



VIRGINIA

Spring 2009



# Vision

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**Deadline for Vision:**  
**October 15**  
**January 15**  
**May 1**  
**July 15**

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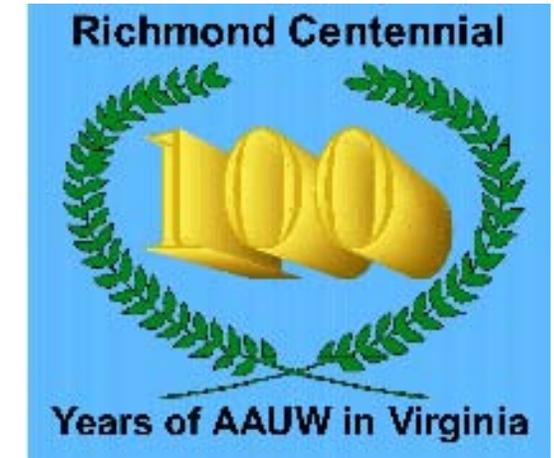
## Convention to Mark Century in Virginia

AAUW OF Virginia's 2009 state convention will be Saturday April 25 in the historic area of Richmond, a one-day event at the DoubleTree Hotel Richmond Downtown.

On Friday evening, April 24, AAUW members from across the state will join Richmond Branch in celebrating 100 years of AAUW in Virginia. There will be a reception at 5:30 PM at the Richmond Times Dispatch Headquarters. Special guests will be Linda Hallman, Executive Director AAUW, and Tom Silvestri, Publisher of Richmond Times Dispatch.

### Related Story on Page 9

The convention, at the DoubleTree Downtown Hotel, will open at 8:30 AM Saturday with a welcome by Richmond Mayor Dwight Jones. The business meeting will follow at 9:00 AM.



Of major interest to members, particularly those planning to attend the national convention in St. Louis is June, will be Caroline Pickens' presenta-

*(See CENTENNIAL on page 4)*

## Keeping the AAUW Promise

by Ruth Z. Sweetser  
 and Barbara L. O'Connor

Will 2009 be the year of AAUW's transformation? If so, each of us needs to be reminded that policies and procedures by themselves don't change an organization. Rather, it is YOU, the members, who have the opportunity to move AAUW from a 20th- to a 21st-century organization.

First, we have to work and think together as a community to ensure that we keep our AAUW Value Promise at all times. When planning activities ask "How does this project or program or activity help keep AAUW's Value Promise?" "Am I helping to break through educational and economic barriers for women and girls?"

Whenever you read with your granddaughter, do something that benefits the Educational Foundation, or write your member of Congress through our Two-Minute Activist portal, you're taking a step to break through barriers.

With nationwide engagement by members, our results, if documentable, will prove to be powerful and persuasive.

Second, plan to attend the 2009 AAUW National Convention: Breaking through Barriers, June 26-28, in St. Louis. There you'll have the chance to experience the new AAUW firsthand, to see what the future holds for our organization. You'll make AAUW history by participating in the bylaws votes, and, of course, you'll reconnect with old friends and make valuable and enjoyable new connections. But, please,

*(See TRANSFORMING on page 4)*

**AAUW of Virginia  
Elected Officers**

**Co-Presidents**

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Laura Wimmer  
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**Recording Secretary**

Mary Sue Nelson  
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**Vice President  
for Program**

Sandra Sieber  
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**Vice President  
for Membership  
and Branch Development**

Mary Kate Black  
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**Vice President  
for Finance**

Mary K. Johnson  
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**Vice President for State  
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**Vice President for  
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# From Your Co-Presidents

*Greetings to all AAUW members across the Commonwealth -*

We hope this finds all of you doing well and staying warm! There has been a lot happening within AAUW, as well as within our country, these last few months. Currently, Congress is in session, the Virginia General Assembly is in session, and as AAUW members we are about to vote on bylaws changes to ensure the future of our organization.



There is an exciting state convention being planned for Richmond in April – more details elsewhere in this *Vision* – and our AAUW Executive Director, Linda Hallman, will be joining us on Friday night, April 24. We hope many of our members will be able to join us with their questions and comments. Richmond Branch invites you to join us in celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!

We also hope that many of you will be able to travel to St. Louis June 26-28 for the Association Convention – we will need delegates from Virginia to vote on these very important issues.

Please feel free to contact any of your state board members with questions or concerns that you have. Remember that state board meetings are open to all members and you are more than welcome to sit in at any time. And if you would like to work on state board we have several open positions that you may want to consider.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Richmond for the state convention – call the Downtown DoubleTree hotel and book your room reservation today.

*Laura and Dianne*

**From the Regional Director**

## Bylaws Changes Lead to a Lot of Feedback



With AAUW branches well into their fiscal year and fundraising planning, we are all busy, but none as busy as the AAUW Bylaws Committee. In the continuing strategic process, they have considered all the comments and feedback they received on the draft of the proposed bylaws revision that will come before our national convention in June. They have made several changes based on the feedback and submitted it to the joint boards meeting in October.

They have reported that the most comments were received on the following: opening the membership; national dues collection, and the role of states and branches in the new AAUW

There were suggestions that changing the membership requirement not be included in this bylaws revision, but the committee and the joint boards decided that this is a decision for the

*(Continued on page 3)*

**District Representatives**

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## Feedback Wanted

# RECOGNITION PROGRAM UNDER REVIEW, REVISION

As Vice President for Programs, I have received some feedback that perhaps the Pioneer Woman and Points of Pride recognition programs could use some updating. AAUW is undergoing a lot of change itself this year and we might want to focus on recognizing different things in the future. Unless there is significant objection, I propose we suspend these programs this year, especially since we only have a one day state convention, and instead solicit feedback from all branches about what they would like to see in the future.

Additionally we would invite any branch which had a particularly unusual or successful year to have their representative say

## *Regional Director*

*(Continued from page 2)*

membership at convention. So the proposed bylaws will go forward to convention with the provision to open the membership to all who support our mission. Supporters of this change point out that, if our reason for being is “breaking through barriers so all women have a fair chance”, we shouldn’t have a barrier for membership. I hope you will all keep an open mind about this issue. We will continue to be the same organization with the same mission, no matter what the membership requirement.

The national dues collection will no longer be an issue because it is being done as a voluntary and optional program and that will be reflected in the new draft bylaws.

As to the role of states and branches, Presidents Ruth Sweetser and Barbara O’Connor issued a member briefing on September 4, clarifying that there was never any intent to marginalize states and branches, and recognizing the vital role of the grassroots of our organization. You can find this briefing on the AAUW website – go to the Member Center, then Strategic Planning Process and then Current Topics Briefings Series.

The latest version of the proposed bylaws will be posted on the website in January and will be printed in the next Outlook magazine. Delegates to the convention in St. Louis June 26-28, 2009 will vote on the bylaws.

We are a vital organization and we must change and evolve if we are to continue to break through barriers for women and girls. Come be a part of the decision-making process in St. Louis.

**L. Carol Newnam**  
South Atlantic Regional Director  
carolnew@verizon.net

a few words about it at the luncheon. This is your chance to let us know what you consider worthy of recognition and help shape the future AAUW of Virginia program. Give us your feedback so this can be truly a program meaningful to your members.

Contact me at [chuckandsandy@comcast.net](mailto:chuckandsandy@comcast.net) if you have ideas or suggestions, and if your branch would like some time to speak in Richmond. I hope to see many of you there and informally discuss your ideas.

**Sandy Sieber, Vice President for Programs**  
571-214-4006, [chuckandsandy@comcast.net](mailto:chuckandsandy@comcast.net)

## 2009-2011 Slate of Officers

The Nominating Committee has announced the following candidates for state offices to be voted on at the convention in Richmond April 25..

### **Vice President for Membership and Branch Development: Mary Kate Black**

Mary Kate Black has served as Vice President for Membership and Branch Development for AAUW of Virginia for the past two years. Under her leadership, the new Ashburn-Leesburg Area Branch was organized in April 2008. She is a member of the Vienna Area Branch.

### **Vice President for Finance: Mary K. Johnson**

Mary K. Johnson has served as Vice President for Finance for AAUW of Virginia for the past two years. She is now a member of the Springfield-Annandale Branch. She has served on the Virginia State Board as the Vice-President for Membership.

### **Recording Secretary: Arlene Ney**

Arlene Ney is a member of the Virginia Beach Branch and has served as Treasurer and LAF Chair. She is currently Co-President of the Branch.

The Nominating Committee is composed of the District Representatives, with Leslie Purtlebaugh of Northwest District serving as chair.

**Nancy H. Morgan**  
Vice President for Communication  
703/465-1245, [nhmcc@mindspring.com](mailto:nhmcc@mindspring.com)

# Centennial Convention

(Continued from page 1)

tion at 9:45 AM, “AAUW Meets the 21st Century - What Does the Future Look Like for AAUW and You?” Pickens is AAUW Bylaws chair and heads up the group revising the bylaws.

Dr. Sandra Treadway, State Librarian of Virginia, will be the keynote speaker at the 11:30 AM luncheon. Because of the brevity of the convention, there will be no banquet. Workshops will follow at 1:30 PM and 2:30 PM. Participants may choose two of the following:

- ◆ *Surviving Today's Financial Turmoil* which will address the current economic crisis, and how individuals can survive. It will be led by Christine Chmura of Chmura Economics and Analytics.
- ◆ *Reach Out and Read: A Literacy Program Connecting Doctors, Children and Books*
- ◆ *Breaking News: AAUW Impacts Pay Equity*

The final event of the convention, 3:30-4:00 PM, will include awards and recognitions. There will be a drawing for the



Silvestri



Hallman

LAF basket raffle.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the DoubleTree Downtown, 301 West Franklin Street, Richmond 23220, 804-644-9871; [http://doubletree1.hilton.com/en\\_US/dt/hotel/RICFSDT-Doubletree-Hotel-Richmond-Downtown-Rates](http://doubletree1.hilton.com/en_US/dt/hotel/RICFSDT-Doubletree-Hotel-Richmond-Downtown-Rates) are \$119 per night plus tax (\$134 total) single or double, with valet parking \$16.00 for 24 hours or \$8.00 per day. Please contact hotel directly to make your reservation no later than March 23.

The registration form may be found on Page 11.

## Transforming AAUW

(Continued from page 1)

come to convention well versed in the proposed bylaws and rationales; the briefings provide extensive information on these new approaches.

Third, adopt innovative tools and future-oriented thinking about what will make AAUW viable, attractive, and competitive. Organizations compete for the attention and participation of current and potential members. So to finalize the corporate restructuring from three separate entities to one tax-exempt umbrella organization (501(c)(3) with a very small 501(c)(4) subsidiary, the Action Fund), we will need to adopt bylaws that support the respective legalities and functions. We also need new ways of operating that recognize updated ways to lead, technology that facilitates administrative work so volunteers can devote themselves to breaking through barriers, 21st-century ways of engaging with each other, and other practices.

A number of these innovative tools have been introduced through the series of briefings that AAUW has provided since early fall 2008. These tools include the Programs in a Box, which provide how-to's for mission-based programming; the Membership Pilot Program, which will allow leaders to manage their membership records online; and the Branch and State Local Scholarship Clearinghouse Pilot Program, which will help branches market their scholarships and select their recipients from a pool of prescreened applicants.

Our new method of submitting a leadership position application will allow members to express general and specific areas for service, along with an inventory of skill sets they can bring to these positions. The type of work expected of the regional director is so valuable that we are revamping and strengthening that role to ensure grassroots engagement for the new AAUW.

At the AAUW state spring meetings, board members and other leaders will present and facilitate discussion on all these transitions.

Each of these changes marks a departure from our business as usual, yet they are all designed to address our organizational shortcomings. It is up to us to take hold of what organizational development teaches us, leave behind AAUW practices and thinking that don't work, and build on AAUW's unmatched legacy to reshape its potential for the future. We need to be smart, as well as educated!

How you think about AAUW, its future and its promise, will determine both how you receive proposed changes and, more important, what you do with the new AAUW once it is in place. You are the agent on which AAUW's success rests!

The new AAUW is going to be a force to be reckoned with. With a community of nearly 100,000 determined women and men, focused on a single objective—to break through barriers for women and girls—we will be unstoppable.

# Dues Are Half Price Through March 15

The Half-Yearly Dues Campaign (half-price for Association and State dues) will end in a few weeks, on March 15. I hope your branch has been taking advantage of this offer to recruit new members. **Association dues are \$24.50 and State dues are \$4.00.** Student Affiliate Association dues are also half-price through March 15 (\$8.50). Students can join for \$17.00 after the campaign ends.

The good news is that after March 15 **Association dues will not increase** as they have in the past. The Association Board adopted the motion retaining the \$49 dues for branch members and members-at-large (MAL) for fiscal year 2010.

It is important that we keep the energy going for recruiting new members and retaining old members. Everyone is concerned about spending money these days, so we have to work harder to share the value of AAUW membership in our communities.

There are numerous possibilities for growth all around us. Begin a new interest group in your branch, and entice thinking women to join. With historic changes in the air now, this may be a good time to start a **Great Decisions Group**, for example. Great Decisions is an informative and interesting discussions program sponsored by The Foreign Policy Association, and it is a great way to bring in new members. Several of our branches are doing this. To learn more about Great Decisions, go to [www.greatdecisions.org](http://www.greatdecisions.org).

We must focus more of our attention on our students - they are the future. There is a new initiative offered by AAUW, and a great opportunity for all undergraduates attending a College or University that has joined AAUW as a **C/U Partner**. Those students can join the Association entirely free as an **e-student affiliate**. To see the **C/U Partner** flier, visit the website at [www.aauw.org/About/join/value/colleges.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/About/join/value/colleges.cfm) and click on "College/University partners" near the top of the page. You can see how inexpensive it is for colleges and universities to join. For a list of **C/U Partners** in Virginia,

scroll down the page and click on "directory of partner members." I intend to contact many colleges and universities in Virginia who are not yet partners to share the value of this offer. If you are interested in helping me with this project at a college near your branch, I would welcome your help.

Please consider submitting an application for the branch **Mini-Grants**. Take advantage of this offer from the Virginia Board - a \$100.00 grant to aid in a mission-based program or an event for recruiting new members. Applications are on the AAUW of Virginia website.

Thank you for all you do to increase membership in Virginia, and I look forward to seeing you at the State Convention in Richmond.

Mary Kate Black,  
VicePresident for Membership  
and Branch Development  
703-938-6157/[bbbmkb@cox.net](mailto:bbbmkb@cox.net)

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## State Convention Agenda Includes Bylaws Discussion

At the one-day State Convention, there will be a session led by Caroline Pickens on the proposed AAUW bylaws changes. We hope that many of you will attend and participate in this most informative meeting.

The proposed revised AAUW Bylaws, Action Fund, Inc. and Amendment to the AAUW Charter are now posted on the AAUW Web Page for your review: <http://www.aauw.org/About/bylaws/index.cfm?cs>. You will have to log in to the member center using your member number. If you do not know your member number, look just above your name on the mailing label on this *Vision*.

There is also an *Introduction to the revised AAUW Bylaws*. Reading this first will answer many of your questions concerning the changes. There is also a Q&A posted on the website to answer many of the questions that came from members during this process. Your additional questions may be forwarded to Caroline Pickens, Chair of the AAUW Bylaws Committee, [pickens\\_slim@hotmail.com](mailto:pickens_slim@hotmail.com), 703/448-0415. The proposed changes will be voted on at the Convention in St. Louis, June 26-28, 2009.

Committees/Clusters/Branches of AAUW members across the Commonwealth are encouraged to review and discuss these proposed changes in preparation for the Convention in St. Louis.

Jennie Sue Murdock  
Bylaws and Resolutions Chair  
540/389-6733, [jswmurd@verizon.net](mailto:jswmurd@verizon.net)

### Corrections

Contact information for Vice President for Program Sandra Sieber and Vice President for Public Policy Lorena Thorne-Bruner was incorrectly listed in the last issue of *Vision*. The correct information is

Sandra Sieber:  
571/214-4006, [chuckandsandy@comcast.net](mailto:chuckandsandy@comcast.net)

Lorena Thorne-Bruner  
540/720-5705, [brunerlorena57@hotmail.com](mailto:brunerlorena57@hotmail.com)

# Branches in Action

**Hampton Roads District** had over 20 members in attendance at Carini's on October 18. The food was excellent, the speaker inspiring and educational, and we had plenty of time for socializing. Our speaker, Elizabeth Vandenberg from the National Girls Collaborative Project, gave us some troubling statistics about girls in education especially in the STEM subjects. She also told us what the project, along with AAUW and other organizations, is working on to encourage girls to go into the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.



Elizabeth Vandenberg

**Kathy Kelley, District Representative**  
804/330-5588 , [bookie002@yahoo.com](mailto:bookie002@yahoo.com)



**Lynchburg Branch** welcomed several new members this fall, bringing our total to 92. Four joined at the fall annual used book sale, where we offered membership at a reduced price through the Shape the Future campaign. The branch has a vibrant commitment to supporting scholarships for local women and enjoys meeting and working together.

The 2008 book sale was our fiftieth, also our most profitable. Our newest project is to collaborate with the local YWCA's Ygyrls program, which plans to add a drumming-leadership component to the existing Ygyrls activities for high school girls with untapped leadership potential. Our members will participate by inviting the drumming group to perform for us and by providing assistance in a variety of activities.

Another collaboration of long standing, well-known and well-supported by the community at large, is the sponsorship of four Great Decisions lectures on topics of international import during the month of February. We are co-sponsors with the League of Women Voters, the Lynchburg Public Library and the YWCA.

Program topics for branch meetings this year range from "The Legislative Balancing Act" from the perspective of our local female legislator to environmental concerns peculiar to Lynchburg, mental health issues in Virginia, city race relations, local higher education, and the 2008 presidential election in review.

**Martha Wilson, President**  
434/528-1286, [mgowilson@aol.com](mailto:mgowilson@aol.com)

**Newport News Branch** has sponsored a family from the Transitions (battered women's and children's) Shelter for several years and continues the sponsorship this year. In addition we solicited donations for Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund rather than conduct a fundraiser event.

The September meeting this year was held in the new Newport News Police Department community room. Members had an opportunity to tour the new facility. The program was "Mediation: The Process and Virginia Certification Requirements" presented by Kim Hubbard, Executive Director of the Community Mediation Center in Norfolk, and our member Ethel Woolfolk, a certified volunteer mediator for the Community Mediation Center. Our October branch meeting was the Hampton Roads District meeting in Richmond.

In November we began a study on illegal immigration. Our meeting at the Williamsburg Library featured a review and discussion of the video *The Latino Underground*, a production of Virginia Public Television. Our December meeting was a covered dish social at the home of Sylvia Winfrey with spouses and guests invited. In January we continue our illegal immigration study with a book review and discussion of the non-fiction *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario on the journey of a Central American boy to join his mother illegally in the US. We will also discuss the fiction *Sister of My Heart* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni to raise our awareness of differences in cultures concerning family.

Programs planned for the spring include a study of water issues and women's health, as well as the Hampton Roads District meeting in February.

In September we were saddened by the death of fifty-year member Tommy Graham.

**Dana Dunham, President**  
757/868-4102, [earlanddanadunham@cox.net](mailto:earlanddanadunham@cox.net)



**McLean Area Branch** began the year with a September reception celebrating our just-completed book sale. This was our 39<sup>th</sup> annual book sale and gross receipts exceeded \$44,000, breaking our previous record. We enjoyed meeting new members and having as special guests the four winners of our local scholarships, as well as three fellowship recipients.

An ongoing activity of our branch is tutoring students at Pimmit Hills Alternative High School. Most of these students have been out of school and working for some years; the majority are recent immigrants. This year for the first time we

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# More Branches in Action



**Linda Wells and McLean Area Booksale Chair Betsy Reddaway**

*(Continued from page 6)*

gave scholarships to two Pimmit Hills graduates to help them attend Northern Virginia Community College.

We have had outstanding programs at our branch meetings this fall. In October our guests were State Senator Tom Rust and Delegate Margaret Vanderhye who spoke about the challenges of funding and implementing state transportation projects in our region. In November, a speaker from the World Bank told us about efforts to increase opportunities for women in developing countries. In the Middle East and North Africa, educational opportunities for women have increased, but their career opportunities remain limited.

At our holiday luncheon in December we had the privilege of hearing from former Ambassador to Ecuador, Linda Jewell. She gave a fascinating talk on her experiences in the Foreign Service. Our January meeting featured an outstanding panel of three educators from local high schools.

McLean Area Branch was founded in 1969 so we are celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Plans are underway for a gala event in May. As another way to mark our 40<sup>th</sup> year, we have brought our funding toward a new Research and Projects Grant up to \$40,000.

**Ginger MacEwen, Co-President**  
703/734-0367, [vmacewen@alumni.duke.edu](mailto:vmacewen@alumni.duke.edu)



**Winchester Branch** has chosen *New Connections* as this year's focus. Our programs have featured local, female-owned businesses; we have cultivated student affiliates at Shenandoah University and Lord Fairfax Community College, and introduced AAUW to new community members at local fairs and festivals. We also provided a vital community

service by holding the only mayoral candidates' forum ahead of the November election.

We started the year with a relaxing day at Le Papillion, a new female-owned day spa, where we learned about the latest techniques in skin care and massage while enjoying a spa cuisine brunch. In November, we funded our local scholarship by selling tickets to the Winchester Little Theater's production of *Moon Over Buffalo*. We learned a little Swahili in December at our holiday brunch while enjoying a presentation by Mary Ruos and Theresa and Tim Merkel on their trip last summer to Tanzania.

In January, the GoGreen Gals and ECycle Consulting taught us how to recycle wisely, discerning between green marketing frenzy and other methods that are equally effective but not as hard on the pocketbook. In March, we look forward to learning more about the founding mothers of Winchester with a local historian, and in May we'll host International Affairs Chair Esther Mabry to learn more about CEDAW.

**Rebecca Bronson, Co-President**  
540/723/0342, [beckiauw@hotmail.com](mailto:beckiauw@hotmail.com)



**Springfield-Annandale Branch** and AAUW received some nice publicity on Washington D.C.'s ABC affiliate, WJLA, Channel 7, after Brian Van de Graaff, the morning and noontime weatherman, spoke at our pre-Christmas luncheon. He brought a cameraman who filmed his talk and panned the room so we were able to see ourselves that night on the 6 PM news and the following Monday morning. Brian talked about AAUW's community involvement and support for education and equity for women.

At the luncheon we collected books for The Reading Connection whose volunteers read to children in local shelters and give them books to keep for their own. Springfield-Annandale has supported this project for several years.

Fall speakers included Rokey Suleman, director of the Fairfax County Voting Commissioner; Laura Hutchinson of the Herb Block Foundation who talked about the late Herblock and how political cartoons effect election campaigns and legislation; and Suzanne Levy, a genealogist and historian.

For January we are looking forward to hearing Betty Ernst who will share her experiences while traveling with her book group to the Daphne DuMaurier Festival, an inspiration for our own Morning and Evening book groups. February will be a joint meeting with the Fairfax City branch to learn more

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Branches in Action

Continued from page 7)



**From left: Lou Mosier's daughter Elizabeth, Nancy Jerdan, Brian Vande Graff, Helen Cassidy, Ruth Thorp, Nancy O'Day, Lou Mosier and Mary Sue Nelson at the Springfield-Annandale Branch meeting.**

about CEDAW, the Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women and efforts to get it ratified by Congress.

Plans are well underway for our Spring Fling fund raising luncheon, March 7. Retired Brigadier General Clara Adams-Ender, who rose from sharecropper's daughter to command of Fort Belvoir, will be an inspirational speaker.

**Judy Baldwin, President**  
703 978-0887, [rjbald@verizon.net](mailto:rjbald@verizon.net)



**John Lovaas, an interpreter, and Russian economists**

*Reston-Herndon Area Branch* hosted a delegation of five Russian economists who visited the United States October 30 through November 8 to observe the election, an exciting and rewarding experience highlighted by a trip to Manassas for the final rally in Barack Obama's campaign and an election-night party in which we shared history being made.

A committee of 20 branch members developed the program, including meetings with elected officials at state, county and local levels, congressional staff and local leaders of political parties and volunteer organizations; plus visits to campaign headquarters, polling places, South Lakes High School, our local library, homeless shelter, food pantry and daycare center. Members of the delegation were interviewed on the "Reston Impact" TV show, hosted by Branch member John

## Fair Pay Law Is Signed

"She knew unfairness when she saw it, and was willing to do something about it because it was the right thing to do, plain and simple," Michelle Obama said of Lily Ledbetter, after the President signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law January 29. The First Lady was hostess at a reception for Ledbetter in the State Dining Room afterward.



Ledbetter was a supervisor at a Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. plant in Alabama who filed a lawsuit after discovering a difference between her pay and the pay of equally placed male workers. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled against her in 2007, saying she took action too late to collect damages. The new law relaxes the deadlines for filing such suits.

"With this bill in place, we now can move forward to where we all hope to be, improving the law, not just restoring it," Ledbetter said. "You can count on my continued commitment to fight for the Paycheck Fairness Act and to make sure that women have equal pay for equal work because that's what this country is all about."

"The wage gap doesn't just hurt working women, it hurts families as well," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, who attended the signing ceremony. "We are especially pleased that this measure is the first bill moved by Congress and signed by our new president, sending a strong message that economic issues and pay equity are a top priority."

Ledbetter will speak at the AAUW convention in St. Louis June 26-28.

Lovaas. We held a "town meeting" for the community and a farewell party, complete with Russian and American decorations, food and music.

We're now staying in touch with our Russian friends by email and working on opportunities to establish ongoing relationships with women's groups in Russian cities where members of the delegation live and the possibility of a high school student exchange.

Our application to host the group was facilitated by a branch member and former employee of the National Peace Foundation, which administers the program, with funding by a grant from the Open World Leadership Center at the Library of Congress. We would welcome the opportunity to talk with any branch that is interested in hosting a group through the program.

**Carol Hurlburt, President**  
703/264-9054, [schurlburt@verizon.net](mailto:schurlburt@verizon.net)

# ***AAUW Turns 100 Years Old in Virginia***

In April, 1909, a small group of women—determined to begin untying the strait jackets which confined women's lives—gathered in downtown Richmond. The South had never marched at the forefront of female rebellion. It was a fiery New Englander who led the way. But Virginia's women had never been pushovers. Underneath their acquiescence and charm they wore corsets of steel. Now they were determined to get higher education and voting rights for women.

This year's AAUW of Virginia convention will celebrate past milestones, even as we begin to plot our coming landmark achievements. An early birthday present arrived on January 29: President Obama's signature on the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. AAUW across the nation worked for this result. (See Page 8)

Our AAUW of Virginia Birthday Party will take place late on

Friday afternoon, April 24 in the atrium of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* Building.

The Mayor of Richmond and other officials have been invited to this party—along with local civic leaders from many other organizations. Greeting the crowd and introducing speakers will be Tom Silvestri, publisher of the newspaper. Stewart Bryan, owner of Media General, will reflect on the city's past.

Each of the 10 hostesses will wear a costume representing one decade of the past century. Women recording artists, piped in as background music, will provide tunes from each decade. A highlight of the event will be watching our state co-presidents, Laura Wimmer and Dianne Blais, cut the giant birthday cake.

**Anne Sterling,**  
**Centennial Committee Chair**  
804/285-8354, [nimbleleap@aol.com](mailto:nimbleleap@aol.com)

## **Meet Me in St. Louis**

# **Historic Convention Set For Gateway to the West**

AAUW-Missouri and the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) in St. Louis are hard at work planning the details of hosting the 2009 AAUW National Convention at the Renaissance St. Louis Grand and Suites Hotel, June 26-28, 2009. This historic convention, themed "BREAKING through BARRIERS," will discuss and vote on issues related to membership requirements, dues payments, public policy issues, and much more. The results will have a momentous impact on who and what AAUW is to be in the coming years. Early Bird Convention Registration is available until 11:59 p.m. (EST) March 22. Check out the AAUW website for full details on the issues, the convention, and things to do in St. Louis: [www.aauw.org/convention](http://www.aauw.org/convention).

There will be welcoming activities on Thursday, workshops on Friday morning, First Timers' briefings, and business sessions each day.

Plan now to send branch members and delegates to convention by budgeting for it, appointing delegates early, discussing the issues and bylaws. For additional information, you may contact the Local Arrangements Committee: Lynne Roney, chair ([lynnroney@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lynnroney@sbcglobal.net)), Diane Ludwig - local sponsorships ([dbludwig22@aol.com](mailto:dbludwig22@aol.com)), Pat Shores - volunteers/hospitality ([apatriciashores@charter.net](mailto:apatriciashores@charter.net)), and Julie Triplett - volunteers/hospitality ([julietrip@charter.net](mailto:julietrip@charter.net))



**Nancy Morgan took this photo of the St. Louis Gateway Arch from the Basilica of St. Louis, King, ("The Old Cathedral") the oldest Catholic cathedral west of the Mississippi.**

# AAUW of Virginia 2009 Calendar

## FEBRUARY 2009

- 1 Dues, membership forms sent to Branch treasurers, copy to membership VPs  
*Johnson, Black*
- 15 **Oision** mailed  
*Morgan/Koehler*
- 15 Call for branch reports and state board reports for Convention book.  
*Branch Presidents/Board Members*
- 18 Dues/membership confirmation to State Treasurer  
*Branch Presidents*
- 18 Branch voting strength mailing to Branch Presidents  
*Johnson*

## MARCH 2009

- 1 Slate of nominees to branches  
*Nominating Committee*
- 15 Board Reports and Branch Reports for Convention Program Book to Blais  
*Board Members, Branch Presidents*
- 15 Delegate list to Convention Credentials Chair  
*Branch Presidents*
- 31 **Convention Registration Deadline**  
(cost goes up after 4/1)

## APRIL 2009

- 24 **State Board Meeting in Richmond**  
*State Board*
- 24 **Richmond Centennial Celebration**
- 25 **State Convention in Richmond**  
*All Members*

## MAY 2009

- 1 **Oision** articles due to Morgan. Emphasis: Convention wrap up and program planning. Articles from *Falls Church Area, Hampton, Norton-Wise, Portsmouth, Roanoke Valley, Vienna Area, Woodbridge, and Northern District*
- 15 Reminder to board about summer board meeting  
*Blais, Wimmer*
- May 7 **Federal Lobby Day, Washington DC**  
*Thorne-Bruner, All Members*

## JUNE 2009

- 1 **Roster of Branch Officers due to Association and State President**  
*Branch Presidents*
- 1 **Roster of State Officers due to Association**  
*State Presidents*
- 1 **Oision** mailed  
*Morgan/Koehler*
- 26-28 **AAUW Convention, St. Louis**
- 30 Year-end Financial Statement  
*Johnson*

## JULY 2009

- 1 Branch dues reports due to Association/State Treasurer  
*Branch Treasurer*
- 15 President's mailing to branch presidents  
*State Presidents*
- 15 **Oision** Articles to Morgan. Emphasis: Kick off program year. Branches: Emphasis: Kick off program year. Articles from *Arlington, Alexandria, Ashland-Leesburg Area, Bedford Area, Greater Manassas, Reston-Herndon Area, Richmond, Virginia Beach and Northwest District.*
- 31 State Board Meeting: Fishersville

## AUGUST 2009

- 1 **State Leadership Conference, Fishersville All Members**

## International Women's Day Event

AAUW is encouraging members to join CARE ([www.care.org](http://www.care.org)) and people gathering in 400 theaters across the United States to celebrate International Women's Day 2009. On the evening of March 5, CARE is hosting the theatrical premiere of "A Powerful Noise," a documentary that follows three extraordinary women in their daily challenges and significant victories over poverty and oppression.

Immediately following the film, theatergoers will participate in a town hall meeting broadcast live from New York.

Visit <http://www.apowerfulnoise.org/guides.html> to download a step-by-step planning guide for how local women's groups can participate in this event. Discussion guides about the issues addressed in the film will be available at [www.apowerfulnoise.org](http://www.apowerfulnoise.org).

The film will be screened in a number of theaters across Virginia.

# American Association of University Women: Virginia State Convention

April 24 and 25, 2009

Hosted by the Richmond and Bon Air Area Branches

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Voting Status (check only one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Branch Delegate    \_\_\_\_\_ Branch Alternate Delegate    \_\_\_\_\_ Past State President

\_\_\_\_\_ Member At Large    \_\_\_\_\_ State Board Member \_\_\_\_\_ (Position)

C/U Representative \_\_\_\_\_ (College/University)

## Special Designation (check all that apply):

\_\_\_\_\_ Branch President    \_\_\_\_\_ First time attendee    \_\_\_\_\_ Student

## Saturday 1:30 and 2:30 - Workshops of Interest (Select two)

\*Surviving Today's Financial Turmoil \_\_\_\_\_

\*Reach Out and Read: A Literacy Program Connecting Doctors, Children and Books \_\_\_\_\_

\*Breaking News: AAUW Impacts Pay Equity \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration and Meals: please note any special dietary needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Night Reception - No Charge - courtesy of the Richmond Branch - RSVP \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

Saturday Convention Registration    \$70.00 (\$75.00 after April 3<sup>rd</sup>)    \_\_\_\_\_

Student Registration Fee    \$55.00 (Affiliate Members)    \_\_\_\_\_

Full Breakfast – wraps, cereals, etc.    \$19.50    \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Banquet Luncheon    \$23.50    \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to **AAUW VA Convention**. Mail to: Janet Schwarz, 1721 Park Avenue, Richmond, Va. 23220-2910 by **April 3**.

**NUMBERS  
TO  
KNOW**



**AAUW Member HELPLINE:**

800/326-AAUW

202/785-7798 (Metropolitan  
Washington, DC)

202/785-7777 (TDD number)

202/872-1425 (FAX)

**e-mail:** [helpline@aauw.org](mailto:helpline@aauw.org)

**AAUW website:**

<http://www.aauw.org>

**AAUW Congressional Action Line:**

202/785-7786

**VA AAUW Website:**

<http://www.aauwofva.org>

**VA Legislators Action Line:**

800/889-0229

**AAUW** advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

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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