



## Remember Why You Joined AAUW?

**It's the same reason today as it was 140 years ago.**

To advance equity for women and girls through education, advocacy and research. To pull together to make a difference.

But it was also about women sharing common interests and goals that strengthened our bond and empowered us to do more.

Today we are asking you to help us continue our mission. Support our **Equity & Education Advocates** and our woman-owned business networking events. Learn from our mission based, community focused monthly branch programs.

Enjoy our unique **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** that bring members together to learn, share and grow. Explore art, books, dirt therapy (gardens), "How To," films, and so much more.

Be on hand for the launch of our newest SIGs: Taps & Tasters and Porch People.

Assist in the development of local pulic programs for nearly and newly retired women.

**Spread the word** about our National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL,) Work Smart and Start Smart—our salary and benefits negotiation training, and our Empower series with tools to build financial security.

**Join us as we emerge even stronger after COVID. Renew your membership, your friendships, and your commitment to move women and girls forward.**

**Support AAUW Hendersonville today** by sending your check for \*\$91, payable to AAUW Hendersonville, to Diana Bagwell, 615 Laurel Lake Drive, Apt. A-205, Columbus, NC 29722. Questions? Call Diana at 828 974-2810.

\*\$96 after July 1, 2022.

## AAUW News

*“We won’t need an Equal Pay Day once we have an Equal Pay Nation. For that, we need legislation to strengthen the Equal Pay Act.” Charlotte A. Burrows, Chair, EEOC (March 15, 2022)*



We marked the date on March 15, noting that American women still earn \$.83 for every dollar a white man makes in this country. On May 3 we marked the date that Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women had to work into 2022 to be paid what white, non-Hispanic men took home last year.

Following a new methodology that calculates the pay gap for all workers (not just full-time, year-round workers,) the most recent statistics indicate that AANHPI women are paid 75 cents for every dollar earned by white, non-Hispanic men—and the disparity widens further when you look past the average. The bipartisan Paycheck Fairness Act passed the U.S House of Representatives more than a year ago. Now the Senate must move this bill forward to ensure all women have the tools they need to challenge discrimination and all employers have the incentives they need to comply with the law. Urge Senators Burr and Tillis to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act now!

Senator Richard Burr  
217 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-3154

Senator Thom Tillis  
113 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-6342

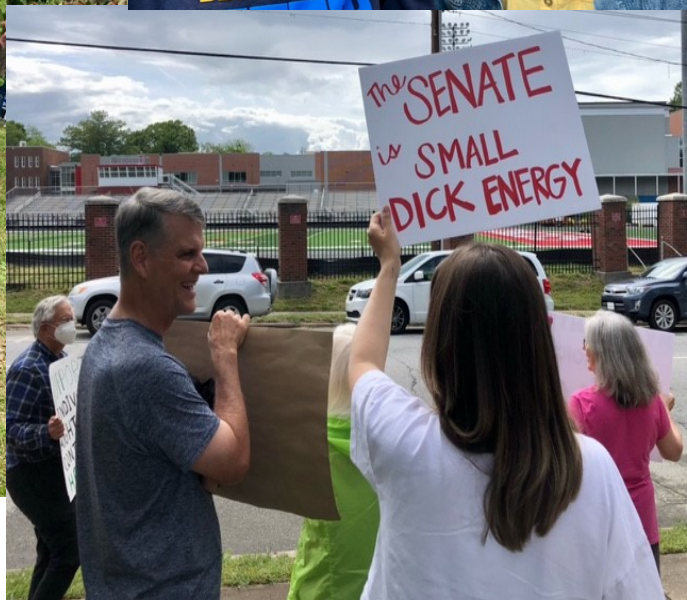
# # #

**Roe v. Wade—Where We Stand:** the protection of reproductive rights—including access to contraceptive care, abortion, sexual health education and family planning services—has been an unwavering AAUW policy principle since 1977. Access to abortion is not only a fundamental right, it is critical to a woman’s ability to control her life, her body and her future. Expanding reproductive services increases women’s prospects of attaining economic security. Moreover, attacks on reproductive rights are especially harmful in a country that lacks policies to make parenthood and pregnancy safer, including accessible maternal health care, paid leave, child care, and workplace protections for pregnant workers.

## Uniting For Roe v Wade at “Bans Off Our Bodies”

Saturday, May 14, saw Hendersonville join rallies across the country advocating for abortion rights in the face of an anticipated Supreme Court decision that would eliminate the constitutional right to abortion and throw that decision back to the states. Wonderfully, the approximately 300 individuals who gathered from 4-5:00 p.m. at Boyd Park at Five Points (opposite Hendersonville High School) were a mixed bag of women—young and old, men, young people and, of course, dogs. For an hour, the horn-honking expressions of assent generated from the passing traffic was a strong affirmation of women seeking to maintain their right to unrestricted reproductive health care in what is purported to be “the land of the free.” Among the clever, unique, and sometimes irreverent signs were the poignant reflections, “Not My Body, But For My Daughters and Granddaughters;” and “Someone You Love May Need A Choice.”

*AAUW Supports choice in determining one's reproductive life and increased access to health care and family planning services.*



# Wednesday, May 11 Special Meeting Minutes

AAUW Branch Special Meeting  
May 11, 2022  
Trinity Presbyterian Church

Acting President Cathy Veal opened the meeting and welcomed the nineteen members in attendance (she had assumed this role upon the resignations of co-presidents Norma Treadwell and Sandy Lancaster for health and family reasons).

Members had received a packet of information ahead of the meeting that outlined transition procedures and four motions to be voted on. Cathy began by presenting Motion#1 and Margie Rex seconded:

**MOTION #1** proposed to amend the Hendersonville NC AAUW Branch Bylaws by striking Article X. Officers, Section 1 and inserting *"A leadership team for the Hendersonville AAUW Branch will be comprised of an Administrative Officer/ President, Directors of Finance, Membership, Communications and Program and additional members as appropriate.*

Result: Passed unanimously.

**Motion #2** proposed that an interim steering group of five members of the Hendersonville NC AAUW Branch be convened to prepare, with the guidance of National board member Elizabeth Haynes, a set of revised bylaws and policies to present to the membership no later than October 31, 2022.

Result: Passed unanimously.

**Motion #3** proposed a leadership team to be elected to lead the Hendersonville NC AAUW Branch for the period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. Proposed leaders: Administrative Officer/President: Sandy Bernard; Director of Finance: Margi Rex; Directors of Membership: Barbara Beckerman and Diana Bagwell; Director of Programs: Carol Walters; and Director of Communications: Jan Allen.

Discussion followed, with Jan Allen withdrawing from the leadership team while agreeing to continue to maintain the web site under a TBD Director of Communications. The motion was amended to leave the Communication Director to be determined.

Result: Passed unanimously as amended.

**Motion #4**, a proposed a budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, was presented by current Account Manager Margie Rex. Margie summarized the budget, explained it is based on 50 members and answered questions from members.

Result: Passed unanimously.

Cathy Veal then thanked members and concluded the business meeting. Sandy Bernard, as newly elected Administrative Officer, then assumed the leadership position, thanking the group, and opened an informal meeting for brainstorming, idea gathering and discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Goff, Acting Secretary

## Your Voices

Thank you to the 20 members who shared their input about our future at our last meeting.

**Q1** If you were inventing the branch today, what would you change? We would...

- have more partnerships with HVL groups with similar interests and goals.
- Offer our programs to other branches/other audiences.
- Have bag lunch meetings to draw in working people.
- Have more in-person meetings/activities.

**Q2** What would you like to keep?

- Programs—always good!
- Interest groups.
- Our relationship with Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC.)
- Our scholarship program.
- Effective communications.

**Q3** To celebrate our 45th birthday year, we could

- Utilize the media, especially free publicity.  
Coordinate the publicity.  
Use Facebook.  
Look into an Intern from BRCC.
- Use 45 as the key to connect AAUW with 45.  
Brainstorm 45 ideas.  
“45 Years and still growing.”  
45 ways to support women and girls etc.
- Have proclamations by both the mayor and BRCC.

**Q4** Considering our mission of advancing gender equity for women & girls through advocacy, education and research, which organizations should we be working with?

League of Women Voters/BRCC/Women United/Latino Advocacy Coalition/BPW Athena Award/Wingate University/Realtors/YMCA/educators, librarians, medical providers, powerful women/STEM collaborators; Realize and utilize the power of AAUW.

**Q5** If the monthly programs focused on “Who Runs the World... We Do” who would you feature?

- Teachers, librarians, medical personnel, local female politicians gatekeepers, STEM supporters in HC schools and home schooled children.
- AAUW for our outreach & power/170,000 supporters.

**Q6** When designing a three-part series on the joys and challenges of retirement, be sure to include how to -

- Access groups/interests in the community.
- Get off the couch. Physical and mental health. Community involvement.
- Transition successfully.
- Make the most of your time. Meaningful activities.
- Plan and prepare.

**Q7** Words that represent areas critical to our future are—

Outreach/fun/companionship/mission/educational stimulation/face-to-face communication/volunteering.

### NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

If you were unable to attend the last meeting, your voice can still be heard.

E-mail your thoughts about any or all of the questions to Sandy Bernard [ssmreb@bellsouth.net](mailto:ssmreb@bellsouth.net) or call her at (282) 290-5561 but only after May 30. Until then she'll be cruising with her granddaughter to celebrate her graduation from UNCC!

Again thanks to all who shared their voices and to everyone who's helping to shape the branch's future.

*Sandy Bernard, Incoming President*

## AAUW Hendersonville Branch Newsletter

Susan Huff, Editor/Publisher

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828 217-5944

Do you take time to open the CONNECT monthly newsletter when it comes to your In box?

CONNECT is your link to the other AAUW Branches in North Carolina and to our state president, Pat Ashe. By the way, it is edited and distributed by our very own Mary Ann Bents!

If you are feeling like you "don't know what's going on" in AAUW, this is your information source. In addition you will receive news and links to programs being presented by other branches, to which we are all invited.

Look for CONNECT and make it your new friend.

## Special Interest Groups Seek New Members

Interested in participating in our continuing Special Interest Groups (SIGs)? Please contact the individual indicated below:

**First Thursday Book Group:** Books are selected and read by all members. Individual members lead discussion and critique. Members are welcome to attend one or all meetings. At the June Zoom meeting books for the upcoming year will be selected by participants. Beginning in July the group will meet in person with the possibility of a Zoom tie-in.

*Contact* Mary Ann Bents [mabents@verizon.net](mailto:mabents@verizon.net)

*Date:* June 2 *Time:* 1:30 pm

**Bridge:** Tables of bridge and snacks. Players and subs are needed! Location: Marjean Smith's home, 201 Red Bird Lane, Hendersonville 28791.

*Contact* Cecille Masters-Webb [treetop3136@gmail.com](mailto:treetop3136@gmail.com)

*Date:* June 3 (first Friday) *Time:* 12:30 p.m.

**Art Group:** Cathleen Yordi will be convening a planning meeting soon to determine an agenda for the coming year. Join by *contacting* Cathleen Yordi [clyordi@aol.com](mailto:clyordi@aol.com)

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