

# Vision



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

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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## MAKING WAVES IN NEWPORT NEWS

Nearly 100 members representing 22 branches made the April state conference a wave-smashing success. Friday evening was so much fun: a trivia contest about Tidewater women in history, an outrageous and hilarious look at women's 19<sup>th</sup> century Phys. Ed. / (with audience participation), and wonderful desserts. The next morning Lisa Maatz, AAUW's director of Public Policy and Governmental Affairs, kept our rapt attention with her analysis of the political climate in Washington that AAUW must swim in. By the end of her speech, we knew how important our lobbying work is, both in Washington and in Richmond, and how critical it is that we get young women out to vote.



**Southeast District Committee members: front row: Sherry Warren, Neola Waller, Kathy Batkin, Enid Housty; second row: DeAnn Lineberry, Sue Burton, Jacque Dessino, Lona Ross; third row: Carolyn Hughes, Karen Tagg, Mary Swain. More pictures on Page 11.**

Bylaws amendments, and the proposed dues increase. There was thoughtful and civil discus-

*(Continued on page 5)*

The workshops gave our attendees many ideas and tools to take back to the branches: why and how to use social media in the branches; how to get and keep members; and how to target 18- to 30-year-old women and convince them of the importance of their vote. At lunch Claudia Richards, one of the AAUW staff jewels, brought us up to date on AAUW's national-level activities (see a summary elsewhere in this newsletter).

The annual business meeting on Saturday and Sunday gave everyone an opportunity to discuss and possibly amend wording of the 2012-14 Public Policy Priorities, the proposed

***Did your branch have difficulty*** finding someone to be an officer this coming year? Is your branch hungry for new members? Getting members to take branch leadership positions and recruiting/keeping new members--those were mentioned time and again by branch presidents as their biggest challenges when asked by state board members. Consequently, your state board has decided to focus on helping the branches meet those two challenges.

**All branches are invited to send one or two members to the state board meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup> in Charlottesville at the English Inn to help the state board brainstorm ways to assist the branches with these challenges.** A new staff person for leader development will be there to help us work on the problem of filling branch board positions. We'll also have some ideas and tips that you might not have thought of for recruiting and keeping members. We'll meet from 12:30-4:30 to give you time to get to Charlottesville and then home that day. While it is good if the branch president or an officer comes, anyone can represent your branch and we welcome them. Put August 18<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. If you would like to come, be sure to tell your branch president.

## AAUW of Virginia Elected Officers

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Deadline for Vision:  
September 15  
January 15  
May 15

Please send all copy to  
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# From Your President

Usually this is a message from the state president, but this time I want to highlight the words of a **branch** president. As I was mulling over how I might inspire my faithful readers to do good things for AAUW, I received online the Virginia Beach Branch newsletter. There on the front page was Ginny Werner's President's Message. She said more eloquently than I could why we have state conferences:

"I recommend that when you have the opportunity that you attend an AAUW state conference because they are fun and inspiring. Two years ago I attended my first one in Virginia. It was a flurry of activity, meeting new people almost every hour at each new session or event. The speakers were high caliber and impressive, all sharing their expertise and many telling their personal stories of struggles and successes. Useful new ideas that would have impact in our branch were collected. And I gained a broader understanding of AAUW's reach and mission from women working on the state and national levels.

"The April conference in Newport News was just as exciting for me. Faces of other AAUW members from around the state were now more familiar. The parliamentary procedures at the business meetings that seemed confusing to me a couple years ago made more sense, and I appreciated them as a guide to help our large group make decisions. The workshop leaders were again enthusiastic and willing to share their experiences and knowledge.

"Our AAUW branch benefits from the efforts and energies of many women across the country. The two conferences I attended were great ways to expand connections and insights, and focus on leadership issues that keep our organization vital. I hope you will show support for the work of those at the state level...Your dues will be put to good use."

Thank you, Ginny, for your affirmation of the state board's efforts to provide ideas, resources, and inspiration to Virginia's members and branches. That is our *raison d'être*—to help us all do good things for AAUW and to see the magnificent bigger picture of AAUW across Virginia and nationally. Thanks to everyone who serves at the state level, particularly our outgoing state board members: **Laura Wimmer, Dianne Blais, Lauren Germain, Mary Swain, Toni Seidelmann, Suzan Herskowitz, DeAnn Lineberry, and Athena Michael.** A special thanks goes to **Nancy Morgan**, who served as an outstanding and expert *Vision* editor the last several years. If you would like to experience the fun and rewards of serving at the state level, please let me know.

*Caroline*



**Caroline Pickens and Rita Dove at the Conference**

## District Representatives

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## Public Policy

# “Get Out the Vote” Is Current Emphasis

The *Get Out the Vote* training for Virginia took place on April 20, the day before our statewide meeting in Newport News. Thirty participants from twelve AAUW branches and two other organizations were in attendance.

Seth Chase from the National Office conducted the training and Kristina Romines ([kristina.romines@gmail.com](mailto:kristina.romines@gmail.com)), the field coordinator for Virginia, attended on her very first day on the job! A lot was learned about women voters, voting patterns and behaviors and the millennial generation of voters that we are trying to get registered for the upcoming election. Our grant from the National office helped pay some of the expenses for the training and we are applying for the grant again for 2012-13.

All events to register voters must take place by October 12 in order for a voter to participate in the November 6 election. All registrations must be submitted to the Board of Elections by October 12 as well. Please contact Laura Wimmer or Dianne Blais and/or your branch President or Public Policy person if you can spend a few hours on this initiative.

## AAUW Federal Lobby Day 2012

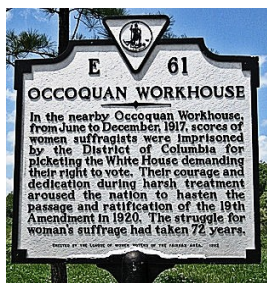
Seven AAUW of Virginia members found their way to Capitol Hill to join AAUW Lobby Corps members on Thursday, May 17. The briefing by AAUW national staff member Ann Hedges was informative and helpful. The materials and packets were ready to go and the Lobby Corps mentors were terrific. Each team visited six Congressional offices lobbying for the Safe Schools Improvement Act which specifies ways to help identify and reduce bullying.

We thank the AAUW members who participated in Lobby Day, the Lobby Corps members, and participating national staff for promoting issues that are vital to women.

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Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy



## Virginia Was a Turning Point in Suffrage

In 1917 more than 70 suffragists were imprisoned in the Occoquan Workhouse in Fairfax County in retaliation for picketing the White House for the right to vote. The reports of the inhumane conditions, beatings, and force-

feeding electrified the country and became the “turning point” in the struggle for the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The country was suddenly aware. The 19<sup>th</sup> was a very simple amendment: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.” But it took incredible courage and sacrifice to make it happen.

To commemorate those women and educate future generations, many of whom are unaware of what women had to do to get the right to vote, a Turning Point Suffragist Memorial will be erected near the site of the Workhouse. It will be a national campaign, but it starts in Virginia where it all began. In honor of those women and as part of our commitment to getting more women registered and out to vote in 2012, the state board had adopted the Memorial as a statewide project. Every branch can participate in some way, small or large.

Several branches have already had speakers from the Memorial committee, and some of you have had movie afternoons or nights with the film “Iron-Jawed Angels” available

online for only \$5.00 at Amazon.com. You will be hearing more about ways to spread the word about the Memorial, but here are some suggestions:

### Movie Night fund raiser:

- Schedule a viewing for a local college/or university
  - Ask for a donation for the movie
  - Sell popcorn and drinks at a reasonable price
- Have voter registration forms available at the movie

### School Groups/Girl Scouts/Youth Groups:

- Visit classrooms or girl scout meeting to share the story of the memorial
- Ask teachers/leaders to have the students/girl scouts research the women
- Provide some biographical information for them

### Branch Support:

- Have a dollar donation night for the memorial
- Contact the local League of Women’s Voters for support
- Promote the project on your Facebook/Twitter

Kathleen Pablo is the contact person: 703-644-1555 or [speaker@suffragistmemorial.org](mailto:speaker@suffragistmemorial.org).

Anita Aymer, Vice President for Program  
276/625-0404, [Alaymer2010@gmail.com](mailto:Alaymer2010@gmail.com)



## When “Funds” Come Home

# ***UVA Fellow Explores Campus Sexual Violence***

During my year as an AAUW Dissertation Fellow, I completed and defended a dissertation that examined responses to sexual violence on college and university campuses. Many of the women that I interviewed expressed feelings of distrust



toward the institutional estate (“the administration,” “the institution,” “campus police,” etc.) and the belief that the institution/s of higher education (IHEs) in which they were enrolled were more concerned with maintaining their prestige and reputation than fulfill-

ing the needs of students who have experienced sexual violence. Further complicating the situation, my research validated previous studies that have found that peers are most often the perpetrators of campus sexual violence. This spring, legislation pertaining to college student safety was signed into law in Virginia. The new legislation requires

mutual aid agreements to be made between campus police and local or State Police forces. Based on my research, one potential benefit of this law is that it may reduce the perception and likelihood that campus police and other campus authorities will place the protection of institutional reputation (and often a student perpetrator) over the needs of students who have experienced sexual assault. It was important to see this legislation passed during my year as an AAUW Fellow. Many thanks to AAUW and especially the McLean Branch for their support of this project: in funding this research, you were investing in steps toward making college and university campuses safer places for all students.

**Lauren Germain, College/University Representative**  
315/430-3608, [ljl9b@virginia.edu](mailto:ljl9b@virginia.edu)

*In addition to her dissertation and serving as founder and president of the UVA-Charlottesville Branch, and AAUW of Virginia College/University Representative, Lauren and her husband, Greg Wormer, became parents of a son, Griffin Miller Wormer, on December 8, 2011.*

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## **Virginia’s Members’ Generosity Grows**

The numbers are in and again: AAUW of Virginia Members donated generously to AAUW Funds: A total of \$74,693.58 in calendar year 2011. These contributions were made to all funds covered by the AAUW Funds umbrella. A huge thank you goes to who made these contributions.

At the conference in Newport branches contributed marvelous baskets for the raffle. Themed baskets lured attendees with promises of chocolate, wine, books, teas, a night at the movies and even *A Taste of India*. In addition a contribution from the Ethiopian Embassy of a beautiful Coptic cross allowed us to include a silent auction. Congratulations and a thank you to the Greater Richmond Branch for a job well done in organizing and running the Raffle.

The raffle raised \$1010 which was the State Board voted to designate to the Anne L. Bryant American Fellowship. Anne, a resident of Virginia, is a past AAUW Executive Director.

**Mary M. Swain, AAUW Funds Chair**  
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**Joy Hendrickson of the Hampton Branch submitted the winning bid on the Coptic cross.**

# What's Happening at National?

## Lots of good things!

- AAUW membership grew for the second year in a row (Virginia itself grew slightly in 2011). National members increased by more than 2,600 (there are more than 900 national members in Virginia). Student Affiliates are up by 67%, and College/University Partners increased by 34% to nearly 600.
- AAUW was recognized in 2011 for outstanding financial management and excellence in charitable funding by four groups: Great Nonprofits, Charity Navigator, Independent Charities of America, and GuideStar.
- National received a completely clean audit from independent auditors. They are on sound financial footing.
- AAUW can be found everywhere online: AAUW website, [blog-aauw.org](http://blog-aauw.org), YouTube ([youtube.com/AAUWinfo](http://youtube.com/AAUWinfo)), Facebook ([facebook.com/AAUW.national](http://facebook.com/AAUW.national)), Twitter (@aauw), LinkedIn, Google+, NING, and Second Life. (A prize for those who know what all those are, but just ask anyone under 40.) Did you know Virginia has a Facebook page? National offers help with free branch websites using Site Resources: [site-resources@aauw.org](mailto:site-resources@aauw.org) or 202-785-7775.
- Need help with branch archives (what to keep and how long, what to toss, where to archive)? Go to the Member Center on the website; click on "News and Notices" on the left for guidelines.
- Elect Her training was held on 30 campuses, and more than 200 \$start \$mart Salary Negotiation workshops were held (great branch project!). More than 500 college women attended the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Thank you to all the Virginia branches that supported NCCWSL!



AAUW Headquarters near the White House

- Four more research studies are in the works: two on the gender pay gap after college, one on student debt, and one on community colleges.
- The latest research study, "Crossing the Line" on sexual harassment in schools has had nationwide press. In grades 7-12, 48% reported some form of harassment (56% girls and 40% boys). Only 9% reported it to an adult at school.
- "It's My Vote—I Will be Heard" is a national Get Out the Vote project with special focus on 15 states, including Virginia. Women 18-31 are the main targeted group.
- Two new national programs are coming in late summer: Branches will have the opportunity to host a day or a week-long STEM, Tech Trek, or Tech Savvy camp for girls in your community.
- Program in a Box (on the AAUW website) continues to add programs that have been used in branches. Great for branches seeking ideas!

In short, our national AAUW is thriving. Want to keep up with the news? Every member with an email address in the Member Services Database receives "AAUW Mission & Action." Don't delete it: it's a great, succinct summary of what is happening with your AAUW on the national level. You can read it in 3 or 4 minutes, and it will make you proud to be a member.

## Conference Speakers Captivate Members

*(Continued from page 1)*

sion, resulting in one clarifying word added to Public Policy Priorities and no changes to the Bylaws amendments. Motion to reduce the dues increase from \$7 to \$4 was defeated by a substantial margin.

Rita Dove, recipient of our Woman of Achievement Award, was truly the highlight of the Saturday night banquet. Ms. Dove—the only poet to receive both the National Humanities Medal and the National Medal of the Arts, the youngest-ever Poet Laureate of the United States, and Pulitzer Prize winner—was delighted to receive our small (in comparison) honor. She was charming and gracious in her acceptance talk and read three wonderful poems to us, including her homage to chocolate, fitting right in with the chocolate dessert we had.

More impressive was the time she spent afterwards with students from Hampton University whom were invited to hear her speak. It had been a long evening but she listened and

talked with them for at least 30 minutes. That was the mark of a very generous woman, truly deserving our award.

Sunday morning we got another affirmation of the importance of our AAUW work. This time it was the impact of our contributions to AAUW funds and the fascinating research on the history of women in the STEM fields by AAUW Fellow, Laura Puaca. The very popular branch basket raffle netted \$1,010, which will go to AAUW Funds to continue support for young women like Laura.

Greater Richmond Branch invited us to the one-day conference on April 13, 2013, and Smith Mountain Branch told us to save April 25-27 for a great weekend conference in 2014. Mark your calendars—and join us next year for another inspiring, energizing, fun state conference!

Caroline Pickens, President  
703/448-0415, [carolineaauw@gmail.com](mailto:carolineaauw@gmail.com)

## Membership Matters

# Growing Branches Is Every Member's Job

The 2012 State Conference was a wonderful opportunity to learn all sorts of things about AAUW, including membership strategies. Our own Program Vice President Anita Aymer and Claudia Richards, Field Relations Manager from AAUW Headquarters, presented a workshop titled "Sink or Swim: Getting and Keeping Members." This was a very interactive session where they gave many tips on membership programming. I encourage those who could not attend the conference to visit the state website at [www.aauwofva.org](http://www.aauwofva.org) to view the PowerPoint slides. I have them also, and would be happy to share them.

One of the key takeaways from this talk was the Membership Cycle for Organizations, which I would ask you to keep in mind. The cycle includes 4 steps: AWARENESS-RECRUITMENT-ENGAGEMENT-RENEWAL. Another key takeaway was the Membership Retention Action Steps: ORIENTATION-EDUCATION-INVOLVEMENT. I hope every branch board will think about each branch mem-

ber and how they might rate the branch on each step. If you think they would rate the branch low, then we can't expect them to continue their membership, and we have work to do. I would encourage branches to be sure to incorporate each of these 7 items into their 2012-2013 programs and branch meetings.



As of February 1, 2012, our state membership totaled 1,367 branch members and 996 Members at Large (MAL) in the state, for a grand total of 2,363. These numbers were slightly up from February 2011, (branch members increased by 3, and MALs increased by 22), but we still need to devote concerted efforts to retaining our current members and attracting new members.

I am interested in your Best Practices for Membership. Think about your branch, and also other organizations that you are aware of. Please feel free to forward these ideas to me, and I will compile a list to share.

Remember there are a number of resources on the [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) website that pertain to membership. If you log in to the Member Center, you can get Member Resources, information on Membership Campaigns, print your membership card, and access to the Member Services Database (including instructions on how to change your personal information- just log in and choose My Profile then click here at the top to make changes). Also there is the Membership Matters e-newsletter from AAUW that contains relevant information for branch Membership Vice Presidents.

Sally Sledge,  
Vice President for Membership  
and Branch Development  
757/833-5592, [Sasledge@msn.com](mailto:Sasledge@msn.com)

### Give-a-Grad-a-Gift:

## New Graduates Eligible For Free Membership

Graduation season approaches, a time to give a new graduate free AAUW membership.

The one year free membership entitles them to receive *Mission & Action*, *AAUW Outlook*, Action Network alerts, and more.

Membership includes access to discounts at The Princeton Review, Barnes&Noble.com, health and life insurance, auto insurance, AAUW research reports, credit cards and other members-only benefits such as CareerBuilder.com and TravelSmart.



Best of all, the new graduate will receive a free one-year AAUW membership at no cost to you or them! So send no money!

Use the online form at <https://svc.aauw.org/join/gradgift.cfm#eform> or download the PDF version at <http://tinyurl.com/73hn7mb>

If you need assistance contact your branch membership vice president.

### *Stay Current With AAUW*

To insure that you receive your *Virginia Vision* as well as other materials from AAUW, your mailing and email addresses need to be kept current.

To change any of this information, go online to [http://www.aauw.org/member\\_center/forms/recordchange.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/forms/recordchange.cfm)

Members without computers may call the helpline:

800/326-AAUW, or write  
AAUW Records Office  
1111 Sixteenth St. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036



# Setting Up a Website: Easy as 1-2-3

Have you thought about having a website but decided you were just not “techy” enough? You felt as though you just didn’t know how to get started? Well, there is an easy, full-of-support way to get your branch into the place where the most potential members are: on the internet.

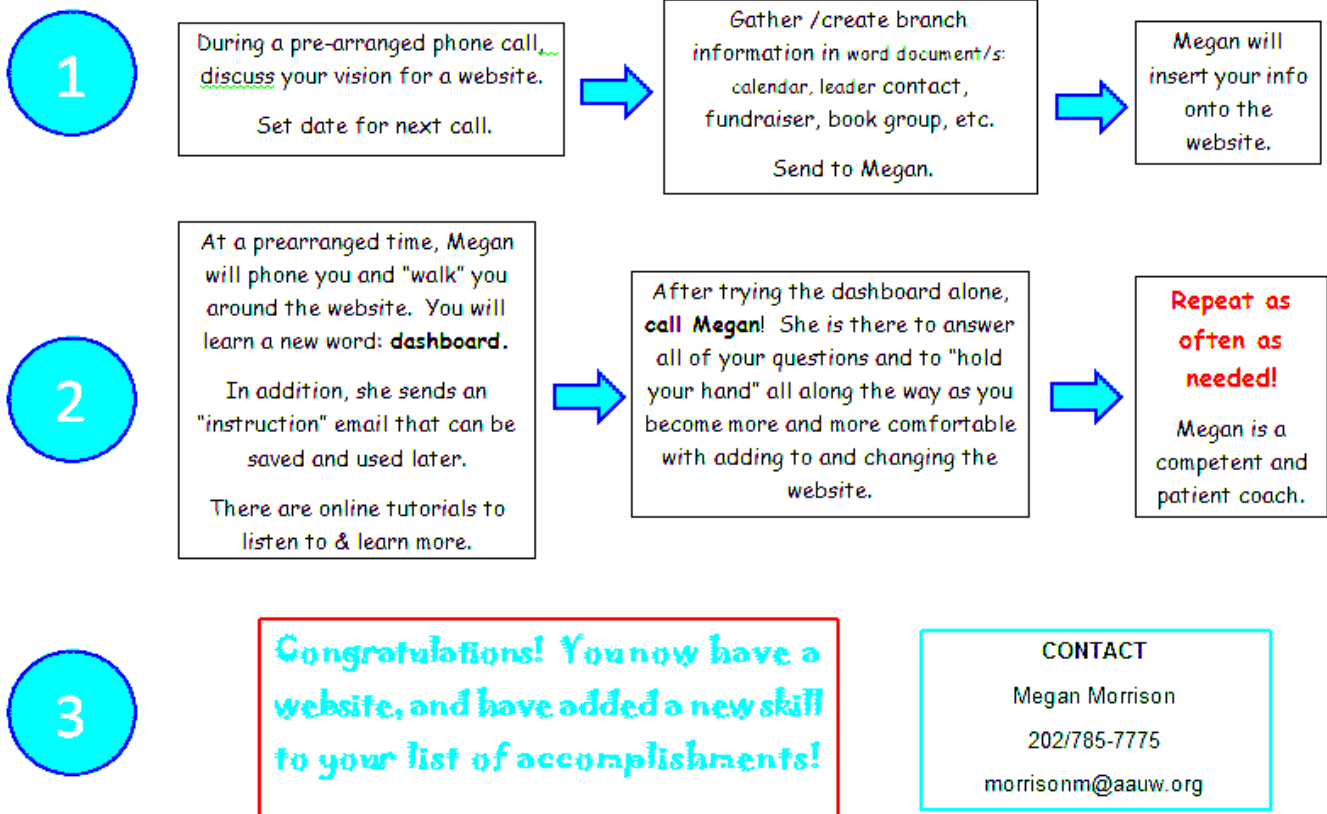
Branches need a website to have a presence on the internet because that is where potential members of all ages spend a huge amount of time. Non-profits have learned to value the importance of a website for fundraising, sharing information, and recruiting new members. The main reason your branch needs a website is to simply have a presence on the web. You want to be found when a potential member does a search. Your goal is to be relevant by having information and contacts that will enable a searcher to begin to know AAUW.

As it says on the [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) website: *AAUW Site Resources is your website solution! States and branches can maximize membership communications, retention, recruitment, and fundraising efforts online in an easy, cost-effective manner. Site-resources is AAUW’s solution for simplifying branch websites. It is low-maintenance, user-friendly and FREE! It is a way to have a professional-looking website with dedicated customer service in the name of Megan Morrison.*

I had no inkling of how to create and maintain a website until I signed up and began talking to Megan. The graphic shows the easy steps that you need to take. Each step is supported, no matter how many times you need a hand to hold! Once you learn your way around the “dashboard,” you will wonder why you didn’t give this a try before. It is as easy as using a word document.

How do you start? Call Megan at 202/785-7775 or sign up at <http://site-resources.aauw.org/>. Megan will speak with you and a plan for your branch website will be created. Invite another member to join you in a new adventure that will benefit your branch. If you determine that you don’t want to maintain the site once it is set up, AAUW will maintain it for the branch at a cost of \$119 per year. Currently 2 branches in Virginia have sites: **Mt. Vernon** ([http:// mtvernon-va.aauw.net](http://mtvernon-va.aauw.net)) and **Wytheville** (<http://wytheville-va.aauw.net>). Three more signed up at the April conference: **Woodbridge, Alexandria** and **Portsmouth**. In a raffle, Alexandria won the option of having their site maintained by AAUW for one year, free. In total, 150 AAUW states and branches have set up sites. Join these branches in attaining an internet presence. Contact Site-Resources today!

**Patsy Quick**  
Vice President for Communications  
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# Branches in Action



Mollie Jewell and Mary Youman, book sale czarinas.

**Falls Church Area** marked 35 year of the branch book sale in April and a year of assessment centering on that book sale. Last September our membership co-chair took a survey at the fall business meeting and discovered that over 60 percent of members in attendance were new to the branch, to AAUW, or both. We realized that, contrary to all perceptions, we are not a branch of older members who have done branch business for 30 years or more (although many longtime members do fit that description). We also realized that we would do well to begin to think of ourselves as an organization in transition and in need of change.

We had already begun re-thinking book sale profits. As of 2010, we apportioned 25 percent of book sale profits to our local scholarship awards program and 15 percent to a newly created Special Projects Fund. Any member may apply for up to \$500, to be awarded to an individual or program benefiting local women in education or social equity. But the survey underscored that we needed to take another look at the book sale itself. A Task Force to study the book sale—its future amid Internet commerce and e-books, its demands on members, and its organizational purpose—began work in October and reported in March to the membership. Their recommendations will be selected for implementation in 2012-2013. Worry not: their first recommendation was that we work toward the 40<sup>th</sup> book sale before moving to a 21<sup>st</sup> century business plan.

**Sally Brett, President**

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**Hampton Branch** kicked off last year's programs with a pot luck at Norma Pinkelton's home and met our goal of inviting new members. We had another successful fund raiser run by our "Nutty Lady," Dort Pride. In January of this

year, we continued our programs highlighting the current work of Hampton University faculty with a presentation by Dr. Joy Hendrickson on "Women Building Peace in Liberia." Dr. Hendrickson and Dr. Amee Carmines are working on developing a new Humanities course that will compare and contrast classic models of leadership found in the Greek epics with contemporary writers such as the Nobel Peace Prize winners, Leymah Gbowee and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, first female elected president of an African country.

Our next event was a joint meeting with the Newport News Branch to celebrate the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AAUW. Members of both groups gave interesting presentations on the wide variety of activities they sponsored over the years. The Hampton Branch was pleased to participate in the State Conference held at The Marriott in Newport News. More than twenty participants visited the Hampton University Museum where they viewed a stellar collection of African, Native American, and African-American art. Hampton University students from the Political Science/History Department volunteered to be docents. Students also were the musicians on Friday night and attended the banquet to listen and interact with the speaker, Rita Dove.

**Leona Johnson, President**

757/483-4803, [leona.johnson@hamptonu.edu](mailto:leona.johnson@hamptonu.edu)



**Harrisonburg Branch** will soon announce its fourth annual \$500 "Unsung Heroine Scholarship" award. Each year, branch member/award coordinator Margee Greenfield, a former college administrator and high school college advisor who operates a college consulting service, solicits nominations from area public high schools for deserving young women who might not otherwise receive financial aid.

Grade point average, while important, is not the main criterion. We want to help students who have met exceptional challenges: Disabilities, learning English as a second language, being in foster care, or taking care of younger siblings or children of their own. We fund the awards through a raffle of donated items, and donate a book to each recipient's high school.

Another annual project is co-sponsoring the Expanding Your Horizons Girls Career Fair at James Madison University, with science and math workshops for girls in grades 7-10, and a professional woman as keynote speaker.

Our branch, founded in 1929, has donated its archives to the James Madison University Special Collections department. We hauled 83 years of scrapbooks, clippings and minutes

*(Continued on page 9)*



# More Branches in Action

(Continued from page 8)

from closets and attics to be preserved for perpetuity in JMU's Carrier Library.

Branch programs have ranged from "Mountaintop Removal" to "Wine, Walking and Chocolate: Good Vices for a Woman's Heart." Casual lunches are popular with our 48 members. Our book club has met continuously for more than 35 years. As of July 1, we expect to be without a president, a co- or a vice-president, not having had anyone in line for those duties for several years.) As we prepare to function without a full slate, we would appreciate feedback from other branches that have "been there."

**Chris Edwards, 540/434-0457,  
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**President**



**Lynchburg Branch's** highest visibility program is the Great Decisions Lecture Series held yearly on four successive Thursday afternoons in February. Each year the Foreign Policy Association chooses eight Great Decisions topics deemed to be the most significant and far-reaching for that year. Our branch, together with the League of Women Voters of Lynchburg, chooses four of these topics and selects local experts as speakers. This year our topics were the *State of the Oceans*, *Drug Wars in Mexico*, *Indonesia*, and *Cybersecurity*. The YWCA and the Lynchburg Public Library cosponsor the talks along with the League of Woman Voters of Lynchburg. Lectures are free and open to the public, and each lecture typically attracts more than 100 attendees.

Other recent noteworthy branch programs included a tour in September of the Maier Museum of Art at Randolph College with a focus on their *100<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition of Contemporary Art*, and a discussion in January by Kathleen Grissom of her book *The Kitchen House* and how she came to write it. The Branch has an active Book Discussion Group that is highly valued by the membership.

This year our Branch will give scholarships of \$2000 each to two students attending four year colleges or universities. The students may be either traditional age or older. We have really excellent candidates and are currently selecting our winners.

The Lynchburg Branch currently has 82 members. One way we encourage membership is through our "Give a Grad a Gift" program in which a non-traditional age graduate from each of five local colleges and universities is granted state and local AAUW membership for a year.

**Susan Piepho 434/381-5959, [piepho@sbc.edu](mailto:piepho@sbc.edu)  
Kathy Busch 434/384-8673, [busch04@comcast.net](mailto:busch04@comcast.net)**  
**Co-Presidents**

**Newport News Branch** advances equity for women and girls through our ongoing support of Transitions Family Violence Services. The mission of Transitions is to build safe and healthy families on the Virginia Peninsula. The agency assists adult and child victims of family violence through the provision of shelter, counseling, advocacy and education services.

Each year, we provide funds to a family, This year, in addition to adopting a family, we were a Supporter of their "Breakfast of Champions" fundraiser held in October, Domestic Violence Month. This entitled us to an ad in the program booklet and a contact link on their donor website which served to increase the visibility of AAUW as well as providing that organization with much needed support.

One of the "champions," a graduate of the Transitions Program, told about her journey from despair and domestic violence to independent living, school and employment. At this breakfast, Nancy Fowle, Program Manager, Office of Family Violence -Virginia Department of Social Services, provided data relating to the increasing demands for shelter beds and the changing dynamics of those seeking shelter over the years

The Newport News branch held a meeting at the Transitions office where we received updates on what the organization has accomplished and the growing needs brought on by family stress as a result of the economy.

**Nancy Jane Bains, 757/ 245-6187, [njbains@prodigy.net](mailto:njbains@prodigy.net)**  
**Secretary**



**Portsmouth Branch** is proud of its close association Tidewater Community College Portsmouth Campus and its Women's Center. In addition to a long-standing scholarship for a returning woman student the branch has sponsored a Portsmouth Campus student to NCCWSL for the last five years. The registration fee is part of the branch budget; additional expenses are funded by a loose-change-jar-collection at each meeting. The branch has been very enthusiastic about this project particularly when the student reports on what she has learned in our first meeting in the fall.

Additionally the branch sponsored Sally Daniel, a faculty member from Tidewater Community College, in her successful application for a CAPS grant. Recognizing that many women are less successful in the STEM fields because of undeveloped spatial cognition skills, the grant was used to pay for and support a class designed to improve such skills. Those participating in the program showed marked improvement in their Engineering 101 classes. In connection with the grant, the branch along with the Virginia Beach Branch

(Continued on page 10)

# Branches in Action

(Continued from page 9)

assisted Sally with an Equal Pay Day program she conducted at two of the college's campuses. Students were offered popcorn with an explanation of the pay equity gap. Male students were given more popcorn.

The branch has focused on AAUW's programs and issues in its yearly planning, and turned to community advocates and leaders to provide speakers at our meeting. Energized by the programs and speakers at the annual conference in Newport News we are looking forward to a new year and the application of the new ideas we learned.

Jacque Dessino: 757/630-9276, [jdessino@mmdva.com](mailto:jdessino@mmdva.com)

Mary Swain, 757/405-9514, [rmswain@cox.net](mailto:rmswain@cox.net)

Co-presidents



**Springfield-Annandale Branch** members have enjoyed two book groups, game nights and dinners in local restaurants. Our main fundraiser was a Spring Fling Luncheon at the Country Club of Fairfax in March 24. Our silent auction helped us raise money for AAUW Funds and Legal Advocacy funds.

Patricia McGuire, president of the Trinity Washington University, whose graduates include Alma Mata to famous women like Nancy Pelosi, Kathleen Sebelius and our own Susan Burk. She discussed the transformation of Trinity College to a university that meets the needs of inner-city Washington women. President McGuire used statistics to illustrate that women are still not equal in the economic or political arenas and challenged each of us to keep advocating for women's equality.

One of our main annual projects is to award a High School Junior, from four of our local high schools, for their outstanding work in advocating diversity. Each school hands out applications to their students that have made a difference in supporting diversity in their schools and communities. Our committee then selects the most deserving candidate in each school and showcases their achievements in our diversity meeting in April. Each award recipient receives a cash award and acknowledgement in the local newspaper. It is important evening that connects our branch to our schools and our community.

Ann Sauberman, 703/323-0948,

[absauberman@aol.com](mailto:absauberman@aol.com)

President



**Winchester Branch** has had some exciting programs that came with excellent media coverage the past few months.

AAUW's fiscal year ends June 30. Dues are due to National, reports due to counterparts at State and National level. Member Services Database should be updated. New officers will assume their duties on July 1, 2012



In February, we hosted Michelle Jupina of the Records Division of the FBI. The Records Division is located in Winchester and not only did a number of the employees at the FBI come, we sent out invitations and a number of people from the community came to hear Ms. Jupina speak. We estimated an audience of about 75 people on a Saturday morning. Most importantly, the following Monday, The Winchester Star gave us Page One coverage and mentioned AAUW prominently.

In March, we held our annual Woman of the Year Awards and honored Dorothy Davis, a prominent member of the community. Ms. Davis is very active with the Josephine School Museum, housed in the building where black children were educated before desegregation in Clarke County. We had well over 100 people attend the event on a Friday evening. This event showcases what AAUW in general, and the Winchester Branch specifically, does best – work in the community to make lives of women, children and minorities better. This event also received very complimentary media coverage. The icing on the cake for both events is that we've had favorable interest in joining the branch.

Suzan Herskowitz, 540/4503223,

[suzan@suzanherskowitz.com](mailto:suzan@suzanherskowitz.com)

President

## AAUW Among Top Women's Groups

In May AAUW was recognized as a top-rated women's empowerment organization by GreatNonprofits, which catalogs and shares reviews of nonprofit organizations from around the world. The website allows the public to post stories about and rate their experiences with nonprofits and to find out more about organizations they are interested in supporting. GreatNonprofits 2012 women's empowerment campaign extends through June 15. With so many women's organizations to choose from, find out why AAUW received a top rating by visiting the website, <http://bit.ly/JVjE9w>, and share your own AAUW story! <http://blog-aauw.org/2012/05/25/whats-your-aauw-story/>



# Paparazzi in Newport News

We salute our "junior partner":  
Girl Scouts turned 100 years old in 2012!



"History Missy"  
Demonstrates  
Phys Ed



It's not all play



Bag Raffle!



Rita Dove and Fans

## Seeking a *Oision* Editor

Nancy Morgan has stepped down as editor of *Virginia Oision*, a position she took over before the Fall 2005 issue. This edition was compiled by Vice President for Communications Patsy Quick, and Kay Koehler, Technology Chair and Webmaster.

Now AAUW of Virginia needs a new editor. The editor is a member of the Communication Committee. She (or he) is responsible for collecting all the articles and pictures for each issue, of which there are currently three per year, and for editing all copy to conform to AAUW Style Basics as well as accepted rules of grammar and spelling. Currently Kay Koehler is responsible for the layout of the publication, although in the past this has also been handled by the editor. Familiarity with MS Publisher or other desktop publishing programs is helpful.

*Oision* is in a transition period, as we move deeper into the digital age, with printed and mailed copies being now an option. Eventually we hope to move entirely to electronic delivery. Thus, in addition to basic editing skills, some computer experience is necessary.

If you are interested in being part of this transition, please contact

Caroline Pickens  
703/448-0415,

[carolineaauw@gmail.com](mailto:carolineaauw@gmail.com)



Seven Past Presidents attended!

## 2012 AAUW Art Contest

<http://blog-aauw.org/2012/03/16/aauw-art-contest-winners/>



Congratulations,

**Leslie King**  
of the  
Wytheville Branch,  
winner of  
the Thumbs Up award  
for  
*My Mother's Roses*



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**AAUW Congressional Action Line:**  
202/785-7786

**VA AAUW Website:**  
<http://www.aauwofva.org>

**VA Legislators Action Line:**  
800/889-0229

## VOTE!

This spring AAUW of Virginia members are participating in the first ever state One Member/One Vote. Members with computers should have received a ballot by email sent by

AAUW National ([memberinfo@aauw.org](mailto:memberinfo@aauw.org)) on May 15, our service provider for voting and elections. If you have not yet voted, check your email for the May 15 message. Follow the directions in that message and vote online.

Online voting ends on June 15.

If you cannot find your email notification with its important information, please follow these instructions:

1. Make sure you are looking in the email account that you have registered in your AAUW MSD (Membership Services Database) profile
2. Check your junk-mail folder to see if the voting notice was filtered out for some reason
3. If you still did not get the notice, contact [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) or call 800/326-2289 (Monday-Friday 10a.m. to 5 p.m.).

For those who did not opt-out of a paper ballot, one is coming to you in the USPS mail.

We hope that all AAUW of Virginia members will vote in this first One Member One Vote opportunity for state elections in Virginia.

AAUW of Virginia Elections and Voting Committee