

## **AAUW Tar Heel Branch – Annual Report (March 2015)**

### **Introduction**

This Board of Directors has not been as active as others. Several have had personal issues of health, family, or new jobs that take time away from AAUW. In October Michelle Evans the President had to resign. We are sorry that she could not continue and hope we will have her talents at another time. Thank you Michelle for your effort and we all look forward to working with you in the future.

It was not until January with the help of Virginia Adamson that the board started to really work again as a team and we plan to continue our efforts through June. Christi Whitworth and Lill Van Order are interim co-presidents; Lyndee Champion Ivey will finish her term as treasurer. Karla Atkinson is working on publicity and public policy, Diane Schneider on programs and finance, Chesney Reich on College/ University Connections. Christi Whitworth will continue with her STEM work and Lill Van Order will continue with the membership aspect. Nancy Shoemaker has been so valuable in many aspects, finance, membership and website, not to mention moral support. We thank Nancy and all the board members for their commitment to the branch.

This annual report is contributed to and compiled by the Board of Directors of the Tar Heel Branch. There are items here that are also covered in the March 2015 AAUW NC Annual Meeting. The numbers after a report refer to the references at the end of the report that are on the website and will give more details than are here.

### **Results of the Ballot [1]**

Though all the voting has not been completed, at the writing of this report quite a few have voted and a majority of those that have voted are in agreement. We want all to have a chance to vote, but would like to close the vote by the annual meeting. The members that have agreed to run for the FY 16 are: Lill Van Order for President and Nancy Shoemaker for Treasurer. Karla Atkinson Diane Schneider, and Christi Whitworth agreed to continue on the Board of Directors. Virginia Adamson and Jacquelin Heath are joining the board. Our thanks to the 2015 Nominating Committee: Christi Whitworth (Chair), Virginia Adamson, and Nancy Shoemaker.

Again, our thanks to Chesney Reich, Michelle Evans and Lyndee Champion Ivey for their work for AAUW and the Tar Heel Branch

### **Membership (2)**

This year was a challenging year for retention and recruitment, part of the situation is the type of branch we are. The disconnect of our geographic distribution has its pluses and minuses. However we have 95 members as of Feb. 1 and about half are

dual members. Without the local contact it is the job of all of us to recruit as best we can, thank you for all who have helped in this endeavor. If you see an opportunity for recruiting on campus or in your community, please speak up. The emphasis of a virtual branch with a different type of focus might appeal to many people.

This year we have continued the policy we've used for the last couple of years: Primary members, who value AAUW but are facing financial hardship, may renew at less than full dues (\$65) by sending a note with their check of at least \$20. This has worked well for several members who believe in the mission and want to be part of our work of equality for women and girls.

### **Finances [3]**

Branch finances are in good shape. Although the board has not officially passed the budget we have used it as a guideline. With our dues being \$5 we do not accumulate large funds. Monies are used to discount dues for primary members and support events in coalition with other organizations and branches. The treasurer, Lyndee Champion Ivey has been working with Diane Schneider (BOD member) and Nancy Shoemaker (treasurer elect, and past president of the branch) these last few weeks and this "financial committee" will continue through June 2015.

### **Projects and Programs**

#### **Programs**

Actual programs are mainly the THB Annual Meetings held Saturday morning of the AAUW NC Annual Meeting prior to the business meeting of AAUW NC. Other meetings might occur in regions around the area where THB members are working together with another organization at an event. Members of branch have worked at some of the projects mentioned in this report.

#### **Public Policy (Karla Atkinson)(4)**

The AAUW NC has decided on these topics as the Public Policy Priorities to monitor and act on from the General Assembly of NC.

##### **Economic Self Sufficiency**

- **Raise the minimum wage**
- **Close the gender pay gap**

##### **Education**

- **Increase support for quality, locally governed public education**
- **Promote educational opportunities for girls and women**

##### **Health Care**

- **Expand Medicaid**

What remains in place from the pilot design of the AAUW NC PP advocacy plan is the opportunity for branch members sign up on one or both “notification” email lists. THB members can get timely background information on legislative issues by subscribing to [ppinfo@aauwnc.org](mailto:ppinfo@aauwnc.org). They can also get action bulletins/alerts, asking them to contact their legislators, by subscribing to [pp-alerts@aauwnc.org](mailto:pp-alerts@aauwnc.org). Some THB members are registered on these lists. These and other THB members continue to bring expertise to crafting position statements on legislative issues, writing letters to the editor, building coalitions, and participating in Moral Mondays.

THB members are encouraged to stay on top of AAUW priority issues as the 2015 long session continues. The CQ State Track system is accessible at <http://www.aauwnc.org/about/advocacy/status-of-bills-of-interest-to-aauw-nc>. Bookmark this site to keep informed of what’s happening on issues central to the mission of AAUW and prioritized by AAUW NC.

For more information on Public Policy check the THB website.

### **C/U Campus Connections (Chesney Reich) (5)**

Western Carolina University has “a core group of AAUW members who have been involved in a number of advocacy efforts, including initiating a comprehensive salary equity study, participating in WCU’s annual Gender Conference, facilitating a book group discussion of Sheryl Sandberg’s *Lean In*, organizing fundraising activities for local domestic violence prevention agencies, and opening a dialogue on the accessibility of affordable child care options for WCU faculty and staff.”

### **STEM**

The branch is supporting another hackathon this year with funds for a sponsorship at the March 28-29<sup>th</sup> event at NC State. This event is free to women students in or interested in the field of Computer Science. Diamond Hack, part of Pearl Hack is organizing this event. We also contributed some funds to the Triad Tech-Savvy upcoming spring event where several of the Greensboro Branch dual members will be working.

### **Board actions**

The board met by conference call once in June and recently in January and February. June was for early year planning and the January and February calls were for leadership, annual meeting preparation, and nominating committee preparation. With the guidance of Virginia Adamson a THB member who agreed to help us after Michelle Evans’ resignation from Branch President, we had several conference calls to complete these project and plan for the future of the THB. The results of the January meeting are Lill Van Order and Christi Whitworth will be interim co-presidents until June 30,2015. They, along with the current board of directors, will be responsible for the THB Annual Meeting. A nominating committee was formed, a

slate presented and elections underway. The annual meeting will be March 21, 2015.

### References:

1. Information on candidates: <http://tarheel.aauwnc.org/2014/02/28/slatefor-20142015/>

2. Membership report:

<http://site.tarheel.aauwnc.org/2015/03/09/membership-report-spring-2015>

Interim list of donors, FY14:

<http://site.tarheel.aauwnc.org/2014/03/20/thankstoourdonors/>

3. Financial report: [www.tarheel.files.wordpress.com/2015/02/fy14-tarheelbranch.pdf](http://www.tarheel.files.wordpress.com/2015/02/fy14-tarheelbranch.pdf)

<http://tarheel.aauwnc.org/2014/01/22/fy13financialreport/>

Interim report 6/1/2013/7/2014:

<http://tarheel.aauwnc.org/2014/03/07/financialreport372014/>

FY14 budget: [http://aauwtarheel.files.wordpress.com/2014/03/budgetfor-thb\\_2013to2014\\_proposed.pdf](http://aauwtarheel.files.wordpress.com/2014/03/budgetfor-thb_2013to2014_proposed.pdf)

4. Public Policy report:

5. Campus Connections report:

