



website: <https://charlotte-nc.aauw.net/> Address: PO Box 26545, Charlotte, NC 28221

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Helen Keller

Mission Statement: Our mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

A Note from our President, Pamela Oviedo

A new year invites reflections—on our goals, our growth, and what lies ahead. Whether it's prioritizing wellness, learning something new, traveling, or strengthening financial habits, every goal begins with intention.

Our AAUW branch enters the year with that same sense of purpose. Through SMART planning, we are working to reconnect with members, strengthen engagement through meaningful programs, and encourage participation in the **State AAUW Conference this April**. Just as any successful journey requires thoughtful preparation, growing and sustaining our membership takes care, creativity, and commitment.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on programs and fundraisers that support scholarships for women in underserved communities and in fields where women remain under-represented, including STEM. AAUW's mission—to advance gender equity through education, economic security, and civil rights—continues to guide this work.

We invite you to be part of the momentum. Join us at an upcoming meeting, participate in our programs, and consider attending the State AAUW Conference in April located in Charlotte, NC.


Together we can strengthen our branch and continue making a meaningful impact in the year ahead.

*Your Branch President
Pamela Oviedo, Ed.D.*

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 17 – 18, 2026

The Charlotte and Salisbury AAUW branches will host the 2026 State Conference in Charlotte. The flyer below highlights the agenda and critical information for attendees.

More information will follow in subsequent newsletters as well as being posted on the AAUW website.



AAUW
of North Carolina

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
OF NORTH CAROLINA STATE CONFERENCE**

April 17 - 18, 2026 - Charlotte, North Carolina
"Hats Off to Her: Join the Race for Equity"

**THE WINNERS CIRCLE:
FRIDAY APRIL 17, 2026**

Reception 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Awards 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

The Winners Circle celebrates the trailblazers, sojourners, advocates, and emerging leaders who keep AAUW's mission in motion, advancing equity through education, leadership, and advocacy. The goal is to honor outstanding women and branches in North Carolina. Like a derby, progress requires preparation, perseverance, and teamwork. Together, we'll tip our hats to those who paved the way and gather momentum for the next lap toward equality.

- Derby elegance meets empowerment. Award categories; Equity, Leadership, Advocacy, Education.
- Dress-up element: Attendees are asked to wear their finest hats or fascinators for a celebratory awards event.

**RUN FOR EQUITY:
SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026**

DERBY DIALOGUES

- 8:30 – 9:15 a.m. Pacing Presidents and Vice Presidents & Trotting Treasurers
- 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Riders Up
- 11:00 – 12:15 p.m. Derby for Diversity Luncheon
- 12:20 – 1:15 p.m. Galloping Governance (bylaws, voting, installation)
- 1:20 – 3:00 p.m.
 - Parade to Pay Equity
 - Prized Public Policy
 - Steeplechase in STEM
 - Neck and Neck to NCCWSL
 - Race to Read
- 3:15 p.m. The Closing Kick

LODGING INFORMATION

- Location: Hilton Airport 2800 Coliseum Centre Drive Charlotte, NC 28217
- Rate: \$159 per night including breakfast
- Phone: 704-357-1414 Book by: March 19, 2026
- American Assoc of University Women
- Code: 93J
- Booking Link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/americanassociationofuniversitywomen/>

Conference Registration: To commemorate our 1912 establishment in NC, the conference registration fee of \$114 includes the Winners Circle Reception, Derby for Diversity Luncheon, and all registration materials. Please visit www.aauwnnc.org for details.

AAUW Public Policy Priorities

As AAUW begins 2026, take advantage of the superior AAUW lobbying efforts and reporting to members by paying attention to the news coming to members from Washington, D.C. by email.

It's easy to learn about AAUW public policy priorities and activities through the communications sent from our national AAUW organization. Pay attention to how your dues support AAUW priorities and participate in their efforts by answering the calls for action throughout the year. Get your money's worth from your membership.

Lucille Howard
Public Policy Representative

How to access Branch and State Websites

All members are encouraged to access multiple websites to learn about local and state activities and events. Here are the URLs for these websites.

State: <https://www.aauwnc.org/>

Charlotte: <https://charlotte-nc.aauw.net/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aauwnc>

And to JOIN GROUP on the Charlotte Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/767009107482813>

And for Charlotte branch officers, access to the Community Hub:

<https://charlotte-nc.aauw.net/branch-officers/>

Laura Tew
Charlotte Website Editor

Recent Events

December 2025 was a busy and fun month for AAUW. We had three events that were all deemed a success by those in attendance. We had our second Chat and Chew at the Trio Restaurant. Then we participated in the Salisbury Holiday Soiree at the Grape and Glass Wine Tasting Room. Our final event was at Park Road Books followed by a luncheon.

Below are pictures of each event.



The Chat and Chew at the Trio Restaurant was attended by (left to right) Pamela Oviedo, Janet McClay, Addi Casseus, Beverly Larson and Marleen Hansen.



The Holiday Soiree at the Grape and Glass Wine Tasting Room was attended by Addi Casseus, Ruby Walker, Janet McClay, Da'Tarvia Parrish, Ph.D., Pamela Oviedo, Rita Law and Delores Shannon.

Da'Tarvia Parrish is the VP NC AAUW.



The Park Road Book event focused on supporting Title 1 schools by purchasing and donating books. Charlotte's total donation in book purchases was \$362.73.

Event attendees were Pamela Oviedo, Rita Law, Lucille Howard, Addi Casseus, Jacqueline Jenkins and JoAnn Mrstik.



Following the book purchases, the group dined at Midwood Plaza Smokehouse. (Yummy food for sure.)

Looking Forward

January	Tentative 1/31/26. Event partnering with League of Women Voters.
February	Black History Month. Event TBD.
March	Women's History Month. Event TBD.
April	Recognize Financial Literacy Month. Program yet TBD.
May	Mother/Daughter Tea.
June	End of year Luncheon.
TBD	Mini-tech month—sign up for online courses of interest. For example, Intro to AI, Social Media Essentials, Google Account & Free Software Tools, etc.

AAUW Charlotte Area Branch 2026-2027 Board Members

President	Dr. Pamela Oviedo
Membership Vice President	
Finance Officer	
Public Policy Chair	Lucille Howard
STEM Chair	
Recording Secretary and Newsletter Editor	Janet McClay
Past Co-Presidents	Rita Law and Marleen Hansen



Wishing you all a healthy and happy upcoming year. And when times are tough, always remember to look for that silver lining in every cloud.

Prepared by Janet McClay

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