



# AAUW-Chapel Hill Branch

## From the President: Bea Keller

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83 days late, North Carolina finally has a budget. How did education fare? With an eye toward the 2016 elections, legislators did not give the 2% across the board pay increase, but did give teachers a one-time \$750 raise. Excluded from that raise were teachers who were in their first 5 years of teaching. Those teachers will receive whatever is needed to bump up their salary to \$35,000 a year. If these teachers worked a 40 hour week (which, with planning, grading, time teaching and extracurricular duties is nigh impossible), this amounts to about \$17/hour according to Verla Insko (D), House District 56. In spite of claims to have “fully funded” K-12 enrollment growth, the truth is that statement is based on last year’s budget. Since 2009, we have 2,500 fewer teachers and 7,100 fewer teacher assistants. Per pupil funding is \$877 less than in 2008. The school voucher program sends another \$14

million to private school. First grade class size this year decreased by one—from 17 to 16. Textbook funding was increased although it is approximately half the amount schools received prior to the recession. As a retired teacher I can tell you that before 2009 many textbooks were used for 10 to 20 years before being replaced, and when new ones were bought, there weren’t enough for all students. UNC campuses lost another \$18 million this year “while paying for enrollment growth and providing new money to stabilize the struggling Elizabeth City State University and the medical school at East Carolina University.” (*Raleigh News and Observer*) The budget also raised Community College tuition another \$4/credit hour—since 2008, tuition in community colleges have increased by 81%. Women, minorities and the economically disadvantaged are particularly affected in their quest for educational opportunity. The child-care subsidy suffered

as well; we are serving only 71,000 children with 31,500 on the waiting list. We served 104,500 children in 2005 and had 19,000 on the waiting list. The budget did not include an extended-day child care subsidy for students 6 to 12. *Wallethub* examined schools and other factors in 50 states plus the District of Columbia to determine the best and worst teaching opportunities in the country. NC ranked dead last for “Opportunity and Competition Rank.” Our state ranked 46<sup>th</sup> for “Academic and Work Environment.” (Gena Belli, *Pay-scale: Human Capital*) And where are all the jobs that the tax cuts are creating? After 3 rounds of tax cuts, our recovery is one of the slowest in the nation. 60,000 more North Carolinians are looking for work today than before the recession. In 2013, the Budget and Tax Center noted that an hour’s work in NC paid \$2.50 less than the national average. Today? It’s almost \$3.00 less.

## Notes: Plenary Meeting September 17, 2015

### Mark Your Calendars:

November 21, 10:00  
AM – 11:30 AM,  
Cordelia Heaney, Kelli  
Raker, Kate Douglas  
Torrey: “Domestic and  
Gun Violence Against  
Women”  
Chapel Hill Library,  
Room A  
—Donna Wilson



President Bea Keller welcomed AAUW and LWVODC members to the first meeting of 2015-2016 as well as honored guests. The subject of the meeting (Civil Rights: Then and Now) was chosen to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Voting Rights Act with a talk on Civil Rights—where we’ve been and where we are now. Dr. Irving Joyner, professor at North Carolina Central University School of Law, was the guest speaker. Professor Joyner, author of *Criminal Procedure in North Carolina*, provides *pro bono* legal counsel to several political, religious, and community organizations and to needy individuals in civil rights and criminal appeals cases. He has received many honors and is on WNCU 90.7 FM every Saturday morning discussing current local and national legal issues on the “Legal Eagle Review.”

Dr. Joyner was part of the legal team in the Voting Rights court case in Winston Salem. The NAACP, the LWV and the ACLU, and others, supported by the Justice Department, asked Judge Schroeder to return NC to federal oversight, a process known as “pre-clearance.” Dr. Joyner called it “stacking and packing” wherein those of a particular race or party affiliation are packed into districts thus diluting their votes with the goal of keeping Republicans the majority in office. The case will be heard by the NC Supreme Court. Dr. Joyner expects that

it will go to the US Supreme Court. Without the right to vote, other constitutional rights are meaningless, said Dr. Joyner.

Freed blacks could vote in NC until the Dred Scott Decision in 1857. The Fourteenth amendment granted citizenship to slaves and to free blacks. For a period of time, government was multiracial in NC until 1898 when the Jim Crow laws were passed. In 1868, 15 representatives and 2 senators were elected to the General Assembly. From 1868-1900, no fewer than 111 African-American men were elected to the General Assembly. But after the Jim Crow laws were passed, no African-Americans served in the General Assembly until 1968 when Henry Frye was elected. He also mentioned that the 1898 Wilmington Race Riot justification was to “keep African-Americans from dominating.” By 1975, only six African-Americans were serving in the General Assembly including Mickey Michaux of Durham County. Women, Dr. Joyner said, had nothing. They were appendages of their husbands, the “protected sex.” They could run the house but they could not vote. Not until 1920 did women have the right to vote. “White women were beside us in the Abolitionist Movement—we are joined at the hip although we don’t always acknowledge it.”

The 1965 Voting Rights Act was for the purpose of protection. As an example, in 1947, the Rev. Kenneth R. Williams was elected an alderman of Winston-Salem. The district was then changed to a multi-member district diluting the black vote and making it much harder to elect an African-American. The Voting Rights Act was enacted to eliminate the frequent disenfranchisement of black voters as demonstrated by the Winston-Salem case. In 1965, 21% of African-American Community was registered. By 2006, 68% of blacks were registered; their percentage participation exceeded that of whites. Many whites who could not vote benefited from the universal suffrage granted in 1868.

Dr. Joyner said that Chapel Hill was an unusual place. When Howard Lee was elected mayor in 1967, he was the first African-American mayor elected in a predominately white city in the South. He noted that the Raging Granies, who were always at Moral Mondays, were taken to jail still singing.

He said that 22% of North Carolinians are African-American and that any reference to the “good old days” equal Jim Crow laws or slavery for them.

Question: What were his feelings about the case in Winston-Salem? Dr. Joyner

## October 17 (Saturday) Meeting 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Chapel Hill Public Library, Rm. A

### “Engaging Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Fields: Perspectives from Educators and Scientists”

Despite a myriad of efforts at local, state, and national levels, the representation of women in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematical (STEM) fields remains substantially below that of men. The reasons are many and complex, but the result is that many girls and women fail to even consider pursuing intellectually satisfying and well-paying STEM jobs. Why? What can be, and is being, done to change this? One thing IS clear: girls need to be engaged at an early age in STEM activities.

At this meeting, we are delighted to have a panel of speakers from our area who are addressing the STEM issue from a variety of different directions. They will be sharing their experiences and opinions on what works, what doesn't and, most importantly, what more could be done. The panel will include educators in the local school systems, a co-director of a Duke undergraduate pro-

gram that does outreach to 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade girls and a leader in the development and promotion of citizen science programs, including collaborative curriculum development between scientists and educators.

Erin Denniston, M.Ed., is a STEM Coordinator in the Orange County Schools and a veteran teacher who has worked in several of our local school systems. She is currently engaged in disseminating STEM project-based teaching and learning through K-8 schools. Amanda Hartness, Ed. D, is an Assistant Superintendent in the Chatham County Schools, with both teaching and administrative experience and a long history in researching and addressing gender bias in schools. Maria Kohlbrenner, Class of 2016, is pursuing a dual major in biology and global world health, with plans to go to medical school. She also serves as the co-director of a student-run activity called Females Excelling More in Math, Engineering, and Science

or FEMMES, which is doing educational outreach to young girls in several Durham Public Schools. Holly Menninger, Ph.D., is the Director of Public Science at NCSU who has held a variety of positions involving the interface of science and society. She is also involved in a collaborative effort between NCSU and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences to bring scientists and educators together to develop exciting science curricula for middle schools.

This promises to be a very interesting discussion. We strongly urge each of you to invite friends, parents, students, and educators to participate. The meeting will be a great opportunity for networking with others interested in addressing the gender gap in STEM careers.

— Pam Stephens



#### **Treasurer's Report** **September 25, 2015**

##### **Balances**

Checking:

\$3,213.06

Money Market

Checking: \$1,504.22

CD: \$6051.14

*Karen Piplani, Treasurer*



### Website News

Remember if you have questions about our next meeting or need to check on the book club's selection, please check our web page: <http://chapelhill-nc.aauw.net>. If you want to check our archive of past newsletters in our "members only" section, remember the password is the word "dogwood" in lower case letters.

## Plenary Meeting (continued)

said that he was relieved, that it was a long, hard fight, that the judge was gracious and knowledgeable, but nevertheless, the judge ruled against a preliminary injunction against the state's voting law. Therefore nothing would change before the 2016 election. The case will be appealed and is likely to go to the US Supreme Court. Question: How effective was the documentation provided by Democracy NC? "Very," was his response. They identified witnesses that we could

bring into court and these witnesses provided hard evidence. Question: What was the strongest evidence? There were 90 year old people who testified that prior to the 1965 law, they were made to recite the Preamble or the Bill of Rights from memory. There was one rural older couple, both of whom had health problems and one spouse was disabled, who walked to the polls. It took thirty minutes to get to the polls, and they discovered it was the wrong place. They were out of precinct and would have to walk

about an hour to get to the correct place. They had no transportation.

Bea Keller than announced the time, place and subject of our next meeting and invited Janet Hoy, president of the LWVODC to announce candidate forums in the area. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by  
Bea Keller (notes taken  
by Michele Hoyman &  
Karen Piplani)

—Bea Keller

## Did you forget to renew your membership?

Please renew your membership if you haven't yet. Even if you can't make it regularly to our meetings, you are supporting an organization that works to advance equity

for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and, research. The battle for equality is not won—neither here or abroad. Please

email our Membership Vice-President, Shirley Ahmed, if you have questions. [ahmedshirley@gmail.com](mailto:ahmedshirley@gmail.com)

## President's Message (continued)

On a positive note, Pam Stephens and Mary Kolek have worked very hard to research and assemble an extraordinary and diverse STEM panel for our October

17 meeting. I hope to see all of you at the Chapel Hill Library at 10 a.m.

## Michele Hoyman: Member of the Month

There is never a dull moment spent with Michele Hoyman! A scintillating and knowledgeable conversationalist, quick with *bons mots* and puns, she is nevertheless a serious academic with a long and varied list of publications. Starting with a dissertation on Civil Rights compliance within Labor Unions, followed by a variety of topics such as: research on the Informal Economy, the relationship between social capital and economic development for US counties, county managers' attitudes toward eminent domain in NC, prisons as rural economic development, and a debunking of Richard Florida's *Creative Class Theory* are but a sampling of her research interests. Asked how she chooses her next project, Michele answered, "I look for an intellectual spark. Is there a mystery there that we need to tap into?" She went on to say that most of her topics involved employment, economic development and treatment of workers.

Michele grew up in Greensboro, NC. Her father was a labor organizer who championed worker's civil rights, and her mother, a public school librarian, was the first to volunteer to work in a previously segregated school. Her first year at Antioch College was spent at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Antioch College offered a wonderful work/study pro-

gram which required students to participate in internships nationally and internationally. Consequently, Michele worked in Boston, Chicago, NYC, Mexico and in Paris—often in a social welfare capacity. Working with her father and her education at Antioch gave her gifts that included work experience and understanding the power of collective action to achieve social justice.

Upon completion of her studies, Michele was appointed assistant professor of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of Illinois. In 1981, she became a professor of Political Science at the University of Missouri at Saint Louis and achieved full professor there. She left Saint Louis in 1998 to join the Political Science Department at UNC-CH. She is also an adjunct faculty member in the School of Government.

Michele Hoyman is also a professional arbitrator in both the public and private sector. "Arbitration is the dominant form of conflict resolution between labor and management--and the impact is immediate," she adds. Michele is not as pessimistic as most people on the decline of labor unions, "As long as there is poor management, there will be a form of voice.



While the legal atmosphere is hostile to unions in the US, it is not true in Western Europe," she continued.

Married to Michael MacKuen, a professor of Political Science at UNC-CH, they share both a lifestyle and interest--and a daughter who is finishing her medical residency in Rhode Island. Asked if combining an academic tenure track career with motherhood was difficult, Michele answered, "I was very naïve about doing both, but I wouldn't have had it any other way. There were baby hand-

offs at airports occasionally." Michele has been one of our most enthusiastic members. She feels indebted to AAUW for giving her a fellowship at a crucial time. Surveys show, she says, that women drop out of PhD programs at the dissertation stage. Having a fellowship means a woman can concentrate on the dissertation and not split her time between a job and research. We can be proud that our organization facilitates professional development in women around the world. Michele Hoyman's life proves that it is the gift that keeps on giving.

— Bea Keller

### Good Morning Book Club

October 1: *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri, at the home of  
Morita Rapoza,  
Apartment 274, 2600  
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Parkway, Durham,  
NC 27705 919-384-  
2096,  
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—Dona Koeberl

