



October 2014 Newsletter

DELTA AIR MUSEUM

On September 23rd, AAUW of Georgia members participated in a unique inaugural event at the Delta Air Museum. Presented by the YWCA of Greater Atlanta, "It's Time to Talk: a Forum on Race" provided over 600 people the opportunity to talk about race within a structure of diversity and openness.

An acting troupe presented a scenario with 5 people representative of our diverse population stuck together on an elevator, as a building is being evacuated. The tension of the interactions reveals multiple facets of bias, bigotry and prejudice.

Using this scenario as a touchstone, facilitators at each table of 10 led a discussion sharing individual experiences and perspectives speaking to the impact of race in everyday life.

Everyone left understanding this is a good start and an opportunity to generate discussions, awareness and programs. The idea that we can make a future where equity partnered with diversity generates respect and value for each individual is the call to action.

Each one of us has a story and each one of us needs to care enough to stand with and not against each other.

AAUW of Georgia, AAUW of Cobb County and AAUW of Atlanta were contributing sponsors for this event. YWCA of Greater Atlanta Advocacy Group will continue to focus on this issue ... we will update as information and opportunities are made available to participate and to contribute.



Attending the event were (left to right):
Marie Shockley, Bea Piddock, Myra Carmon, Debbie Karvey, Arden Stone and our guest, Cindia Cameron of 9to5.

ATLANTA AREA BOOK FAIR



During the last week of September, The AAUW Atlanta 2014 Book Fair found three metro area branches (Atlanta, Cobb and North Fulton) collaborating on another successful fundraiser for scholarships, community projects and AAUW philanthropy. The Atlanta Branch started this fundraising tradition 55 years ago and over time the book sale became such a large undertaking, that North Fulton Branch and Cobb County Branch volunteers joined Atlanta Branch members in the effort.

Held at Perimeter Mall in Dunwoody the last week of September, the book sale draws local as well as out-of- state residents, book dealers and collectors. Approximately 50 tables and 35 bookcases are set up to display 75,000 gently used books at great prices. Opening night on Monday, September 22nd was typically busy with lots of eager collectors and dealers very intent upon finding the best books and the best deals. The sale continued Tuesday through Sunday during mall hours. Volunteers during the sale are so greatly appreciated and we could not do it without them. There will be a celebration event in November for all volunteers to share stories, suggestions and recognition of a job well done.

Cartersville-Bartow Branch recently held their annual book sale during the Rose Lawn Arts Festival in September and the Houston Peach Branch is getting ready for their 49th book fair October 23rd through the 25th in Warner-Robins.

With many volunteer hours and lots of hard work devoted to these annual book sales, it seems a natural fit for AAUW to promote reading, education and life-long learning through books. We thank our patrons and customers and supporters for their shared love of books and contributions to educational opportunities that open doors for so many deserving students that will truly make a difference for our future.

CARTERSVILLE-BARTOW BRANCH BOOK SALE

Annual book sale at the Rose Lawn Arts Festival, weekend of September 20-21. Three recent scholarship recipients are holding books during the book sale. One is now a new member and STEM Chair for the branch. All these scholarship awardees worked long and hard at the sale. Two Cartersville-Bartow members sporting our new AAUW book sale T-shirts.



COBB COUNTY MEETING WITH KSU GUESTS

On Tuesday, October 14th, Cobb AAUW hosted a special program with guests from Kennesaw State University. Sharing a profile of today's female college students were Dr. Gail Scott, KSU Psychology Professor and AAUW Faculty Advisor and three of her psychology students, Torre, Jessica and Simone, members of AAUW Student Chapter at KSU. The meeting was held at the East Cobb Government Center. The program began at 7:30 PM, following refreshments and social time. Also attending from local area branches were Diane Sakmar (GA AAUW State Co-President from Cartersville Branch), Diana Witt (GA AAUW C/U Coordinator), Myra Carmon (Atlanta Branch President) and Betty Slater (Atlanta Branch C/U Coordinator.) Members and guests were full of questions and our KSU guests were eager to raise awareness and share resources and learn from each other.

With Kennesaw State University's merger with Southern Polytechnic State University, KSU is now the second largest school in Georgia with a total student body of 33,000. The majority of students are full time and KSU has the distinction of having the highest number of transfer students on than any other school in Georgia. With such a bustling campus full of classes, activities and multiple organizations, focus is the key partnered with good study skills to realize success in academic pursuits. Today's female college students perform an amazing juggling act, as exemplified by our guests. Forging a career path based on academic excellence is the core of commitment for these students, who also serve as research assistants, student mentors and community service volunteers ... and these students also have jobs.



Pictured, left to right are: Simone, Yetta McMillan, Debbie Karvey, Torre, Jessica, Dr. Scott and Nancy Coakley.



Minutes: Georgia AAUW State Fall Board Meeting September 6, 2014

The Meeting was called to order at 9:25 AM by Georgia AAUW Co-President, Bea Piddock.

INTRODUCTIONS/QUORUM

Bea Piddock (Cobb County) started the meeting with a round of introductions, with each attendee stating name, branch and leadership position.

With branch representation (8 of 9) a quorum was declared for the meeting.

- Atlanta
- Cartersville
- Cobb
- Columbus
- Houston-Peach
- N. Fulton
- Rome
- Valdosta
- *Absent: Macon.*

MINUTES

Reader-approved Minutes from the March 29, 2014 Georgia AAUW Spring Convention business meeting were provided to all attendees.

As there were no additional corrections the minutes were accepted as approved.

WORKING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Carrie Smith (Houston Peach), Georgia AAUW Bylaws Chair provided a draft to all attendees of proposed changes to the Working Policies and Procedures.

The most recent amendments to the Georgia AAUW Working Policies and Procedures, now referred to as WPP, were dated October 22, 2011.

All participants were provided with existing WPP as a point of comparison.

Carrie Smith detailed the recommended changes section by section, accepting additional requests for changes to provide consistency in structure and terminology.

Faye McCord (Cartersville) moved to approve the changes as corrected and was seconded by Marlene Humphry (Houston-Peach). All present approved.

An electronic copy will be made available online once the WPP is updated with the approved changes.

NOTE: *The change from 5 members to 3 members for a nominating committee is a Bylaws change that will need to be submitted for approval by the membership at the 2015 Spring Convention.*

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Laurie Shaw (Houston-Peach), Georgia AAUW Membership Chair, presented a report on current branch membership rosters and encouraged all branches to be timely in submitting dues.

Laurie suggested that branches submit member dues at least once a month.

A follow-up discussion provided information about a lag time with processing payments by national and the discrepancies that result between national roster member dues paid and branch maintained member dues paid.

A November 30th deadline established by national is the cutoff date affecting the branch membership February 1st count, used by national for branch and state recognitions each year.

A discussion of the advantage to participating in the MPP (Member Payment Plan / online dues process) followed, with Cobb County Branch currently the only Georgia branch utilizing that format. Yetta McMillan, former treasurer for Cobb Branch, stated that a recent change to the MPP process allows the branch to retain branch dues and only submit payment for national and state dues.

Laurie reiterated her suggestion to be timely in submitting dues payment.

MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVE

Char Singleton, AAUW Regional Field Representative's PowerPoint presentation explained the shift in focus to membership as her new directive

Last year Char was an invaluable mentor and contributor to implementing Georgia Public Policy initiatives, coalition building activities and AAUW Lobby Day at the Capitol. This year, state organizers are focusing on membership sustainability and recruitment. Char provided some very real numbers forecasting reduced branch membership for Georgia.

- 2011 branch membership = 300
- 2014 branch membership = 250
- 2017 branch membership = 200

A membership survey was distributed to assess branch perceptions on membership recruitment priorities and activities.

Working together branches in Georgia can implement methods to gear up a new outreach for potential members, as well as maintaining current membership.

Char is ready to help those branches that request recruitment assistance, with a goal to have at least 5 recruitment events across the state.

Participants commented on the challenge of attracting younger members and branch culture.

With younger, professional members ... if dues are part of the picture then the branch needs to give them a stake, a reason to join. Lots of ideas were expressed and Char challenged all to be an AAUW ambassador.

The question was raised about how national advertises to recruit new members and how it markets the brand. It was suggested that assistance could be requested from the marketing team for branch recruitment ideas or help.

Char completed her presentation and distributed business cards to emphasize her readiness to help.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENT GROUPS

Diana Witt (Atlanta) Georgia AAUW C/U Chair updated the board on current C/U stats and initiatives.

In order to encourage student participation, Diana referred to AAUW Leadership Conference and the opportunity to piggy back this program at Spring Convention. Previously having followed up with the possibility of a branch in Peachtree City, which was not successful, she also mentioned the possibility of new branches being formed in the demographic between the airport and Macon.

Lapsed C/U partners were reported (some had changed names or merged).

Faye McCord (Cartersville) reported the difficulty the branch leaders encountered in communicating and propelling students at Georgia Highlands College to commit to the formation of a chapter on campus.

The annual C/U Partner fee was also discussed as an ongoing commitment for institutions and a frequent challenge to push for that to happen each year.

A recent blast spoke of a student webinar available on September 17th, as well as the September 28th deadline to register for an "Elect Her" Training.

Recently, national has been advertising and searching for students to become members of the National Student Advisory Board. This is touted as a service credential kudos for any student looking towards recognition and advancement opportunities.

In Georgia there are 4 AAUW Grantees/Fellowships. Specifically mentioned was Carmita McCall, Valdosta State University, Public Administration with a focus in STEM. Other schools with AAUW grants or fellowships are Emory, University of Georgia and Georgia State University.

With plans for Spring Convention in development, to have an AAUW Fellow possibly present a program at the event would be incredible.

Branches of course are encouraged to continue to sponsor students for NCCWSL.

NOTE: *Bea Pidcock asked Nancy Coakley (Cobb County) to announce an upcoming event. AAUW of Cobb County's October 14th Branch Program at the East Cobb Government Center will have Dr. Gail Scott, KSU Psychology Department and AAUW Faculty advisor present: A Profile of Female College Students. AAUW members are invited to attend.*

FINANCE

Mary Lynn Merkle (Atlanta) Georgia AAUW Finance Officer presented the proposed 2014-2015 budget.

Mary Lynn pointed out that some line items of expenditures had been reduced to keep income and expenses at a more practical level.

Mary Lynn also stated that public policy amount allocated in the budget remains the same while contributions to a new relationship are cautiously monitored. This caution is based on waiting to see what the impact will be of the transition of GWFAC (Georgia Women for a Change – who annually hosted the Women's General Assembly in the fall each year) to YWCA of Greater Atlanta Public Policy Group.

A key expenditure reduced in the budget was national convention allotment for state co-presidents. This amount has been reduced to \$1000 per person from \$1500 per person. With no further suggestions or comments, Mary Lynn Merkle (Atlanta) moved that the budget be accepted as presented and seconded by Faye McCord (Cartersville).

The budget was approved by the board.

PUBLIC POLICY

Debbie Karvey (Cobb County) Georgia AAUW Public Policy Chair presented 2015 State Public Policy goals, with focus on three specific issues:

- Family Care Act
- Pay Equity
- Human Trafficking.

With a PowerPoint presentation developed by Char Singleton (AAUW Regional Field Representative) in collaboration with AAUW National, the focus was on commitment to advocacy through action.

With a detailed look at Direct Lobbying while specifically examining in-district meetings as an invaluable tool, the attendees participated in an exercise creating an elevator speech and shared some of the results. It was a very interactive session.

State public policy goals are:

- 3 policy-centered activities (candidate forum – Atlanta in development)
- 4 in-district meetings (in-district meeting scheduled - Cartersville)
- 5 branches engaged in public policy work
- 3 allied organizations participate in lobby day (already on the radar)

The presentation concluded with all encouraged to complete the public policy survey to assess areas of interest for the branches in meeting these state goals.

Char Singleton and Debbie Karvey will submit electronic copies of the Georgia AAUW Policy Tool Kit and Speaking to Elected Officials PowerPoint to Branch Leaders, in response to requests from the board members.

AAUW

FUNDS

Marlene Humphry (Houston-Peach) presented the most recent AAUW report for funds contribution from Georgia State and Georgia Branches.

Approximately \$18,000.00 has been contributed so far from Georgia members and branches.

Marlene reminded branch leadership that all contributions must be in by the end of the year, with a separate report to her from the branch.

Branch AAUW Funds contribution reports are needed to track and compare contributions as reported by national.

COMMUNICATIONS

Deb Van Petten (Valdosta) *Cherokee Rose* editor advised that the *Cherokee Rose* had been submitted in July.

Georgia AAUW Communications Officer, Debbie Karvey, did not exercise proper oversight in following up.

It became apparent at the board meeting that multiple misunderstandings and errors had occurred causing the publication to not be submitted to the membership.

That will be corrected as soon as possible.

Char Singleton (AAUW Regional Field Representative) and Debbie Karvey (Cobb County) Georgia AAUW Communications Officer will submit the *Cherokee Rose* for publication through the AAUW SALSA format. Branch leadership will be advised when this is made available.

In relation to *Cherokee Rose*, Deb Van Petten is asking branches for a list of those members needing USPS delivery of the publication and is aware that funds have been allocated in the budget for costs specific to the *Cherokee Rose*.

Also brought before the board members was the plan to have the Georgia AAUW website start to post branch calendar events and meetings, as well as news stories and reports of branch activities and fundraisers.

It is hoped that a process can be developed to have branches submit information for posting on the state website on a more frequent basis.

Even though the information may be redundant to what is already posted on branch websites, it will be useful to users and visitors to the state website to be able to look at information displayed at the state level rather than having to search each branch individually.

Debbie Karvey will send out a follow up e-mail with details about what will be needed to successfully add this feature to the state website.

The *Cherokee Rose* will continue to be a semi-annual publication in addition to these regular announcements and articles on the GA AAUW website.

OTHER BUSINESS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At 2014 Spring Convention, 3 members volunteered for the Nominating Committee:

- Marlene Humphry (Houston-Peach)
- Regina Scruggs (Valdosta)
- Kay Collins (Atlanta)

Bea Piddock called for 2 additional volunteers. Volunteers are:

- Yetta McMillan (Cobb)
- Kristen Sheely (Rome)

Bea advised that the committee get together before leaving the meeting to touch base. She advised that Co-President and Treasurer are the 2 positions that will need to be filled for the 2015 election cycle and that the committee has 4 months to coordinate and present nominees. (Those names will be posted in the next edition of the *Cherokee Rose* ... before the spring convention.)

READERS

Volunteer Readers for the Fall Board Meeting Minutes are:

- Myra Carmon (Atlanta)
- Deb Van Petten (Valdosta)
- Nilsa Summey (Columbus)

SPRING CONVENTION

Bea Piddock has recommended April 25th as the date for the 2015 convention.

Valdosta is scheduled to have a membership meeting this month and Laurie Shaw (GA AAUW Membership Chair) has volunteered to attend the meeting to help branch leadership encourage the members to agree to host the 2015 Spring Convention.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bea Piddock (Cobb County) Georgia AAUW Co-President reminds all branches to submit affiliate agreements to national, which are due by October 15th.

To remain 'official' these agreements need to be submitted to AAUW national office.

Diane Sakmar (Cartersville) Georgia AAUW Co-President distributed a list of topics to attendees.

For Spring Conventions, AAUW's speaker program enables national officers and staff to present featured programs at state conventions.

Board members in attendance were asked to select 3 topics from the list.

With this accumulated information, Diane will be able to relay to AAUW potential topics for national guest speakers.

ADJOURNED

There were no further updates or announcements, so the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM by Bea Piddock, moved and seconded by Faye McCord (Cartersville) and Marlene Humphry (Houston-Peach,) respectively.

Respectfully submitted:

Debbie Karvey

Georgia AAUW Communications Officer

September 6, 2014

Readers:

Myra Carmon

Deb Van Petten

Nilsa Summey