

Cherokee Rose Newsletter



March 2016

Spring Awakenings



The state convention will be held the weekend of April 15th, 16th hosted by the Houston-Peach Branch in Warner Robins. The branch will host a reception Friday evening, April 15th at the Hampton Inn on Watson Blvd (convention hotel and meeting place.) On Saturday, April 16th, 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.

Plan to attend; it should be a great convention!

We will have a dynamic guest speaker, Dr. Juanita Johnson-Bailey, Director of the Institute for Women's Studies at UGA. She is the 2015 recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award and was a keynote speaker at the San Diego National Convention.



A member of AAUW National Board of Directors will also be joining us as a guest speaker. Janet Bunger is the Vice Chair of Finance on the Board of Directors. This will be a great opportunity to learn, interact and ask questions about AAUW projects, plans, finance and philanthropy.



AROUND GEORGIA:

Here are some spring updates from some of the Georgia branches to highlight activities, community involvement and AAUW mission-based programs. At state convention there will also be an opportunity for branches to share news about programs and community activities.

ATLANTA BRANCH

In addition to AAUW mission based programs, Atlanta Branch recently hosted a C/U partner meeting at Neman Marcus on February 26th. This meeting provides a networking opportunity for partner institutions to share and learn about AAUW activities on campus and advances in programs supporting equity for women and girls. Attendees also learned about AAUW scholarships and Educational Fund philanthropy that provides necessary funds for education goals to deserving non-traditional students.

Atlanta Branch would also like to let students know that an important annual conference will be taking place in Atlanta this summer.

On **June 21, 2016**, the Judson Women's Leadership Conference will take place at the World Congress Center in downtown Atlanta. This nonprofit organization provides students an avenue for leadership training and networking at this event.

The conference is free for college students who register **before March 30th**.

For additional information please go to the website: <http://www.jcifoundation.org/>

CARTERSVILLE-BARTOW BRANCH

The Cartersville-Bartow branch has been focusing on two areas: our 8th grade Women in STEM group and the growing student AAUW group at Georgia Highlands College. In December we organized a mini-workshop on 3-D printing for the middle school girls, which came about as a result of networking at the Atlanta Maker Faire in October. On January 19 we sponsored a trip for the girls to MODA, the Museum of Design Atlanta, to see an impressive expo on 3-D printing. The teacher of this group of girls will be moving up to the high school with them next year to serve as coordinator of the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University joint enrollment program, and we look forward to future opportunities to work with them on STEM activities.





The Georgia Highlands student group held a voter registration drive on January 21, registering over 30 new voters. In February they participated in a campus-wide display of student organizations and later hosted a separate meet-and-greet, which netted a dozen sign-ups, including two officer volunteers (“AAUW Wants to Buy You Lunch!” was clearly a good marketing approach!). On March 17 the group will host a screening of the suffrage film *Iron Jawed Angels*, and on March 21, a panel discussion on Sheryl Sandberg’s *Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead*. GHC faculty advisor and AAUW member Connie Watjen has invited several faculty members, male and female, and several students to participate on the panel. The timing couldn’t be better in light of the March 31 release of AAUW research on *Barriers and Bias: the Status of Women in Leadership*.

The University of West Georgia may well be the next Georgia institution to boast a student AAUW presence on campus. Dr. Caroline Perjessy, Assistant Professor of Counselor Education, and Jamie Brown, UWG grant writer, have been awarded an AAUW CAP grant. Their Campus Action Project will bring high school girls from area schools to the UWG campus on April 15 for a one day program on the college experience, with admissions counselors from a variety of colleges and STEM career speakers. A group of UWG students, the nucleus of an AAUW student group, have been involved in planning the program.

COBB BRANCH

It’s hard to believe the 2015-2016 year for AAUW Cobb is coming to a close in just a few months. It started off busy in September with a general meeting and the annual Bookfair and the momentum didn’t change.



October’s Wine Tasting Event was fun, but the general meeting a few days later troubled us as we learned from Elridge McMillan the status of children at risk in our public alternative schools.



November was our “Thanks for Giving” program, which honored several members for contributions both to AAUW and the Cobb community. Special thanks went to Debbie Karvey and Karen Peters for their tireless work all year long to the annual book fair, the primary fundraiser for Cobb and that of the Atlanta and North Fulton branches.



In December, we enjoyed a holiday concert and dinner to celebrate the season.

The purpose of our general meeting in January was a letter writing campaign, “Let Our Voices be Heard.” Debbie, as State Advocacy Chair, presented a program explaining the need to pass the Family Care Act. Afterwards, we wrote letters to our State Senators asking them to support passage of the legislation. We felt later that some good came from that as the Act finally got out of committee but failed to make it out of Senate Rules by Crossover Day.

Our branch donations this year to the AAUW Legal Advocacy and Education Funds were given in honor of Pam Flournoy and Rita Neal for their respective commitments to these AAUW missions

One of our goals this year was to form more collaborative ties in Cobb with non-profits having similar purpose. We sponsored the Cobb Library Foundation with a \$500 gift, worked with the League of Women Voters to get college and university students registered to vote, and in February, partnered with the YWCA in Cobb to host a public program on domestic violence and sexual assault in Cobb. On the program’s panel were representatives from law enforcement, the District Attorney’s office, Legal Aid, and the YWCA NW, which houses a crisis treatment center and a women’s shelter for survivors. Two young women, survivors of these crimes, told their poignant stories. By publicizing the existence of the shelter and the help available to victims free of charge, it is hoped that those abused will know about available resources and seek the help they need.



Our March program honored women veterans during Women’s History Month. Three women veterans told their fascinating stories of what it was like to serve in the military. Two of them are members of our branch, Amy Stevens and Bea Piddock, both Navy officer veterans, and the third a woman who was a Bronze Star recipient in the Army as paratrooper and officer and who also saw combat in the Gulf War. The stories ranged over a 50-year period, giving us an idea of what changes, positive and negative, have occurred

for women who step out of the ordinary to bravely serve our country.

Since last fall, our student chapter at Kennesaw State University has grown and the girls collaborate on campus with various other organizations on charitable projects. We are sponsoring one of these young women to attend the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in June. An annual project soon to conclude is the selection of two women who will each receive a \$2,000 scholarship to a Cobb County college or university. In tandem with that project is our 8th Grade Essay Contest. The essays are rolling in now, so it will be a busy finale for the year to select three winners who will receive cash prizes for their work.

It has been a productive year, but we still need to grow in membership and increase activism if we are to truly make positive change in the lives of women. It will be essential next year to grow and extend the certainty that we can make a difference, no matter what our age or circumstance. What the future holds, no one knows, especially in this presidential election year. I think we can all agree that the outcome is important to the progress and quality of life for all women, their families, and to the future of our country.

HOUSTON-PEACH BRANCH

Branch leaders and members have been busy preparing to host AAUW of Georgia State Convention in Warner Robins. The membership will host a reception at the Hampton Inn on Friday evening, April 15th. We'll learn more about the branch activities during convention program and business meeting on Saturday, April 16th. Big thanks to Houston-Peach for inviting us to central Georgia and the opportunity to gather with friends and colleagues and learn from each other.

MILLEDGEVILLE BRANCH

The Milledgeville Branch is continuing to build membership and community involvement through open membership meetings and an active presence on social media. With the help of Georgia College student Mary Henderson, we will soon begin an online series of 'Amazing Milledgeville Women': a collection of interviews with remarkable Milledgeville Women.



We are also excited about the continued collaboration with Georgia College in offering free Start Smart Salary Negotiation Workshops to our community.

With the elections around the corner, the branch has also begun planning a community-based campaign with the help of AAUW's Woman-To-Woman Voter Turnout Manual. Plans to promote voter education through voter guides and issue forums are actively in the works.

As the academic year rolls to an end, our branch is planning on finishing strong with continued membership growth and a focus on strong and successful programming. [

VALDOSTA BRANCH

March 5, 2016, at the Valdosta State University Education Center

8:30-9:15	Registration and breakfast snacks (Lobby of the VSU Education Center)
9:15-9:30	Welcome Remarks (Auditorium)
9:30-9:50	Salsa Dance Demonstration (Juan Chowkay)
9:50-10:00	Break-out session assignments and restroom break
10:00-12:30	Break-out Sessions – Education Center Groups will rotate through three sessions by COLOR CODES in these time slots: 10:00-10:50 10:55-11:40 11:45-12:30
Room 2156 Red-Yellow-Green	Session A: Unique Mind and Body: #Why Unique is on Fleek Facilitators: Quiana Martinez and (SSW student)(s)
Room 2160 Yellow-Green-Red	Session B: Unique Soul and Spirit: #Ways to Your Selfie Facilitators: Quiana Jones and (SSW student)(s)
Room 2137 Green-Red-Yellow	Session C: Being YOU Online – Safety Tips Facilitators: Shelia Hall and (SSW student)(s)
12:30-1:30	Reynerters: Diana Acosta and Deborah Bailey Hallway
1:00-1:30	Buffet Lunch and Open Microphone
1:30-2:00	Photo session Assign groups to campus guides and depart for Nevins Hall
2:00-4:00	STM Sessions – Nevins Building
Room 3006	FilmScreening Show (Martha Laske)
Room 3012	International panel (Mariya Chokir, Afkar Ezzakhen, Yulia Polivanov, Norah Alkawasiri. Moderator: Christine James)
Room 3014	Cell Phone Safety (Taylor O'Neal and colleague from The Hayes)
Room 3015	Financial Tips (Keray Yarbrough and colleague from Bank of America)
4:00-4:30	Return to Education Center and afternoon snack
4:30-5:00	Thank you notes and closing Open Microphone

For many years the Valdosta Branch has hosted a Sister to Sister Summit on campus.

Here are some images and agenda from this March event. We look forward to learning more about this tradition.



During state convention in April, we look forward to all Georgia Branches sharing updates about programs and events together.
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 242)**. Having not worked with the Senate for a while, the group was very encouraged when the bill was passed out of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. This was important validation of the combined efforts of these groups. Although the bill failed to make it out of the Senate Rules Committee before Crossover Day, we are ready for the next round.

Activists are still concerned about the **Religious Freedom Act (HB 757)** passed out of House and Senate with multiple changes along the way. Many are waiting to see what the final outcome of this discriminatory legislation will be.

After sitting through 3 ½ hours of testimony from 40 people representing university administration and faculty, students, families and concerned citizens at the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the **Campus Carry Bill (HB 859)** ... I was impressed by the statements made by opponents to this bill. Still the Georgia House and Senate passed this bill. KSU students have started an online petition to repeal this bill.

SB 8 was the focus on DMST Lobby Day (Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking) with sponsor Senator Rene Unterman championing the bill to change sex trafficking from a misdemeanor to a felony in Georgia.

NOTE: On the Presidential/General Election November Ballot there is an important initiative to vote **YES** to ratify **SR 7** to provide funding for services to survivors of child sex trafficking (Safe Harbor bill).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

- Co-President 2016-2018
- Communications Officer (2016-2018)

Great News to Share:

Plan Your Future in Engineering and Computer Science Event

University of West Georgia

Carrollton, Georgia



The goal of this project is to empower and educate young women about the possibilities and realities of pursuing a doctoral degree.

College Girls Rock, a student-led campus group from the University of West Georgia, identified a need to educate college-bound women

interested in computing and engineering. The university is located in a rural community about 50 miles outside of Atlanta, which has several world-class computing and engineering university programs. The CAP team decided to maximize on their proximity to these schools with a project to inspire young women to pursue STEM fields.

The team will invite women doctoral candidates from Atlanta area schools to their event, Plan Your Future in Engineering and Computer Science. At the event, high school girls can meet local graduate admissions, housing, and career services representatives. A panel of women pursuing doctoral degrees in STEM fields will provide their perspective on work-life balance and the challenges they overcame to pursue their doctorates and academic positions.

Georgia AAUW State Convention April 16, 2016

**Hampton Inn Warner Robins
4000 Watson Blvd., Warner Robins GA 31093
478 953-9443**

Exit 146 (Watson Blvd, Connector 247) from I-75, go east, turn left onto N. Willie Lee Pkwy

Room reservations for Friday, April 15 are available at **\$112.00** plus tax for a King or Double-Queen room. Make your reservations by **Friday, April 1**. After this date Reservations will be accepted on a space and rate availability basis only.

Friday, April 15

The Houston-Peach Branch invites all GA AAUW members to a reception in the Hospitality Suite at the

Hampton Inn ... from 5:00 PM until????

Saturday, April 16

Breakfast at hotel is for Registered Guests Only.

Breakfast on your own is the option for other attendees.

(McDonald's, Dunkin' Donuts, and Starbucks (inside Kroger) are close by
Registration from 8-9 AM

Program speakers:

Janet Bunger, Finance Vice Chair AAUW Board of Directors

Dr. Juanita Johnson-Bailey, 2015 Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Awardee and
Director of the Institute for Women's Studies at the University of Georgia

The **Registration fee of \$40** includes a hot lunch buffet, to include
Beef tips and rice, and turkey and
Dressing and all the fixings!

Attendance numbers need to be provided no later than **April 8**, so plan to register early.

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

Marlene Humphry

141 Majestic Oak Circle, Byron GA 31008

478 918-3666 / mhumphry@cox.net

Registration form for Saturday, April 16

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

BRANCH _____ MEMBER/CHAIR/OFFICER _____