAUW.

My history with AAUW is long. It started when I was a high school senior and received a college scholarship.

My first branch was in Bay City, Michigan in the mid 60's. In the 70's I was a branch member in Shippensburg, PA, and a Topic Chair (remember those?) After a hiatus (teaching and mothering simultaneously) I again joined the Bay City branch where I served as program vice-president and then president. I also served as Diversity Chair on the AAUW of Michigan board.

And now I've been in Atlanta Branch for 10 years, 9 of those years on the branch board - as program vice-president, president and currently philanthropy chair. I'm currently serving as treasurer of AAUW of GA and have "re-upped" for another two year term.

AAUW has continued to be my volunteer organization of choice for many years.

I believe in what we do, and I love doing it.

Education: BA –Albion College, Albion Michigan, History and Elementary Ed.

MA—Michigan State University, Special Education

Supervisory Certification (Pennsylvania), Special Education

Work: 3 years in elementary education (kindergarten and 1st grade)

18 years in special education, 17 years of those at the high school level

Still volunteering---in my grandson's 3rd grade classroom

Family: Husband, Dale, college professor of elementary science education and educational research, Shippensburg University, PA

Georgia AAUW State Convention April 25, 2015

**Hilton Garden Inn at Kennesaw
895 Cobb Place Blvd. Kennesaw, GA 30144
678-322-1140**

Exit 269 (Barrett Pky.) from I-75, go west, turn right onto Cobb Place Blvd.

Room reservations for Friday, April 24 are available at \$115.00 plus tax for a king or double queen room. Make your reservations by Friday April 10. After this date reservations will be accepted on a space and rate availability basis only.

Friday, April 24

The Cobb County Branch invites all GA AAUW members to a reception in the courtyard at the Hilton Garden Inn from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Saturday, April 25

Registration and breakfast from 8:00 to 9:00 AM

Program speakers:

Lisa Maatz, AAUW Vice President of Government Relations

Carmita McCall, Grant recipient from VSU

Panel of AAUW student members

The **Registration fee of \$40** includes a continental breakfast and a lunch buffet.

The registration deadline is Friday, April 17.

Attendance numbers need to be provided no later than **April 17**, so plan to register early.

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

Diane Sakmar
33 Ranger Road, Cartersville, GA 30121-5296
770-843-0886

Registration form for Saturday, April 25

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

BRANCH _____

MEMBER/CHAIR/OFFICER _____



Now that Georgia AAUW recognizes the One Member One Vote process, an electronic ballot will be provided by Survey Monkey e-mail by the second week of March and must be received by **April 10th** for you to submit your individual vote for the selected slate of officers for the 2015-2017 term as provided by the Nominating Committee. BIOS are available in the *Cherokee Rose* and on the Georgia AAUW website, <http://aauw-ga.aauw.net/>. Also, a proposed bylaws change is submitted to the membership for a vote.

Co-President: YETTA McMILLAN

APPROVED

Treasurer: MARY LYNN MERRETT

APPROVED

Proposed Changes to Georgia AAUW By-Laws

Article IX. Nominations

Section 1. There shall be a nominating committee of five members, three of whom shall be elected at the annual convention. Two shall be elected by the board of directors at the first board meeting of the fiscal year, one of whom shall be elected to serve as chair of the committee.

Change to: There shall be a nominating committee of three members, two of whom shall be appointed at the annual convention. One shall be appointed by the board of directors at the first board meeting of the fiscal year and serve as chair of the committee.

YES

NO