

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. AAUW, founded in 1881, is open to all graduates who hold an associate or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a 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.

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Save the Date

Summer Leaders Meeting—July 13, 2013, in Charlottesville
12:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m.—See back cover for details

Everyone Counted in Richmond

When we changed to a one-day state conference in the odd years, we unwittingly instituted a jam-packed day. But what a day it was! More than 100 members and guests crowded the meeting rooms on April 13, 2013, at the Richmond Airport Holiday Inn.

We kicked off with a wonderful brunch and the exciting news that our campaign for the Turning Point Memorial not only met our goal, but more than doubled it. (Anita Aymer’s article details the presentation and lists the branches that contributed.) This was followed by an enlightening talk on women’s health in Virginia by Dr. Karen Remley, the immediate past State Commissioner of Public Health, and a talk by our AAUW visitor, Patricia Ho, on AAUW national’s amazing work and awards.

Fortified with brownies and blondies after a brief business session, we headed off to one of three workshops to learn, motivate, and energize ourselves to increase and retain members, create alternative branch structures, and set up awesome branch websites.

The icing on the cake this very busy day was reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones. That is certainly one of the best parts of AAUW and our state conferences.

Gay Olsen, Laura Wimmer, and the Greater Richmond Branch were terrific hosts. We hope to see all of you April 4-6, 2014, at Smith Mountain Lake for our next state conference.



Dr. Karen Remley addresses the Virginia state conference

AAUW of Virginia Elected Officers

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**Deadline for Vision:
September 15
January 15**

Please send all copy to
Erin Nabors
eln0102@aol.com

From Your President

Sometimes the Truth Hurts



The following is a true story.

A young woman with a master's degree in education happened upon a description of AAUW. As a "strong proponent of women's equality and educational advancement," she was excited to join AAUW. She went to the national website and was impressed with what AAUW was doing and our mission. Then she looked at the website for the local branch in her area, only to find it out of date and without much information on the branch's current activities. Moreover, the website had no obvious or easy way to email a branch contact. From what she could see, the branch seemed focused more on social events and the book group. She had hoped to see a discussion group or branch program addressing societal issues impacting women and girls and perhaps events that promote activism in her area.

This potential member then wrote to state Membership VP Sally Sledge because she was very interested in joining AAUW—but she was concerned about the local branch. In her words, "I truly believe that AAUW could make a great impact in the community with greater outreach and a much more appealing website. New members are not going to be drawn in, or their interest piqued, by a lackluster website and what seems like a branch that lacks the motivation and leadership to plan activities and activism around the current issues that directly impact the focus of the organization at large."

Did she join? I don't know. But she certainly expressed in a nutshell how we attract (or not) younger members. I don't particularly mean women in their 20's and 30's, although it's wonderful to have them in the branch. I think our "younger women" potential members probably begin at 40 or 45. Where do they find us? On the internet; so our branch websites are crucial. They are looking to see if the branch is actively promoting and living the AAUW mission—and if there is someone to contact because the branch looks like the place they want to be. The website is our face to potential members.

—Caroline

A Way to Support Children

Strong Kids/Strong Virginia is an organization that works for children's issues, such as access to affordable and safe child care services, prevention of violence against children, expanded early learning opportunities and after-school programs, and the alleviation of child poverty. The organization, which is nonpartisan, focuses on getting these issues to the forefront during elections and publishes candidates' statements on children's issues.

If children and their welfare is an issue of importance to you, you can contact the organization for further information on ways you can help at www.strongkidstrongvirginia.com or contact Cynthia at Cynthia@everychildmatters.org or 410/474-4899. Affordable child care and violence prevention are included in AAUW of Virginia's public policy priorities.

District Representatives

Northern	Northwest	Southeast	Southwest	
Sandra Lawrence 703/569-1588 slawrence4@juno.com	Vacant	Sherry Warren 757/399-5716 varrtl@aol.com	Julie Kause 276/228-5853 jkause@embarqmail.com	Pamela Montgomery 276/228-1010 pm0061@gmail.com

AAUW Funds

2012 Philanthropy

AAUW of Virginia did a splendid job of philanthropy in 2012. The state and branches raised a total of \$72,275.57 for Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, Leadership Programs, Action Funds, Legal Advocacy Funds, Educational Opportunities Funds, and Public Policy. Virginia ranked sixth in the country in terms of overall giving as well as per capita giving. The McLean Area Branch ranked seventh nationally for overall giving. Following are the national rankings for Virginia and its branches.

Peggy Stotz
AAUW Funds/Legal Advocacy Chair
pstotz@aol.com

Fund	State or Branch	National Rank	
		Per Capita Giving	Total Giving
Eleanor Roosevelt Fund	Virginia McLean Area	5	6 7
Leadership Programs	Virginia McLean Area	3	4 4
Action Funds	Virginia Greater Richmond Norfolk	5	2 1 4
AAUW Funds (undesignated)	Virginia		10
Legal Advocacy Funds	Virginia McLean Area	8	7 5
Educational Opp. Funds	Virginia	10	
Public Policy	Virginia McLean Area Reston-Herndon	6	3 1 10
Combined Giving (total all funds)	Virginia McLean Area	6	6 7

Communications

Have You Googled Your Branch?

People are searching everything online! A January 2013 study by internetworldstats.com reported that every minute of the day, two million search queries are made on Google. The internet isn't a fad; it is fundamental to the way we communicate today! We encourage branches to have a website so that potential members, particularly younger ones, can find you. They are doing searches and, if your branch is not present on the internet, it will not be found!

Another reason for having a branch website is that it can become the go-to location for branch members when they need information. Your bylaws, book group schedule, program information, even your branch directory can be available in a password protected member-only section of your website. The links you provide can take members quickly to various web pages at the national website. All of the information on your website is available immediately and easily from any place you go. And it is there whether it's midnight or noon! What a convenience for your members and potential members alike.

Having a website is much easier than you might think... and it's free! Site-Resources is AAUW's in-house way of connecting branches. It uses a WordPress publishing platform, which is a managing tool for websites. It provides a customized template, making it a breeze to update. Technical support is personal and friendly. The

human you can always talk to, ask questions, and receive help from has a name: **Megan Morrison**. She can be reached at 202/785-7775 or morrisonm@aauw.org.

Virginia currently has 14 branches that are participating with Site-Resources. We hope that one day *all* of the state branches will be connected in this way. The web managers of these new branch websites agree that learning the process of editing their websites was easy.

The state website has also transitioned to Site-Resources. The state's new web address is <http://aauw-va.aauw.net>. The web manager is **Leslie Vandivere**, Fairfax City Branch (lvandivere@cox.net). If you visit the website you can find the links to all 14 branch websites by clicking on BRANCHES from the navigation bar at the top. Check them out! See what your sister branches are doing. Notice also how each website is similar, yet different.

Google your branch. If you can't find it...neither can potential members! Consider whether *you* might be the one to manage *your* branch's website and open the door to internet presence!

Patsy Quick
Vice President for Communications
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Public Policy

Public Policy Planning and New Impact Grant

This year, Virginia will elect new leadership, including a governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general. All delegates and many senators are also up for election. Many items that impact girls will be considered by the General Assembly and local governing bodies.

AAUW of Virginia applied for a Public Policy Impact Grant for June 30, 2013, through June 30, 2014. You can access our application at <http://aauw-va.aauw.net>. We will use funds from the grant to develop programs state wide with the goals of influencing the implementation of the legislation that is of importance to our members, introducing AAUW to governmental organizations and Virginia citizens as an issue driven organization, and providing exposure to and obtaining state support for issues that impact AAUW membership.

After AAUW's National Convention, on June 25, 2013, at 7:30 p.m., public policy chairs and interested members are invited to participate in a conference call to develop the Implementation Plan for the Public Policy Impact Grant. We want your ideas and participation. If

you are interested, please send me your email or home address (if you do not have email), so that I can send the phone number and access number you will need to participate.

We focus on two issues, the primary issue being equal pay. The Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill currently in the House of Representatives, will amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex. Our secondary issue is Title IX: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), an issue that Virginia has worked on for years.

Get together with your Public Policy Chairs, members, and friends and plan activities around equal pay and STEM. Participate in the Impact Grant conference call on June 25, 2013. Join AAUW of Virginia as we make our voices heard.

Angela D. Booker
Co-Vice President for Public Policy
angeladbooker@gmail.com

Program

21st Century Technology and AAUW Virginia

Here we are, thirteen years into the 21st Century, still reaching for equality. Our pay gap is still only 75 cents to a dollar for a man and it takes us until April to reach our "equal pay day."

Our millennial generation is pushing us further to equality, but we need to focus on a younger group by reaching out to our adolescent girls. Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers should not be considered the male domain.

This year, our focus for AAUW of Virginia will be supporting programming to reach our middle and high school girls. Many branches have been focusing on these "Girls in the Middle" and have successfully conducted STEM-type conferences for girls.

We are hoping to put together a template for our branches to assist with STEM career conferences for

middle or high school students. If your branch has already been successful with such an event, please contact me with the information. I will be compiling this information and utilizing that success to develop a program for all our branches.

AAUW national conducts a program that produces one-day conferences for parents and students with guest presenters from various STEM-related career paths. Our project this year will be to create the Virginia AAUW STEM project to benefit each of our branches and create more awareness in our communities of our mission.

Send your programming ideas to me via e-mail for easier distribution.

Anita Aymer
Vice President for Program
aymer2010@gmail.com

Membership

Report of the Membership Vice President

As of March 25, 2013, AAUW of Virginia membership totaled 1,311 branch members and 1,061 National Members in the state, for a grand total of 2,372. We had a great membership workshop at the Spring Conference. We are moving forward with new membership strategies.

One new strategy I have implemented this year is a Mentoring Program for College Students. In Hampton Roads, we will invite AAUW Members to serve as Mentors to local college women. They will communicate informally within some noted parameters and then hopefully all mentors and protégés can meet at the end of the year to celebrate the network. Details will be forthcoming if any branch or district would like to participate.

Another strategy is to partner with any military installations or organizations that may be in your area. Northern District Representative Sandy Lawrence suggested

this and may have ideas about how to get in touch with such groups, which often have like-minded women. For information, contact Sandy at slawrence4@juno.com.

Another strategy is to target graduate students by putting a program on at a local university to discuss AAUW's scholarship and grant programs and noting the full-time grad student discount. We are pursuing this at a few of our universities. We are eager to reactivate our branches at Virginia Tech and UVA, so if you know of any great women who might be potential members in these locations, please let me know.

I am looking forward to hearing other ideas for membership from you. We want to share in your successes and spread ideas that work. Together, we will pursue the AAUW mission and hopefully gain exciting members along the way.

Sally Sledge
Vice President for Membership and Branch Development
sasledge@msn.com

Below is a list of branch member totals, based on the Membership Services Database on www.aauw.org.

BRANCH	COUNT	LIFE	LIFE			
	3/25/2013	LIFE		Mt. Vernon	55	1
Alexandria	43	4		Newport News	18	5
Arlington	136	14		Norfolk	45	6
Ashburn-Leesburg	15	0		Norton-Wise	11	0
Bedford	25	0		Portsmouth	36	5
Blacksburg-Virginia Tech	1	1		Reston-Herndon	92	5
Charlottesville-UVA	5	0		Roanoke Valley	69	9
Fairfax	53	2		Smith Mountain	48	0
Falls Church Area	36	9		Springfield-Annandale	60	8
Greater Manassas	10	3		Suffolk	28	0
Greater Richmond	35	6		Vienna Area	58	3
Hampton	11	3		Virginia Beach	54	1
Harrisonburg	42	3		Winchester	50	8
Lynchburg	70	13		Woodbridge	43	3
McLean Area	122	14		Wytheville	40	1
				TOTAL	1,311	127

In Memoriam

Peggy Gross, member of the state Voting & Elections Committee and president of the Alexandria Branch, passed away suddenly March 26, 2013. She contributed greatly in setting up the One Member/One Vote process in Virginia. We will miss her presence in AAUW and her many contributions of time and effort.



A Plan to Reap the Benefits of Membership

What's the benefit for members of a state organization? The state exists to work with and assist branches and members to promote and carry out the AAUW mission. To do that, the state needs a plan and, in April, the state board adopted a new Strategic Plan. The plan highlights our commitment to membership and effective commu-

nication to and among branches and members. It also focuses on REAPing the benefits of being a member of AAUW through Research, Education, Advocacy, and Philanthropy. Those four areas are the pillars through which we accomplish AAUW's mission. Below is the state strategic plan—be sure your branch has one, too.

AAUW of Virginia Strategic Plan 2013-15

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

AAUW of Virginia Mission: AAUW of Virginia promotes and supports the AAUW Mission in concert with its branches and members to create and sustain a cohesive, synergistic, and effective organization.

AAUW of Virginia will encourage an active, diverse, and growing membership.

- Provide branches with ideas and best practices for increasing membership and retaining current members
- Provide information and ideas to branches on developing future leaders
- Increase the number of College/University Partners and provide assistance to branches to develop relationships with C/U Partners

AAUW of Virginia will maximize communications to, from, and among branches and promote AAUW visibility.

- Publish the *Vision* newsletter; maintain a state website and a variety of social media
- Encourage and assist branches to utilize various media forms to keep their members informed and to be visible in their communities and on the internet
- Maintain counterpart lists and regularly share ideas and information with branches, including articles for branches to use in their various media

AAUW of Virginia will assist and encourage branches and members to **REAP** the benefits of membership.

- **R**—Promote and support AAUW research initiatives
 - ◆ Publicize AAUW's research and help branches educate the public
 - ◆ Orient and educate branches, particularly new members, on Eleanor Roosevelt Fund contributions as the source of funding for research and the American and International Fellowships programs as the source of academic scholarship with societal impact
 - ◆ Help branches to utilize the research through community projects and branch programs, including Program in a Box
- **E**—Be a leading advocate for education of all women and girls
 - ◆ Increase member and public awareness of AAUW's educational programs: fellowships and grants; leadership development; AAUW campus projects; and community projects fostering girls' education, particularly STEM activities
 - ◆ Inform and encourage members and branches to undertake projects, programs, and other activities that develop leadership, foster the education of women and girls, and support AAUW campus projects
- **A**—Engage in **advocacy** and support for state and national issues that relate to AAUW's public policy priorities
 - ◆ **Educate and inform branch members on state and federal legislation pertinent to AAUW and encourage branches and members to take action as appropriate**
 - ◆ **Keep Virginia's elected officials informed of AAUW's position on issues**
 - ◆ **Participate in AAUW programs and projects to increase involvement in the civic process, including voter registration and education**

Collaborate with other organizations as appropriate
- **P**—Promote and support AAUW's philanthropy
 - ◆ Educate members on the purpose and accomplishments of each of the AAUW Funds
 - ◆ Encourage continuing and increased financial support for AAUW Funds
 - ◆ Encourage branches to insure that any local scholarships or awards advance AAUW's mission
 - ◆ Provide information and encouragement to members to include AAUW in their wills and estate plans

You Asked For It—We Did It

At the 2012 summer leaders meeting, branch leaders requested two things from the state board, which are now on the state website at <http://aauw-va.aauw.net/library/>:

Branch Job Descriptions: State board members developed job descriptions for their branch counterparts to provide a basic outline of duties and responsibilities. You'll find descriptions for president/administrator, finance officer, recording secretary, program vice president, membership vice president, AAUW Funds chair, public policy chair, communications chair, bylaws chair, and parliamentarian. Use these as a guide when recruiting branch leaders so they know the duties and expectations for the position.

AAUW Orientation: Want a program that informs current, new, or potential members about AAUW, but don't have the time to create one? The answer is the new state "AAUW Orientation for Branches and Members" Program in a Box. The program provides an overall picture of AAUW beyond the branch, the inspiring history of AAUW, an outline for the leader to use, and a list of national and state activities and resources and where to find them. It is great for a branch program or a new member orientation, so make space on the branch calendar for this fall.

It's Closer Than You Think!

Planning is already underway for the 2014 State Conference, which will be held at Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia, April 4–6. Now is the time to mark your calendars for an interesting, fun-filled weekend. Program details have yet to be finalized, but the local host team is already making plans to ensure your visit is a memorable one.

The conference will be held at the W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center. The facility is a multi-purpose conference facility with dining, hotel-style lodging, and meeting rooms all located on a beautiful campus setting.

Smith Mountain Lake is located in central Virginia along the Blue Ridge Mountains and is equidistant from Roanoke and Lynchburg. It's a short four hour drive southwest of Washington, DC and two hours north of Raleigh, NC.

Friendly people and genuine hospitality make everyone feel welcome and there is always something new to do on its 500 miles of shoreline. World-class historical sites, unique shopping opportunities from antiques to art galleries, the latest fashions, fantastic dining and entertainment options, and simply sitting back and enjoying the glorious scenery make everyday complete.

Smith Mountain Lake—it really is closer than you think!



W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake

Save the Date!
2014 State Conference
April 4-6
Smith Mountain Lake

AAUW of Virginia Election Results

The votes are in—Sally Sledge has been reelected Vice President for Membership, Nancy Thompson has been reelected Vice President for Finance, and Sherry Warren has been elected Recording Secretary for the 2013-2015 term. Congratulations!!!



Lauren Germain receiving her Dissertation of the Year Award from Deborah Faye Carter in San Francisco, May 2013.

Dissertation of the Year

Lauren Germain is the winner of the 2013 American Educational Research Association Division J Dissertation Award. Germain is a former AAUW state board member, serving as College/University Representative from 2010 to 2012. At that time, Germain was instrumental in forming the Charlottesville/UVA Branch and served as their president. She was working on her doctorate at the University of Virginia and received the McLean Area Branch American Fellowship Endowment for her dissertation year. Germain's project, entitled *I Have the Power to Change This: College Women's Agency and Sexual Assault*, examines women's experiences following sexual assault at higher education institutions in the United States. It is great to know that a Virginia branch provided Germain with the funding to complete her dissertation, which ended up winning such a prestigious award.

Celebrate the Moment!

Well done, AAUW of Virginia! A goal was set last fall to collect donations for the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial (TPSM) in Occoquan, Virginia. Our hope was that every member across the state would contribute at least one dollar and we would have \$1,000 or more to enable AAUW of Virginia to have our name on the Wall of Donors.

We are an *awesome* team because our grand total thus far is **\$2,205!**

Here is the Honor Roll of contributing branches:

Arlington	Mt. Vernon	Greater Richmond
Ashburn-Leesburg Area	McLean Area	Smith Mountain
Fairfax City	Newport News	Springfield-Annandale
Falls Church Area	Norfolk	Virginia Beach
Hampton	Roanoke Valley	Woodbridge
Harrisonburg	Portsmouth	Wytheville
Manassas	Reston Herndon Area	



Jean Ann Bolling, wife of our lieutenant governor and board member for TPSM, came to our state conference to receive our check and was excited to be with us. Emily McCoy, a TPSM volunteer, echoed her thanks as well. "Thank you so very much. We greatly appreciate AAUW's efforts for TPSM. It was truly a successful event."

Thank you to each member who helped us attain our goal and honor the women who gave us our right to vote.

For those of you wishing to contribute, please send your check to:

TPSM Association
PO Box 502
Occoquan, VA 22125

Donations may also be made at the website: www.suffragistmemorial.org. Please be sure to indicate your AAUW branch on your donation so we will receive full credit for AAUW contributions.

Anita Aymer
Vice President for Program
alaymer2010@gmail.com

Branches in Action

Fairfax City Branch members wore red to our February meeting to acknowledge Women's Heart Month and to hear *The Heart Truth*[®]. The program, sponsored by the National Institute of Health and its partner organizations, shares stories of women who have been touched by heart disease to give women a personal and urgent wakeup call about their risk of heart disease.



Our speaker, Gabby Awosika, a heart disease survivor, represented the National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease. Emphasizing that

heart disease is the leading killer of women in America, she explained what heart disease is and how to recognize its signs and

symptoms. After listing the factors that increase the risk of heart disease, she pointed out how women can lower that risk. Gabby left a bag of information for each of us so we could learn how to be smart about our hearts.

Branch founding member Trudi Arnold shared the story of her own heart attack, which happened a year ago:

My left artery had a 99 percent blockage, so the wonderful heart surgery team of INOVA Fairfax removed the blockage with angioplasty and placed a mesh stent to open the artery. Because I had been an active tennis player, my heart muscles stayed strong and sustained no damage. However, I do live with coronary artery disease. It's a blessing to know that through proper nutrition, exercise, appropriate medications, and avoiding stress, I will continue my life comfortably.

For more information about *The Heart Truth*[®], see www.hearttruth.gov.

Leslie Vandivere
Co-President, Fairfax City Branch
LVandivere@cox.net

Harrisonburg Branch had two goals in mind for our April branch meeting. The first was to connect with our local college/university partner, James Madison University, to co-sponsor a screening of the Oscar-nominated documentary, *The Invisible War*, which discusses sexual assault in the military. The second was to raise awareness of AAUW's mission among the campus community.

The month of April is designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the United States. The film raises awareness about sexual violence and educates about how to prevent it. Mary Perramond, vice president for programs, made connections with Liz Howley at the University's Health Center and Amelia Underwood, adjunct professor in the Department of Military Science, to have the film shown as the kick off activity for JMU's

annual *Take Back the Night* rape awareness event. The viewing was open to all campus and branch members. After the screening of this powerful film, Amelia spoke regarding the film's content and her military experience. Two branch board members, Marty Brown and Tina Updike, then spoke about the role of AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund in providing case support to two of the lawsuits featured in the film and about our branch's activities and membership opportunities. The event was a great success. We established a productive partnership with the university, helped provide an educational opportunity for the campus community and our members, gained visibility for our branch and AAUW, and recruited new members. It was a win-win situation, two times over!

Tina Updike
Co-Vice President for Programs, Harrisonburg Branch
updikecb@jmu.edu

Three members of **Roanoke Valley Branch**; Dot Briggs, Kay Koehler, and Natalie Haley; received their Honorary Life Member certificates at the branch's annual new members and award meeting on May 4, 2013.

Charlotte B. Seth
Vice President for Membership, Roanoke Valley Branch
OLDARFIE@aol.com



Dot Briggs, Kay Koehler, and Natalie Haley

Branches in Action

Vienna Area Branch members gathered in December to support Artemis House, a Fairfax County safe house for women and their children fleeing domestic violence. The location of the safe house is confidential due to the clients' needs for safety. The branch has partnered with the organization for many years through holiday contributions. Artemis House provides families in crisis with private living quarters, groceries, and transportation funds; however, the organization also solicits additional contributions to help fill in the gaps. Members of the Vienna Area Branch donate gift cards that help families buy needed clothing and children's toys, pay for gasoline, and make long distance calls to family.

Last year, our branch received a Certificate of Appreciation from Artemis House. In her letter to the branch, Hanan Scrapper, Artemis House Director, wrote, "AAUW really made Christmas happen for our families." She went on to

say, "Please give thanks to the members who contributed gifts for the families of Artemis House. We wish you could have seen all the happy faces and screams of joy when the families came to pick up their gift cards. It was truly a moment to remember."

New director, Laly Goodmote, addressed the branch, sharing several success stories as well as the challenges many women of Artemis House face. The main goal of the shelter is to stabilize women and their families after experiencing severe trauma from family abuse. Artemis House also provides continuing support with housing and education services after a client leaves.

The Vienna area branch is proud to provide annual support to an organization that meets the needs of women in our community.

Nadine James
Co-President, Vienna Area Branch
nmjames1972@aol.com

Norfolk Branch. In April, Dr. Karen A. Polonko, University Professor Director, Children's Rights Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Old Dominion University, gave a PowerPoint presentation on "Female Genital Mutilation." She has written extensively on child sexual abuse and researched and traveled in the Middle East and North Africa. Her graphic photos were accompanied by actual stories of women's plights in the mentioned countries, which included how female children and adults are sexually mutilated because of custom and culture in their countries abetted by their mothers and mothers-in-law in the violence.

Dr. Polonko has taught courses on the sociology of children, marriage and families, child welfare, and violence against children globally, and has published widely in the areas of fami-

lies and children. She is co-author of several books, was honored as the first ODU faculty member to receive an Outstanding Faculty Award from SCHEV, and was named Virginia Professor of the Year by CASE. In 2012, Governor McDonnell, along with the Governor's Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect, honored her for the passion and dedication she has brought to her work for 28 years developing community awareness programs and curricula on child abuse and children's rights, authoring numerous publications, and inspiring and educating her students about the prevalence and dynamics of child abuse and neglect. This year she was awarded the ODU Community Service Award.

Dr. Polonko made us proud when she joined our branch.

Wilma Robinson
President, Norfolk Branch
wrobinson7@cox.net

Smith Mountain Lake Branch. We are very proud of our fundraising activities and efforts to Get Out the Vote. The scholarship fundraiser is a fashion show/luncheon/silent auction. Our other fundraiser for AAUW depends upon YOU! It is the B&B opportunity for you to spend two nights at our beautiful lake as guests of one of our members. Email Toni Seidelmann at toniseid@hotmail.com for information. We spent two days registering new voters at Ferrum College.

Our scholarship committee spent hours evaluating 21 applications, many from very qualified, deserving students. The two awardees chosen this year will each receive \$1,500 that goes directly to their schools. This year, both women are older (in their 30s), having returned to school to complete their degrees. We all look forward to our May meeting when the



awardees are present and we can celebrate them together.

For January, we held a training course to learn about child abuse prevention, a delicate but important topic. After completing "From Darkness to Light," several of us participated in educating the public on what can be done if they witness or suspect child abuse. Our other two programs were presented by local authors, both enlightening us about issues related to AAUW's mission: Judy Light Ayyildiz presented *Forty Thorns* and Pam Hain (one of our members) spoke about her book *Murder at the State Capitol*.

We are now very much engaged in preparing for a fabulous State Conference, April 4-6, 2014! Remember, Smith Mountain Lake is Closer than You Think!

Toni Seidelmann
President, Smith Mountain Branch
toniseid@hotmail.com

Branches in Action

The **Mount Vernon Branch** profited from learning about “Nutrition and Food Quality” in two very different and very educational sessions.

On Saturday morning, September 29, 2012, we had a field trip to the Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture which is located on the grounds of historic Woodlawn Plantation. This land, formerly part of George Washington’s Mount Vernon estate, is now owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Arcadia Center is a partnership between the National Trust and Neighborhood Restaurant Group, a business working to ensure high quality, locally grown food for its member restaurants.

As we toured the working farm, we learned that in sustainable agriculture



Field Trip to the Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture

there is no waste. Spent plants are composted. Crops are on a five year rotation to improve the soil. Beneficial insects, such as lady bugs and praying mantises are used against harmful insects. The Center raises awareness of the benefits of healthy food by encouraging school groups to visit the farm, by running a summer day camp to six- to ten-year-olds, and by operating a Mobile Market that takes fresh local fruits, vegetables, and eggs, plus advice on how to use them, to stops in Alexandria, Virginia.

On November 15, the Mount Vernon Branch screened the film, *Food, Inc.*, prior to a panel presentation that included organic farmers and nutritionists. Members and guests were invited to come for one or both parts of this session and healthy refreshments were served.

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This year, **Northern District** emphasized “The Fight against Sexual Assault on Military Members.” At the fall meeting, Attorney Susan Burke gave an outstanding presentation on her lawsuits for military members against DOD’s systemic cover-up of military sexual assaults. AAUW Legal Advocacy Funds supports three of the lawsuits. In October, AAUW hosted a screening of *The Invisible War*, an Oscar nominated film that exposes the epidemic of rape within the U.S. military, at Fairfax Cinema Art Theater. After the movie Holly Kearl and I led a discussion. Several branches also showed *The Invisible War*, and I led discussions at these programs.

In March, AAUW sponsored the screening of *The Invisible War* at George Mason University along with the Women and Gender Studies and Wellness, Alcohol, and Violence Education and Services departments at GMU. Northern District Lobby Corp members also lobbied Congressional offices to co-sponsor the Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Protection (STOP) Act. Among other things, it would remove Commanding Officers from oversight of sexual assault cases and their ability to stop/close investigations.

Sandra Lawrence
Northern District Representative
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Named-Gift Honorees 2012

Alexandria	Susan Werner, Ed Zebrowski
Falls Church Area	Sally Brett, Carol Anne Davis, Marian (Bunny) Jarrett, Mollie Jewel, Elizabeth Kessel, Pam Martinov, Debbie Pawlak, Leah Porzel, Sharon Strand, Mary Youman.
Greater Richmond	Lois Hofstra, Patricia Mallahan, Marion Siegle
Harrisonburg	Jan Leach
Lynchburg	Kathy Quale
McLean Area	Sue Burggraf, Laurie Warhol, Wen-Wen Yi
Mount Vernon	Catherine Krebs, Joanna P. Crane, Jeanne V. Gayler, DeJuana Jones, Ericka Kensey, Joanne Clark
Norfolk	Wilma S. Robinson
Portsmouth	Nancy Jones, Barbara Johnson
Roanoke Valley	HelenRuth Burch, Kay Koehler, Sandy Sandridge, Pam Jones, Lynne Victorine, Dot Briggs, Clare Newman, Beth Ann Rossi
Springfield-Annandale	Judy Baldwin, Deborah Bullock, Eleanor Shubinski-Mosser, BettyMarie Fields, Elizabeth Clements, Karen Flam, Ann Sauberman, Virginia Wells
Virginia Beach	Sally Daniel, Tammie Mullins-Rice, Alice Forrest, Fran Adams, Sally Patteron-Cisna, Meyera Oberndorf
Winchester	Betty Jo Dickerson
Woodbridge	Angela Booker, Alice Reagan
Wytheville	Betty Clark

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Summer Leaders Meeting

Is your branch running low on energy? Attendance at meetings dwindling? Still struggling to create a leadership team or have effective branch governance? Join us July 13 at the English Inn in Charlottesville for the summer leaders meeting where we'll explore those issues and send you home with ideas, inspiration, and enthusiasm.

The 2012 meeting focused on the top two challenges we heard from branch presidents: filling branch leadership positions and recruiting/retaining members. The 2013 meeting will go a step further. How do we mentor possible leaders and how do we make alternative branch leadership and structures work? And how did those branches that increased their membership do it?

The second part of the meeting is based on another challenge that has been mentioned many times this past year: The branch is losing its energy and passion, and we seem to have fewer and fewer members at our meetings. What can we do to re-energize?

Who's invited to Charlottesville? Everyone! All of us are past, present, or potential leaders. **Every branch is invited to send one or two members on July 13th to brainstorm these issues with the state board.** We'll meet 12:30–4:30 to give you time to get there and back home that day. While it is good if the branch president or an officer comes, anyone can represent your branch and we welcome them. Let your branch president know if you would like to come.