



AAUW Mission: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

[Find us on the Web](#)

asheville-nc.aauw.net

and

[FACEBOOK](#)

MAY 2018

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AAUW Asheville Branch Board	
President	Wendy Haner
Pres. Elect	Rachel Sossoman
Co-VPs, Programs	Susan Gabel & Barbara Robinson
CoVPs Membership	Linda Beltran & Susan Ikerd
Treasurer	Wendy Haner
Secretary	Barbara Pressman
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Advocacy /	Anne Sayers
Public Policy	Kitty Schaller
ABTech/UNCA	Jan Huskey
GEM	Marilyn Kolton
STEM	Cindy Stephens
Publicity	Lynn Harmon
Co-SIG Coordinators	Linda Stover & Jean Toxen
Newsletter	Lynette Miller
Webmaster	Molly Keeney

From the Branch President

Wendy Haner

Dear Members,

We are pleased to announce that we have 11 new members who joined during our Shape the Future meeting in March. We want to welcome **Susan Beachum, Rebecca Bringle, Arlene Christiansen, Carol Jane Culler, Andrea De La Torre, Merrill Grindblat, Meta Laabs, Valerie Larrea, April Mace, Sharon Sandel and Barbara Von Hauzen**. Please reach out and shake their hands when you meet them at an upcoming SIG or branch meeting.

This is the month that you should renew your membership in AAUW Asheville which will allow us to continue our 111 year legacy of advocacy for women and girls. With your support we will accomplish much this year.

Our May meeting will be the last meeting for the current year. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your support for the past 2 years. You are valued members of our branch, and the AAUW branch board members are dependent on your active attendance and participation in support of our wide variety of social and activism-related events. So thank you for all that you do every day to help improved the lives of girls and women in our community.

During the summer break, the board will begin work on a strategic plan that will lay the foundation for our work over the next year. We will be evaluating our current commitments, seeking input from our membership and crafting a plan for activism that supports the fundamentals foundation of AAUW.

We have forward momentum but we still have our challenges, there is still much to accomplish as we continue to promote women 's rights for equality on all levels. Our communities are ever changing, issues for women are changing and our own lives are changing. These are all challenges that we can address through many of our initiatives: however, your commitment to involvement is vital to our overall success. No one person can accomplish everything on her own, but with a solid foundation and committed support, great things can be achieved. Together we can support and uphold the principles and goals of AAUW.

I wish you a safe and happy summer and look forward to seeing everyone again for our first event in September.

In closing, I would like thank to all of the members and volunteers who have made this year another success for the women and girls in our area. Happy Spring to all.

Wendy Haner



Ever wonder what **THE COLLIDER** is in downtown Asheville?

Join your fellow members and friends for our yearly field trip **Thursday, May 17th** beginning with **lunch at 11:30 at Pack's Tavern** followed by 1:30 gathering, tour and talk by Megan O'Connor Robinson, Executive Director at THE COLLIDER

RSVP for lunch AND/OR Collider visit by Monday, May 14

susangrabel2@gmail.com

828-505-3826

Membership Linda Beltran & Susan Ikerd

The following members joined us on March 27th, through the Shape the Future Campaign:

<p>BEACHUM, Susan 860-912-6789 Box 1131 cabinflats2@gmail.com Weaverville, NC 28786 Converse College BA History College New Rochelle MS Special Ed Columbia University MA Art Education</p> <p>Susan was referred by Jean Toxen and Lynette Miller. She and Jean Toxen are looking at starting a new SIG for hiking. She is interested in the Public Policy/Advocacy Committee and hopes to someday serve on the Board.</p>	<p>BRINGLE, Rebecca 317-201-5160 32 Clear Vista Drive rkbringle@gmail.com Asheville, NC 28805 Indiana University BA French Indiana University MSW Social Work</p> <p>Rebecca was referred to us by Barbara Griswold and is interested in volunteering for social events, newsletter, Lunch Bunch, History Study Group, and World Affairs.</p>
<p>CHRISTIANSEN, Arlene 301-807-4120 19 Hampstead Road arlenechristiansen@gmail.com Asheville, NC 28804 Wheaton College (IL) BME Music</p> <p>Barbara Pressman referred Arlene who is interested in the Lunch Bunch, Photography, and the Tea Time Book Group.</p>	<p>CULLER, Carol Jane 443-545-6522 29 Stonebridge Drive cull4now@yahoo.com Asheville, NC 28805 The Ohio State University BS Home Economics Education Michigan State University MA Family Life & Child Dev The University of Tennessee PhD Human Ecology & Ed Admin</p> <p>Carol Jane saw an article about AAUW in the Citizen Times. She's interested in GEM, Equity/Diversity, Public Policy/Advocacy (especially respective to childcare) and UNCA.</p>
<p>Check It Out.... AAUW ASHEVILLE DIRECTORY ONLINE</p>	
<p>DE LA TORRE, Andrea 828-676-8654 (C) 6 Wisteria Drive 828-552-3047 (H) Asheville, NC 28804 adelator75@gmail.com Drexel University BA BS Business Admin Drexel Univeristy MBA Finance & Int'l Business</p> <p>Andrea is interested in Programs/Projects, Equity/Diversity, Public Policy/Advocacy, STEM and UNCA.</p>	<p>GRINBLAT, Merrill 954-292-2374 102 Mountain Meadow Circle merrillgrinblat@aol.com Weaverville, NC 28787 Nova Southeastern University BS Business</p> <p>Merrill was referred by Barbara Pressman and is just now exploring how she will participate in our Branch.</p>

Membership Linda Beltran & Susan Ikerd

The following members joined us on March 27th, through the Shape the Future Campaign: (continued)

<p>LAABS, Meta (DOB 9/4) 901-210-3404 84 Chantilly Drive metalaabs@gmail.com Asheville, NC 28804 Vanderbilt University BA Math Indiana University MBA Finance Christine Dowd referred Meta who is interested in volunteering for the Directory, Equity/Diversity, and UNCA</p>	<p>LARREA, Valerie 828-335-0636 703 Crowfields Lane Valerie.larrea@gmail.com Asheville, NC 28803 New York University BA Art History Molly Keeney referred Valerie who is just now exploring our branch.</p>
<p>MACE, April 828-206-9929 65 Gardner Drive maceapril@yahoo.com Mars Hill, NC 28754 Mars Hill College BA Business April was referred to us by her HR Manager, Mr Eric Tobleman! She is interested in social events and membership.</p>	<p>SANDEL, Sharon 828-467-7647 11 Rector Road sharsand46@gmail.com Weaverville, NC 28787 University of Florida BA Education Mary Ellen Lewis referred Sharon who is interested in social events, Upstreamers, Film Groups, and Lunch Bunch.</p>
<p>VON HAUZEN Barbara 703-725-2103 70 Greenwells Glory Drive vonhauzen@gmail.com Biltmore Lake, NC 28715 University of Hartford BS Business Mgmt Massachusetts School of Law JD Law Susan Roderick referred Barbara who is just starting to explore our Branch.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> Have you renewed your membership yet? Details on the following page </p>

[Talks by brilliant women in STEM | TED Talks](#) - These 11 women are trailblazers inspiring a new generation of girls to follow their lead and change the ratio in STEM (science, math, engineering and tech).

Committee News

We Need You! Please Renew Your Membership by June 30

It's time to renew your membership. Dues have increased \$10.00 by national this year: \$59 for national dues, \$11 for North Carolina state dues and \$13 for Asheville branch. Life members do not pay national dues. Your membership will remain active through June 30, 2019.

Here are some of the benefits that your membership offers you:

- At the national level your dues support research that results in such reports as "Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership" as well as legislative advocacy efforts on pay equity, reproductive choice, civil rights and educational opportunities.
- At the state level your dues support branch leadership training, monthly emails with links to helpful resources, opportunities for branches to submit a grant to support their area of need – i.e. STEM, Work Smart, Smart Start.
- At the branch level your dues support the program planning, our branch directory, board initiatives, liability insurance, and special events.

Please renew your membership by June 30, 2018 to ensure you are listed in our printed directory and branch database. Yes, we plan to continue to print our directory for this coming year and all updates will be available on our web site.

There are two ways to renew.

- 1) To renew online, [click HERE to renew with your credit or debit card!](#)
- 2) To renew by check: Make your check payable to AAUW
mail to: Wendy Haner, 5 Kimberly Avenue, Asheville, NC 28804.

Thank you for your support in making real change happen!

Treasurer News Wendy Haner

At the May Branch meeting, we will be voting on the upcoming budget for the new fiscal year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019. We are very excited that this will be presented and voted on by the branch members. The Board of Directors believes that there will be enough dollars in our budget to cover the cost of printing a directory for this coming year. This is made possible because of the Community Impact Fund helping with projects and committees along with reducing insurance cost. Thanks to all the members for helping make this possible.

The UPSTREAMERS Get to Work

On April 18th 6 intrepid women donned their big-girl boots and lime green vests to wade up and down Reed Creek picking up trash. The AAUW "Upstreamers" proudly display their bags of debris, and will meet in October to do it again.

RiverLink applauds our efforts.



From Left: Sherry Brown, Barbara Robinson, Molly Keeney, Betsy Kirk, Marianne Mooney, Diane Mooney

Advocacy & Public Policy Kitty Schaller & Anne Sayers

PLEASE EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT & RESPONSIBILITY TO VOTE!

Here is important information about the May 8th Primary Election & Early Voting that began April 19 & voting in general.**

Check if you are registered to vote at your current address under your current name at [NC Board of Elections Voter Search](#) page. Enter your name, check the "I am not a robot" box. Hit the Search button, and when the list comes up, click on your name. That will relay you to **Your Voter Information**.

Near the bottom of the page, click the link to see your primary ballot. If you are listed as "Unaffiliated," you will have your choice request either Republican or Democrat ballot.

[Here is a link with dates, times and locations for Early Voting](#), which runs April 19 to May 4, mostly 10 am to 6 pm, but locations/times vary.

Look it up! Or May 5 8 am-1 pm **You do NOT need photo ID to vote.**

Some tips for the Primary:

- If a race has only one candidate in your party, it will not appear on your ballot.
- Use the League of Women Voters' voter site, [Vote411.org](#) that includes the important **Candidate Issue Questionnaires, customized ballots** for voters, **polling locations**, as well as **early voting dates, locations, and times**.
- To learn who the candidates are in all the races -- beyond your own -- [AVL Today offers this guide](#) with brief descriptions for each candidate.
- **Absentee Ballots** - *Anyone can vote by mail*, but you must fill out and sign an [Absentee Ballot Request Form](#) and mail it to the Board of Elections. They will mail you an Absentee Ballot. You must fill out the ballot in the presence of two witnesses who sign the envelope as noted -- and mail the ballot to the Board of Elections, using 2 first class postage stamps. **Absentee Ballot Request** until May 1. **Return** by May 8 at 5pm
- **Same Day Registration** - if you missed the deadline. You can register **during early voting only** on the same day you vote. In that case, you *will have to provide proof of your ID* -- either a photo ID or a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or govt. document.

** AAUW's Advocacy/Public Policy thanks the League of Women Voters Asheville and United Way ABC for this information!

Equity Committee Eleanor Lane



Making a Difference in Asheville: Marta Alcala-Williams and The Marvelous Math Club

Marta Alcala-Williams is passionate about providing tools advocating for equity for our Asheville public housing community's low-wealth women and families.

At Pisgah View Apartments, Marta brought an asset-based club model through a partnership with UNCA, Asheville Housing Authority and Asheville City Schools to create the Marvelous Math Club that celebrates math and develops children as leaders and strong team members. For a brief look at this club, [CLICK HERE](#)

To visit the Marvelous Math Club and see it in action, contact Eleanor Lane (see contact below). Marta will be our November branch-meeting speaker. Join us at our next Equity Committee meeting on **May 7at 10am**.

For more information, please contact **Eleanor Lane**, elane@northstarlane.com

College/University Partnership Update Jan Huskey



For second year in a row, the Asheville AAUW branch participated in A-B Tech's Women in Technology event. A session of StartSmart, AAUW'S salary negotiation course, was presented to 13 participants from three technical colleges.

Student debt is a very important issue facing female college students. Women incur more debt than men, take a longer time paying loans off, and have a larger risk of defaulting on paying back loans. Combine this information with the reality that women earn less than men over the course of their careers. AAUW has conducted ground breaking research on women and debt and released their findings in a report called *Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans (May 2017)*. If you ever wonder what your national dues support, you should be proud of the work that went into developing this report. AAUW has developed a presentation that can be used by any AAUW member. **Linda Beltran** and **Jan Huskey** presented the findings of the report to UNC-A students on April 12. If any member knows of a group that would be interesting in having a presentation on the *Deeper in Debt* findings, please contact Jan Huskey.



Our branch is very fortunate to have a member who lends her voice to discuss and combat sexual harassment. **Melissa Maranville**, PhD-C, Adjunct Professor - AB Tech Community College, has devoted 16 years to the study of sexual harassment. Melissa is a strong advocate for women who have encountered sexual harassment. Melissa herself is a rape survivor. Melissa conducted a session on sexual harassment at UNCA on April 17. She shared data on sexual harassment and shared her story of being raped while attending a college party. Melissa was very courageous, she named her rapist and brought the case to court. It was a powerful presentation and UNCA students shared their thoughts on and experience with sexual harassment. I highly recommend that if this is a topic that you feel others would benefit hearing, contact Melissa. A big thanks to Dr. Jill Moffit for setting up this presentation at UNC-A.

Melissa is also the author of the book *A Girl Like Me*, which will be published this year.



Special Interest Groups News

Introducing a new **AAUW Asheville Hiking SIG!**

Organizing Meeting **Wednesday, May 2nd at 1:30 pm**.in order to determine where, when (weekday or weekend), level of difficulty, length of first hikes, places people are interested in hiking .

Directions to specific meeting spot at Carrier Park [220 Amboy Rd, Asheville, NC 28806](#)

At the corner of Amboy & Michigan is the main entrance to Carrier. Turn into the park and take the first left into the parking lot (there is also a sign with an arrow pointing to the Picnic Pavilion). The Pavilion is at the end of the parking lot to the right. We are meeting under the covered picnic tables.

Please call or email SIG Coordinator Susan Beachum at (860) 912-6789 or cabinflats2@gmail.com with questions and to RSVP. There is a possible walk along the greenway after the meeting depending on group interest.



New AAUW Asheville SIG Financial FUNdamentals - is a Go!

Well-educated women with money will change the world!

On the **2nd monthly Wednesday at 5:30**, come understand how investment strategies can serve you and the world you care about. All levels of experience welcome. For this month's topic and location or any question, contact group leader **Leslie Apple** at [828-628-1546](tel:828-628-1546) or leslie.apple@edwardjones.com with questions and to RSVP.

The **YWCA Empowerment Center** could use Plants for the classrooms for science observations, Beta Fish (8-10) for classrooms, Heating Pads, Breast Feeding body support pillows, High chair with straps

Please bring donations to General AAUW meetings, drop off at the Y , or email Eleanor Walther for pick up. etbuckly5@gmail.com

The children thank you!



Tea Time Book Club 2017-18 Selections 4th Thursdays at 2 Juanita Spanogle

Date	Book	Location
May 24	<u>The Marriage of Opposites</u> a novel based on the life of Rachel Pizarro by Alice Hoffmann	Jo Yates, 15-H Wesley Drive, 28803 c 828.275.4948 joyates4@gmail.com
June 28	Book Selection	Juanita Spanogle, 19 Stony Ridge 28804 258.0096 c 828 425 5385 Jspanogle@aol.com

“THE BOOK TO READ IS NOT THE ONE THAT THINKS FOR YOU BUT THE ONE THAT MAKES YOU THINK.” - HARPER LEE

Cocktails And Books 2018-2019 Selections 1st Mondays at 4:30, Metro Wines,

Contact Anne Reis , annereis2@gmail.com

May	ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE by Elizabeth Strout
June	THE EVOLUTION OF BEAUTY:HOW DARWIN'S FORGOTTEN THEORY OF MATE CHOICE SHAPES THE ANIMAL WORLD-AND US by Richard O Prum
August	THE LAST BALLAD by Wiley Cash
September	FIRST GENERATIONS: WOMEN IN COLONIAL AMERICA by Carol Berkin
October	CHURCHILL AND ORWELL: THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM by Thomas E Picks
November	BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME by Ta- Nehisi Coates
December	SPY OF THE FIRST PERSON by Sam Shepard
February	BURNING BRIGHT by Ron Rash



*Tell your friends
"Happy Birthday"
and honor them with a gift
to GEM.*

May Birthdays

- 5/1 Marcia Liebman
- 5/2 Susan Grabel
- 5/4 Jill Moffat
- 5/5 Eleanor Lane
- 5/7 Francella Poston
- 5/12 Lauren LaRocca
- 5/14 Judy Nelson
- 5/17 Jacqueline Wollins

Picture Page



New State AAUW Officers. for 2018-2019

Co-Presidents: Cherrie Wheaton, (336) 540-8953, cherriewheaton@gmail.com
Jane Terwillegar, (336) 782-5327, jcterwillegar@gmail.com
Reach them both: president@aauwnc.org

Finance/Treasurer: Wendy Haner, (336) 336-926-4301, wendyhaner@icloud.com

Branch Advocate: Diane Schneider, (704) 598-6268, dmschneider@carolina.rr.com

VP of Membership: Kathy Pearre, (336) 761-1736, Pearre.kathy@gmail.com
Secretary/Historian: Debra Richardson, dlrmassey@yahoo.com

This was the SIG for International Dining and Senegal was the country. It was held at Cathy Battle's home. Each attendee needed to wear the appropriate clothing and put our hair into a wrap like the women do in this country. It was great food and friendship.



Board Committees

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please contact the committee head.

Advocacy & Public Policy Committee

The purpose of the Advocacy & Public Policy Committee is to advance equity for women and girls through education, partnering, advocacy and action. At our **A/PP monthly meeting (2nd Friday 10:00 am at the YWCA)** we focus on increasing awareness and involvement of Branch members on a few issues, including those adopted by National AAUW and those we choose locally. In 2017-18, we have chosen four areas of concern for education and action and the four work groups and meeting times are as follows:

- **Health Care - (variety of state & federal policies)**
Meets 9:10 am 2nd Friday - YWCA
- **Early Childhood Education & Care (state & local concerns)**
Meets 9:00 am 2nd Friday- YWCA
- **Fair Vote -Stop Gerrymandering (state & federal issue)**
Meets 9:00 am 2nd Friday - YWCA
- **Equal Rights for Women -ERA -Fair Wage/Pay Gap**
Meets 11:30 pm 1st Wednesday -- Cornerstone Restaurant

During 2017-18, the A/PP Committee will develop the Public Policy Primer, a new means of communication to Branch members. Both timely and targeted, it facilitates members' attendance at education events and action steps with public officials when advised.

Contact: Anne Sayers at annesayers432@gmail.com
or Kitty Schaller at kittyschaller@gmail.com

College/University Partnership with UNCA

Our objective is to provide women students with advisers, mentors and supporters from all walks of life to help them hone life and career skills. Our goals with UNCA include offering programs on salary negotiation, how to build leadership skills, and how to advocate on key issues impacting women today.

Contact: Jan Huskey, huskeyjan@charter.net



Community Impact Fund

The 2017/2018 mission of the Community Impact Fund is to raise dollars to support STEM, UNCA, YWCA, Equity, Public Policy and any other committees that meet the mission of AAUW-Asheville.

Contact: Mary Ellen Lewis, emmyjoellen3@gmail.com

Membership Committee

Membership has two basic goals: Recruitment and Retention, by maintaining databases and general membership information, writing newsletter articles and initiating special membership campaigns, and most importantly, making new people feel welcomed and integrated in our branch.

Contact: Linda Beltran at linbeltran09@yahoo.com or call 828-575-9964.

S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Committee

This committee is engaged in promoting STEM for women and girls by providing fieldtrip experiences, expert panels, parent programs (in development) and mentoring opportunities.

Contact: Cindy Stephens DNP, RN, FNP-BC cstephens30@thefhc.net
Cell: 828-337-3011

Equity Committee

We want to promote equity for ALL women and girls, with a special focus on those women and girls who have less access to power and resources. Our approach is two-fold: 1- Education, bringing information to our members about disparities in Asheville and Buncombe County and issues of inequity researched by our national AAUW, 2- Direct action in our community, supporting local organizations that address the development of women and girls to increase access to power and resources. Please join us at our monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month at 10:00am.

Contact: Eleanor Lane, elane@northstarlane.com, for more information.

AAUW DIVERSITY STATEMENT

In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Jean Toxen & Linda Stover

Currently AAUW Asheville has 11 SIGS with a wide range of subjects (see details below) and over 100 members participating. Please contact the individual SIG coordinators if you have questions or want to attend a meeting. If you have any questions about the overall SIG Program or if you would like to establish a new SIG, please contact either **Jean Toxen** (jtoxen@bellsouth.net; 404-784-0603) or **Linda Stover** (lindalstover@gmail.com; 704-905-6530)

AAUW Upstreamers: This group works with Riverlink to clean up a stream at Reed Creek Park near UNC-A three times a year. For more information contact **Barbara Robinson** at baritar16@gmail.com 230-7113.

CAB Book Group: The “Cocktails and Books” discussion group meets at Metro Wines the **first Monday of each month, from 4:30 to 6 pm** for wine and conversation. To get more information or to add your name to the list of members, contact group leader **Ann Reis**, annereis2@gmail.com

Film Buds: This film discussion group meets the **second Monday of each month from 5:30 to 7** to discuss first-run films; attendance is limited to the first 20 current group members who make a reservation with the group leader, Beth Ellers. Because of the large size of the group, new membership is closed, but note that the Film Fans group discusses the same film and is open to new members; to obtain this month’s film selection, location, and other information, contact **Beth Ellers** at slark1@att.net. Participants bring pot-luck supper.

Film Fans: This film discussion group meets the second Tuesday of each month from 12-1:30 pm, location TBA. Film is the same as that discussed by the Monday Film Buds group. Members bring their own lunch. Open to new members. For the film selection of this month’s meeting or to get more information, contact group leader **Beth Johnson** at JOHNSON1ea@earthlink.net

Financial FUNDamentals: Well-educated women with money will change the world! On the **2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:30**, come understand how investment strategies can serve you and the world you care about. All levels of experience welcome; for this month’s topic and location or any question, contact group leader **Leslie Apple** at 828-628-1546 or leslie.apple@edwardjones.com.

International Dining Group: The International Dining Group is composed of AAUW members who enjoy sharing great cuisine and conversation, with a dash of history, storytelling and personal experiences. Member may bring one guest. Dinner is pot-luck, with menu suggestions from the host. Dinners are approximately every other month. For more information, contact **Jeanne Smolkin** at 828-254-4789 or jsmolkin@gmail.com

Lunch Bunch: The Lunch Bunch is an informal gathering for lunch on the **second Friday of each month at 11:30** at a different area restaurant. The Lunch Bunch is open to all AAUW members who wish to be added to the reservation list. Be sure to contact **Sherry Brown** by noon the Wednesday before at 828-357-8455 or sherrysaerie@gmail.com to reserve space and get directions to the restaurant.

Photography Group: The Photography Group is open to anyone with an interest in photography—with or without a camera. The group will meet on the **3rd Wednesday at 1pm** though field trips/events may necessitate changes. More information at our website aauwphotog.weebly.com or email **Lynette Miller** at lmillerstudio@gmail.com.

Tea Time Book Group: This book discussion group meets the **fourth Thursday of each month at 2 pm** at the homes of various members. All are welcome; for this month’s book and location or to obtain more information, contact group leader **Juanita Spanogle** at 258-0096 or jspanogle@aol.com.

World Affairs Group: A group to study and discuss events across the globe. In 2018, meetings are scheduled for Jan. 18, March 15 and **May 17** at 2 p.m. Please contact **Eve Miller** (evhigginmiller7@gmail.com or [828-299-8107](tel:828-299-8107)) for additional information.

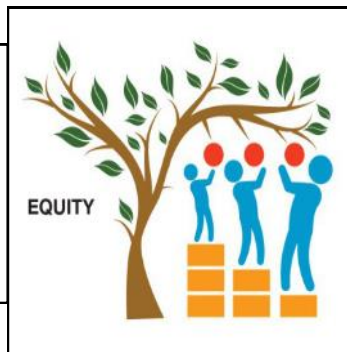
Please remember to notify the hostess or group leader if you plan to attend this month’s meeting so they can predict attendance and you can be apprised of any last-minute changes!



Calendar Details

AAUW Equity Committee Meeting
Monday, May 7, 10 am

For more info Contact Eleanor Lane,
elane@northstarlane.com.



Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet **Friday May11, 11:30**, 203 E. State St., Black Mountain. Reservation deadline Wednesday, Noon, May9th
 Sherry Brown, sherrysaerie@gmail.com.



Film Fans

Film Fans will be held on **Tuesday, May 8 from noon to 1:30** at the Arboretum's Bistro Café. Since there is a charge per car for non-Arboretum members, we will be asking Film Fans to meet at 11:30 a.m. in the parking lot at Discount Shoes which is nearby (just down Brevard Road), and carpool from there. Film to be determined - Stay tuned.

For more info - contact Beth Johnson, johnson1ea@earthlink.net

Financial FUNdamentals



Meets on the **2nd monthly Wednesday at 5:30**, come understand how investment strategies can serve you and the world you care about. All levels of experience welcome. For this month's topic and location or any question, contact group leader **Leslie Apple** at [828-628-1546](tel:828-628-1546) or leslie.apple@edwardjones.com

Photo Group Meets on Wed. May 16, 1pm

Annual Photo Scavenger Hunt

To learn more, Visit our Photo Group Website:

AAUWPhotog.weebly.com or contact

Lynette Miller, LCMillerStudio@gmail.com



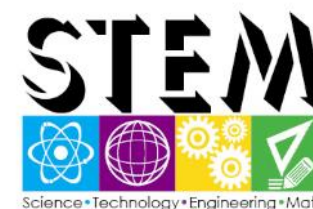
World Affairs

World Affairs will meet **Thursday, May 17 at 2 p.m.** at the home of LaDean Peterson. Venezuela is the discussion topic. Please contact **Eve Miller** (evhigginsmiller7@gmail.com) if you plan to attend, or if you have questions.



S.T.E.M. Meeting

For more info contact Cindy Stephens
cstephens30@thefhc.net



Dear AAUW Asheville Branch Members,

Over the years AAUW has changed its by-laws and again this year they have three proposed amendments before the membership for a vote.

The three proposed amendments are:

- Creating 3 year staggered board terms
- Opening board service to those outside of the AAUW membership
- Eliminating the degree requirement for membership

Each proposed amendment can be found on the AAUW website, <https://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/> the overarching motivation for these changes at this time is to uphold and advance AAUW's mission and ensure optimal execution at the national board level.

Some of the bylaw changes in the past have been:

- 1882 – Degree from a specific list of colleges or universities
- 1949 - Degree from any accredited four-year college or university
- 1987 - Membership extended to male college graduates
- 2005 - Membership extended to include graduates who hold an associate or equivalent degree from a qualified educational institution

The reason for these changes came about as the board asked - how many potential members are we losing because AAUW has this eligibility requirement? Could it be for women who don't meet the education requirement, or we lose women who share our vision but don't like AAUW because it seems to be an exclusive organization and do we lose donations who don't understand why you much have a college degree to work towards gender equality.

Some members object to the open membership because they are concerned that our name will be changed. AAUW is the forth name we have had in our years of being a membership organization. The name was not changed when AAUW started accepting people who had a community college degree. What we call ourselves is not the end all in their decision to become a more inclusive organization.

AAUW is an organization that fully supports women getting a college education in the field of their choice, but we need to recognize that education comes in many forms.

Over our professional lives we have worked with many women who did not have a

formal degree. This is not a measure of intelligence, sometimes it is the lack of opportunity or choices made early in life that are difficult to reverse.

If you look at the statistics, in 2016, 46% of non-Hispanic white women aged 25 to 29 years completed four years of college. For African American and Hispanic women, the numbers are more stark at 25% and 31% respectively. This suggests AAUW cannot promote equity and diversity for all women and girls if the organization maintains exclusionary membership requirements.

So, the first two proposals would bring AAUW more in line with nationally accepted non-profit best practices and the needs of the organization. AAUW National board feels strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense in the beginning, this requirement is now perceived by many as counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

At the state meeting that was held on March 24th this was brought to a vote by all in attendance and all three proposals were endorsed without any opposition.

How to Vote for these by-laws:

- April 16th you can go online and request a paper ballot.
- April 26th voting online will begin.
- On June 9th Voting on line will end
- June 10th the results will be announced as to how members voted.

Please make your voice count and have a say in the future of AAUW.

We need every woman who supports our mission – empowering women and girls – to join us in the ongoing challenge of achieving gender equity.

Thank you for supporting AAUW.

Sincerely,
 Wendy Haner, President of AAUW Asheville Branch
 Rachel Sossoman, President Elect
 Barbara Pressman, Secretary
 Wendy Haner, Interim Treasurer
 Linda Beltran, Co-VP of Membership
 Susan Ikerd, Co-VP of Membership
 Susan Gabel, Co-VP of Programs
 Barbara Robinson, Co-VP of Programs