

AAUW-Orange, Durham, Chatham Branch

From the President: Bea Keller

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Our October 15 meeting will be focused on us, our branch. Entitled “Futures Planning: AAUW-ODC Counties,” we will examine our current status, where we want to go (our goals) and come up with an action plan or activities to achieve our goals.

Our branch, throughout the years, has worked to explore issues (particularly regarding women and girls but not exclusively) and inform its members--and the public--on relevant subjects. Our September speaker, Ferrel Guillory, analyzed NC politics citing long range trends and data. The audience, most of which were members, listened attentively, added to his comments, and asked questions concerning demographics and voting trends. By all appearances, our members were engaged and interested. In addition to good programming, through the years our branch took on outreach programs to benefit the community. AAUW-CH was instrumental in starting a Children’s

Library in Chapel Hill as well as equipping the fledgling Chapel Hill Public Library. We sponsored writing contests and provided Art Kits for the public school classrooms and the library. Members provided college catalogues for the high schools. Some of our members were politically active and ran for Town Council and School Board. More recently, Kay White and other members put together STEM programs for middle school girls. And, in addition to contributing to AAUW national’s 3.5 million plus dollars given out each year, we support our own scholarship, the Schwenning, which has been given to a female graduate student at UNC-CH in some form since 1928. After World War II, women entered the workforce in unprecedented numbers, and liked the fulfillment and independence it afforded them personally as well as the advantages it gave their families. As a result, membership numbers have decreased over the past decades. We can attribute our declining numbers in part to our success—careers have

opened up for women and opportunities are increasing even as our organization steadily works to equalize the playing field. However, our declining numbers also reflect national trends. An act of Congress created the American Legion Post in 1919 which “spearheaded the original GI Bill for veterans returning from World War II in the 1940’s” but it too has struggled with declining membership nationally. (www.masslive.com/news/2013/07) Even an act of Congress can’t beat the trend! Robert D. Putnam, in his book, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, “said that attending club meetings, such as those held by Rotary and Kiwanis groups, has declined by 58 percent in the past 25 years.” (Linda May, *Journal Register Newspapers*, 12/26/2012) This statistic does not mean that these groups haven’t, in spite of declining membership, still managed to contribute to their communities, the nation, and the world at

October 15 Meeting: Futures Planning for AAUW – Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties. Chapel Hill Library, Rm. B, 10:30am

Mark Your Calendar

November 19th

Keith Harris,

"Chocolate Production & Consumption: Entrepreneurial and Health Issues Related to Women"

Chapel Hill Library,
Room B

10:30 AM (Social Time), 11:00 AM

Business Meeting

—Donna Wilson, Vice President, Programs



AAUW-ODC (Orange, Durham and Chatham) Counties Program Planning for this year includes a special agenda for our October 15, 2016 meeting. Our meeting topic will be: **Futures Planning: AAUW-ODC Counties.**

At the August Board meeting, officers, recognizing our branch's current status, in addition to present and future outreach efforts to the community, decided to devote the October meeting to a strate-

gic planning direction workshop and discussion about: 1} current status of AAUW-ODC; 2} future direction and goals of AAUW-ODC; 3} action plan and activities to achieve those goals.

Your attendance and active participation at this meeting are crucial and vital to identifying strategies and implementation of activities to achieve those goals. Together we can make our branch viable and a contributory force in our community.

Workshop leaders are: Bea Keller, Donna Wilson and Michele Hoyman

— Donna M. Wilson, Vice President, Programs

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large. The Lions' SightFirst, a global program aimed at restoring sight and preventing blindness has raised more than \$346 million since 1990. The Kiwanis' have raised more than \$100 million to wipe out maternal and neonatal tetanus worldwide. Rotary International spent billions of dollars to eliminate polio from the earth, a goal that has been nearly accomplished. (Linda May) AAUW national will provide 3.7 million in scholar-

ships this year alone to women—since 1996, our members have given over 60 million in scholarships through the national organization and even more through local endowments. It is a laudable achievement!

So, our branch is at a crossroads. Our membership numbers are less than they once were. We must decide what is feasible and what isn't, what the few can do for the many. Bearing in mind that people (young and old) are most com-

fortable with "episodic" volunteerism with specific goals, and that retention rates are down in most organizations, we must reassess and reinvent. I hope all of you will come to our October 15 meeting, starting at 10:30 in room B of the Chapel Hill Public Library. Michele, Donna and I look forward to our discussion and are counting on your leadership and input!

Member of the Month: Deborah Brame North Carolina Central University , AAUW College/University Representative

Deborah Brame grew up in Hillsborough, NC, the second of five children. “My mother was the most influential individual in my life because of her wisdom.”

Like most of us, Deborah began her academic career with one goal, but discovered hidden attributes on the way and decided to change course.

Deborah first envisioned a business career and earned an Associate degree of Applied Sci-

ence in Business Administration at Durham Technical Community College before continuing her studies at Shaw University in Raleigh where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Management. Deborah supported five divisions in Human Resources at SAS, after which she began working at NCCU first as an of-

fice manager, then as the Student Support Services Manager. “I started out seeking a career in business, but much later in life, I realized that helping others is my true passion.” So, Deborah returned to school and earned a Master of Arts in Career Counseling at NCCU. Deborah is



now Director of Student Professional Development at the NCCU School of Business, and teaches two Business Management courses: one in career planning, and one that

involves internship experience. She assists in preparing students for careers by developing resumés, experiential learning, identifying resources and coordinating networking events among other responsibilities. “I enjoy supporting others in making positive changes in life and seeing the progression of our students from freshman year and be-

yond graduation.”

Deborah takes great pride in having gone back to school to realize her dream and having found her niche at NCCU. Her family gives her a lot of joy, especially her “one adorable grandchild.” She loves to read, enjoys helping others, and values her spiritual quiet times. She has another goal she would like to achieve—to expand her services to others outside of the university. In the new job market, her skills would be very welcome. AAUW-ODC welcomes Deborah and hopes it can partner with both NCCU and Deborah.

— Bea Keller

Good Morning Book Club

October 6 Good Morning Book Club will meet in the home of Morita Rapoza, Apartment 275, Croasdaile Farm Parkway, Durham, NC 27705, phone 919-384-2096. We will discuss the book *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario. This book is a true account of the dangerous journey of 15-year-old Enrique from Central America to the United States.

—Dona Koeberl



AAUW Plenary Meeting September 17, 2016, Chapel Hill Public Library



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.

Following a half hour social time during which members and guests enjoyed refreshments, President Bea Keller called the meeting to order at 11 AM. It was noted that the new start time- adjusted forward one half hour- is responsive to library needs and will apply to future meetings as well.

Initial business included a thank you to the Board members who provided refreshments and a request that members contact Ruth Freed to volunteer to provide refreshments for one of the upcoming meetings. Bea asked members to participate in a nonpartisan voting campaign that entails writing letters to other women reminding them that voting is a way to impact issues that directly affect women and their families. Research indicates this approach does have a positive impact on voting behavior. Member Michelle Hoyman also invited members to gather at her home that afternoon for a writing "party"- refreshments included. Bea followed up at the end of the meeting with additional details about this program.

Member Lisa Price introduced guest speaker Ferrel

Guillory, professor in the UNC School of Media and Journalism and co-founder of EducationNC, a digital resource dedicated to covering and analyzing NC public education. Mr. Guillory, who has authored eight *The State of the South Reports* (2008-2014) and the text *The Carolinas: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* (1999), shared his perspective and insights on "The Culture of Politics in North Carolina." Using his extensive expertise and experience as a journalist and academic, Mr. Guillory engaged the audience in an examination of the trends that have led to North Carolina becoming a "purple state" and a "bellwether" for the upcoming elections.

In a nod to the confusion of current politics and electorate behavior, Ferrel opened by noting that throughout history it has often been the case that, "even when watching politics happen [right] in front of you it is hard to discern what is going on." To that end Mr. Guillory took a long term view, examining trends as a source of understanding for what might be described as an inscrutable present. Beginning with a look at Nixon's "Southern

Strategy" and its progression from the early 1960's, Ferrel traced the evolution of state and national politics. Citing data disaggregated by party and across demographic groups he provided insight on how the parties have become "fractured" and the electorate has changed with respect to party affiliations. Changing economics, demographics, ideologies and the impact of technology on communications and connectivity have all contributed to a polarization of parties and bifurcation of the state.

Mr. Guillory noted that unlike many other states, NC gubernatorial elections run simultaneous to presidential races- making our status as a "bellwether state" even more intriguing given the current election and related issues. History has shown that North Carolinians are not opposed to sending one party to Washington and another to Raleigh- this being reflective of a tendency to prefer moderation in issues directly impacting the day to day lives of electorate while giving federal representatives a wider berth when dealing with more ideological issues. Mr. Guillory described a

AAUW Plenary Meeting (continued)

changing context in that now, despite the electorate's tendency to be "evenly divided across red and blue issues" it is harder for office holders to govern "purple". This can be attributed in good part to the influence of campaign funding and party politics. As we have recently seen, the election of what people perceive to be moderate (or purple) candidates, even by a slim margin, can result in a bright red government. The impact of this phenomena as well as the divisiveness and fracture within both parties makes the future hard to predict and hence makes all polls only a snap shot of the current moment. Dr. Guillory concluded by reminding the audience that this state has learned through experience that tolerance is an

economic asset – whether we continue to build on that lesson is to be determined.

The audience peppered Mr. Guillory with questions throughout his presentation and engaged in a lively and conversation with him and each other, fueled by the richness of the information he provided. After a hearty round of applause, Lisa and Bea expressed our thanks with the presentation of a small (and sweet) token of appreciation.

Prior to adjourning the meeting Bea reminded the members of the get out the vote letter writing campaign and the October 6 book club which will convene at Morita Rapozo's house at 10AM. This month's book is

Enrique's Journey.

It is important to have as many members as possible in attendance at next month's meeting on October 15 (social time 10:30, program 11, CH Library.) We will be engaging in a future's planning activity lead by program chair Donna Wilson, president Bea Keller, and member Michelle Hoyman. The results of this effort will be richer and more powerful with input from all members. Please come with your good ideas and prepared to participate.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Monroe Kolek, recording secretary



Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report

9/28/2016

Checking: \$2,038.74

Savings \$1,504.37

C.D. \$5,562.04

Submitted by Karen Piplani

Treasurer

