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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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Vol. 88 No. 1

**VIRGINIA**

# *Vision*



## **One Member, One Vote Arrives With Elections in Spring 2012**

The One Member One Vote Task Force has been busy at work identifying what needs to be done and making recommendations to the State Board for approval. Here is where we stand!

*AAUW of Virginia* will be implementing one member one vote for spring 2012 voting. The ballots at that time will include election of officers, bylaws changes, and public policy approval. The voter guide will appear on the *AAUW of Virginia* website to provide more information about candidates and issues up for decision. Voting will begin immediately after the annual meeting so that those attending can discuss the ballot initiatives.

We have selected *AAUW National* as our voting service. They will be setting up the online bal-

lot, alerting members who have email addresses of the start of voting. *AAUW National* successfully conducted the first AAUW online election this past spring.

We understand that many members may not have email addresses or a comfort level in voting online. We will offer paper ballots and voter guides for those members.

The largest costs of One Member One Vote are printing and mailing paper ballots. We will survey our members who have email addresses this fall to identify those who are comfortable with online voting. That way we can avoid the cost of sending ballots to those who will not need them.

The One Member One Vote Task Force will be sending a representative to each District Meeting this fall to provide more information to Branch Leaders in attendance.

*(Please see "One" on page 3)*

### **Let's Make Some Waves!**

"Making Waves with AAUW"- and what better place to do it than on a peninsula, close to rivers, lakes, and the Chesapeake Bay! Join AAUW colleagues for stimulating workshops and sessions, catch up with friends from across the state, and learn something new about Virginia this spring.

The Marriott Hotel of City Center at Oyster Point, Newport News (<http://citycenteratoysterpoint.com/marriott.php>), is the site of the 2012 AAUW of Virginia state convention, April 20-22.

City Center boasts restaurants and shops (think Ann Taylor, Coldwater Creek, Ten Thousand Villages) in a highly walkable modern urban setting with a five-acre fountain at its center. Local history, fun, and dessert will combine to make Friday evening a "don't miss" opening, and Saturday afternoon the Mariner's Museum or the Hampton University Museum await you.

*(Please see "Make Waves" on page 10)*

### **Call for Nominations**

In April, AAUW of Virginia members will vote for officers of the State Board. The positions available are **President, Vice President for Program, Vice President for Communications, and Vice President(s) for Public Policy.**

The positions will be voted on *after* the annual meeting (as stated in the summer 2011 Virginia Vision) to allow board members to take their positions on July 1, 2012. The positions will be held from July 1, 2012 until June 30, 2014.

*(See "Nominations" page 11)*

**AAUW of Virginia  
Elected Officers**

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January 15  
May 15  
September 1

Please send all copy to  
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# From Your President

## Catching Up to Move Forward

We survived an earthquake and a hurricane—what’s next? How about a little financial crisis? No, I don’t mean the government; I mean AAUW of Virginia. In 1991 our state dues were \$8. Twenty years later they are still \$8, and what cost \$8 in 1991 now costs more than \$13. This year your state board had to approve a budget that meant dipping into our reserves.

“Crisis” is too strong a word, but we have reached the point where we need to consider a combination of actions to address the situation. Our revenue, which is mainly those \$8 dues, is not covering our expenses in spite of many cuts over the past few years. The reasons are multiple:

- Our membership over the past 20 years has dropped by several hundred so dues income is less.
- Printing and mailing costs continue to increase every year.

Implementing one member/one vote, which was voted in by the 2010 state convention delegates, is desirable but comes with a cost

We’ve tried to address the problem by cutting one issue of the *Virginia Vision*, lowering mailing costs by communicating by email with our branch presidents and officers, deleting the winter state board meeting and substituting meeting by free conference call, keeping the reimbursement for travel and partial hotel for board members at the same level for at least the last 10 years, and cutting other expenses wherever we could.

Our largest 2011-12 budget items are printing and mailing the *Vision*, adding the cost of one member/one vote, and the state board meet-



Virginia members at the April state meeting contributed more than \$700 to the Lilly Ledbetter Fund for AAUW action on pay equity and related issues. Virginia State President Caroline Pickens, right, is pictured at the June AAUW convention, with Lilly Ledbetter.

ings. A combination of actions can put us back into financial health:

- Move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and cut printing and mailing costs by going online as much as possible for the *Vision* and every member voting (our branches have already figured this out as have many other states)
- Continue to squeeze expenses for state board meetings (meeting at hotels with no charge for meeting space or a member’s home, shortening the length of meetings)
- Enact a modest but reasonable dues increase (Virginia has one of the lowest state dues in AAUW; most states’ dues are \$3-6 higher).

One step is to ask if you are willing to receive the *Vision* online and/or to forego a paper ballot and vote online next spring [see the article on One Member/One Vote elsewhere in this issue and watch for an email survey in November]. We know not everyone can do this, but the more who do, the more we can save.

(Continued on page 3)

**District Representatives**

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## One Member One Vote

(Continued from page 1)

### What can you do???

Be sure to respond when you get the survey this fall. If you are comfortable with online voting help *AAUW of Virginia* save on expense by selecting the online option.

Recruit your tech-savvy branch members to help other members become comfortable with online voting

Provide your email address to AAUW National and keep it up-to-date by updating the Member Services Database in the Member Center on [aauw.org](http://aauw.org).

Attend your District Meeting this fall and learn more!

Only AAUW Virginia and AAUW California will be implementing One Member One Vote this program year. Virginia should be proud to once again be taking a lead in ensuring representation in governance.

*Questions and comments are welcome at [OMOV4VA@gmail.com](mailto:OMOV4VA@gmail.com)*

**Jane Newell, Task Force Chair,  
804/658-0317, [jane.newell@comcast.net](mailto:jane.newell@comcast.net)**

The state board has identified member retention and member recruitment as well as gaining new College/University members as action-oriented goals for each branch to consider in 2011-2012. I am more than happy to discuss these items with you and encourage you to contact me with any membership ideas or questions.

Currently, AAUW has many programs designed to help branches increase membership which are detailed at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org); once you enter your Member number, hit Member Center and then Membership Campaigns. You will see details for the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary (new College/University partners can join for \$130; grad students can join for \$18.81 (association dues) plus state and branch dues;

Shape the Future events challenge branches to grow by 7-13% by inviting friends and family to join, plus offer 1 free Association membership with every 2 new branch memberships received; Member-get-a-Member programs ask each branch member to bring in a new member this year; and Give-a-Grad-a-Gift offers undergrads free one year memberships within 2 years of graduation. The details are spelled out on the website, and in most cases the information can be input online. Please take advantage of these programs to boost our membership this year. LET'S GROW FOR THE FUTURE!!

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

### *Stay Current With AAUW*

To insure that you receive your *Virginia Oision* 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/](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/forms/) Under "general forms" click on "Member Record Change Form". You will have to sign in to the Member Center with your Member Number, found on the back of this *Oision*. You will be asked to create a password.

Or you might prefer to ask your Membership Vice President to assist you. Members without computers may call the helpline: 800/326-AAUW

### *President's Message*

(Continued from page 2)

The other major step is to convince you that it is valuable and important to have a state organization and worth supporting. The state is the link between branches and the national level—both directions. Our responsibility is to provide AAUW mission-oriented resources and assistance to the branches and their officers. As a larger entity, the state can have more impact than a branch when lobbying in Richmond or making a statement on an issue of importance to AAUW. It is also our job to organize events to bring us together for leadership development, ideas to take back to our branches, and inspiration to continue AAUW's work. Even if you don't come to those meetings, you still benefit from the ideas, skills, and energy that your branch officers bring back to your branch.

In short, we believe AAUW of Virginia is a valuable asset for our members and branches. And if we are going to have a state organization, then we should do it right. Your state board will squeeze as much as we can, but as we look to the future, we need your support for a few dollars' dues increase and a willingness to receive more online. Not much in 2011 is the same as 1991, either financially or technically. It's time to catch up so we can move forward.

**Caroline**

*Your questions and comments are welcome:  
[carolineaauw@gmail.com](mailto:carolineaauw@gmail.com)*

## Public Policy

# State Receives Grant To Get Out the Vote

GREAT news - Virginia has been fortunate to receive a public policy grant from AAUW! The goal of the grant is to increase the number of women voting in the 2012 election.

At the statewide meeting in Wytheville in April we met with each district present and asked if they would support the grant application and all agreed. This support means recruiting a minimum of three people from each district to attend the one-day training at state convention in April 2012 in Newport News and to spearhead this initiative in their district. The national office will be providing data, statistics, "how-to" materials, issue statements and a part-time field coordinator from April to November 2012 to help us get out the vote. Monthly conference calls will provide us with the information and training we need. We will be working on a draft of our Virginia action plan with events, dates/times, budget and a timeline by late September and we will be having with you at the District meetings. This is an exciting opportunity for AAUW Virginia and we look forward to working with your branch and all of the district volunteers!!

## Save These Dates!

AAUW State Lobby Day, Richmond, conjunction with the League of Women Voters - Wednesday, February 1, 2012

AAUW Federal Lobby Day - Thursday, May 10, 2012

**Laura Wimmer**

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**Dianne Blais**

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Co-Vice Presidents for State and Federal Public Policy

## Leadership Programs Include "Elect Her"

AAUW has wonderful Leadership programs available for qualifying applicants.

Check out the website for details and deadlines. Grants are available for your branch support.

1. Elect Her – Campus women win.
2. National Student Advisory Council
3. Campus Action Projects.

<http://aauw.org/learn/leadershipPrograms/>

**Anita Aymer, Vice President for Program**  
276/625-0404, [alaymer2010@gmail.com](mailto:alaymer2010@gmail.com)

## AAUW of Virginia Member Recipient of Fellowship

Lauren Germain, president of the Charlottesville-UVA Branch and Virginia College-University

Chair, is working toward her Ph.D. in Higher Education at the University of Virginia, and has been named a recipient of an AAUW American Fellowship for 2011-12. Her project is

*A Study of the Narratives of College*

*Women Who Have Experienced Sexual Transgressions.* Lauren J. Germain examines survivor agency after sexual

assault and rape at higher education

institutions in the United States. The results of this study stand to inform academic conversations as well as local, institutional, state, and federal policies that relate to college and university students who have experienced sexual transgressions.



**Germain**

*See related stories on Pages 4 and 5*

## Finance Report

# Balancing Act



The state board worked very hard this summer to produce a balanced budget. We eliminated support to several organizations and reduced support to board members for expenses incurred performing their job functions. In the end we had to approve withdrawal of up to \$5000 from our investment reserves to cover expenses.

The opening checking account balance was \$2,868.24 vs. a predicted opening balance of \$5000 in spite of an unplanned but necessary withdrawal of \$2500 from the investment reserve last year. The investment balance as of June 30, 2011 was \$25,964.79.

The predicted/budgeted income from dues, investment dividends, checking account interest, the return of the advance for the state meeting and a \$5000 withdrawal from the investment reserve is \$18,103.72.

The projected disbursements including board meetings, travel, insurance and implementation of One Member One Vote are \$17,082.33

If you would like more information, or a detailed budget, please email me, and I will email it back to you.

**Nancy Thompson, Vice President for Finance**  
703/743-1064, [nancygva@gmail.com](mailto:nancygva@gmail.com)



**Patton**



**Jenkins**



**Puaca**



**Klavina**

## Virginia Hosting Four More Fellowship Recipients

In addition to our own Lauren Germain (see page 3), four other AAUW Fellowship recipients are studying in Virginia for 2011-2012. Two, like Lauren, are at the University of Virginia, one is at George Mason University and one at Christopher Newport University. That is enough geographic diversity that almost every branch in the state could plan a program that features a recipient of an AAUW fellowship! It helps to put a face on where our Funds donations go.

### **Toby Jenkins**

Degree and Field: Postdoctoral, Social foundations  
Institution: George Mason University  
Location: Fairfax, Virginia  
Award Year: 2011-12  
Project Name: Follow the Yellow Brick Road: Places of Possibility, Creative Imagine, and Cultural Inclusion

Toby Jenkins’s community-based work and research focuses on the utility of culture (contemporary culture, folk culture, and pop culture) as a politic of social survival, a tool of social change, and a transformative space of nontraditional knowledge production. She is also interested in the ways in which culture influences the leadership proxy and sense of citizenship and social commitment of young adults of color.

### **Christine Patton**

Degree and Field: Publication Grant, Educational psychology  
Institution: University of Virginia  
Location: Charlottesville, Virginia  
Award Year: 2011-12  
Project Name: “You Kind of Have Like a Connection with Everyone in the Class:” High School Girls’ Expressions of Relatedness and Autonomy in Ninth Grade Classrooms

Christine Patton’s research focuses on exploring the role of different educational contexts on students’ psychosocial development. In her current project she uses qualitative methods to explore how ninth grade girls use their English curriculum, classmates, and teachers to negotiate between expressions of autonomy and relatedness.

### **Laura Puaca**

Degree and Field: Postdoctoral, Women's history  
Institution: Christopher Newport University  
Location: Newport News, Virginia

Award Year: 2011-12

Project Name: Searching for Scientific Womanpower: Technocratic Feminism and the National Security State, 1940-1980  
In her postdoctoral research, Laura Puaca links the origins of contemporary feminist interest in science to the rise of the national security state. She teaches courses that examine women’s history, the history of gender and sexuality, and the history of social movements in the United States.

### **Aija Klavina**

Citizenship: Latvia  
Degree and Field: Postdoctoral, Education of handicapped students  
Institution: University of Virginia  
Location: Charlottesville, Virginia, USA  
Award Year: 2011-12

Aija Klavina’s study focuses on inclusive education strategies for students with disabilities. She is also interested in exploring the role of parents’ decision making processes regarding school placement and the development of education programs for their children. Her research aims to be a first step in creating a framework of competencies, knowledge, and skills needed for inclusive-education specialists in Latvia.

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# REAP: Harvesting From AAUW Funds

**QUESTION:** Why should I or the Branch work so hard to contribute to AAUW Funds? To REAP the benefits!

If we keep in mind the mission statement it is easy to understand why we need to continue to contribute to AAUW.

**Research:** AAUW's research projects have led to the publications that are used as reference documents and are cited repeatedly as talking points.

**Education:** AAUW's fellowships and grants have helped women and girls to succeed. Currently there are seven women in Virginia who are fellows and/or grant recipients including a state board member (*See story on previous page*).

**Advocacy:** AAUW has long been an advocate of public policy laws, which protect women's rights. Through the Legal Advocacy Fund, AAUW supports women in their quest for legal equality and protection of women's rights. Think about Lilly Ledbetter!

**Philanthropy:** AAUW's research, promotion of education and protection of women's legal rights has allowed AAUW to promote and encourage women and girls to become leaders in our world.

When I am asked why I contribute, my answer is that I believe in what AAUW represents and how the money that each of us contributes allows AAUW to continue to be a leader in achieving the strategic goals that are important to us as members of AAUW.

While there has been progress, we still have a long way to go. There is still bullying, there is still pay equity, there are still unfair hiring and firing practices and there are still too few women in politics. Thus while we can be proud of AAUW, its members and their hard work and contributions, we must continue to work for these goals. When you ask me why you should contribute to AAUW I ask you to remember AAUW's goals. Just remember **REAP**.

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

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## *Vision* of Pennies Saved for Projects



Here we are, 11 years into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and AAUW of Virginia has finally made the decision to join with branches around the state in sending our state newsletter, the *Vision*, to as many members as possible...**via email**. Have no fear, postal mail will be available, too, for those who want it. But, it is time to fully enter the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and update the way we send out our newsletter.

Most branches already use technology to their advantage by sending their newsletters to as many members as possible. They do this in order to decrease expenses, save time, and to be ecologically kind. The cost of printing and mailing a newsletter is the largest expense in the budget. Emailing the newsletter is much more economical.

After thoroughly examining the AAUW of Virginia budget and after making cuts through the years, the board has determined that we can no longer operate effectively with current revenues to accomplish all that we want to accomplish.

Those things include implementing One Member /One Vote, advocating for women and girls, sending out a top-notch

newsletter and providing services to branches.

The printing and mailing expenses of the *Vision* are the largest line item in the budget. We need to be smart, like branches, and use technology to get the *Vision* out to as many members as possible via email. **We plan to initiate emailing the *Vision* with the summer 2012 issue.** Depending upon how many of you are willing to receive the state newsletter this way, our action will minimize the amount we need to increase our dues, which have been \$8 for 20 years. Those who are unable or unwilling to receive the *Vision* by email will continue to receive it by postal mail.

**We hope that YOU will be willing to receive the *Vision* online.** We need to hear from you about that, so in late October or early November, members with a current email address will be polled via email asking if you are willing to receive the *Vision* online. (The email will also contain a question concerning One Member/ One Vote.) Your choice of response will make a huge difference in the AAUW of Virginia budget and in the amount of dues increase. If at all possible, please say **YES!**

Patsy Quick, Vice President for Communications  
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# Branches in Action



August 7, one day after her 100th birthday, *Arlington Branch* honored Martha Miller, who has been a member of AAUW for 67 years. AAUW also featured her on their website and there is a video interview at <http://tinyurl.com/6h2exs4>. From left, above, are: front row, Marjorie Hobart, Branch Past President; Caroline Pickens, AAUW of Virginia President; Martha Ann Miller, Nancy Joyner, Northern District Co-representative, Winnie Macfarlan, and Doris Moore, and, back row, Karen Darnier, Chrystia Sonevitsky, Susan Zajac, Mary Hynes, Arlington County Board Member, and Michele Milden, Branch Past President.

*Fairfax City Branch's* Book and Author Luncheon took place on a bright, crisp day last fall. Since 1992, this annual event has raised funds for scholarships for women in Northern Virginia as well as for AAUW's Fellowships and Grants program.

A team effort made last year's event a success. Publicity by Linda Goldstein's committee got the word out. Suzanne Mahoney kept track of reservations, and Jan Humphrey provided her editing expertise as well as her talent as MC to keep the event moving smoothly. Anne Sharp welcomed guests warmly. Dianne Blais informed guests of the many Fairfax Branch activities, letting them know we are a lively group.

Who will forget the moment when Judy Weltz realized why the name of our first author, Helen Simonson, sounded familiar? Helen and her boys had brought Meals on Wheels to Judy's mother in Brooklyn.

Barbara Spiller led the effort to collect items for the Silent Auction fundraiser. Dottie Joslin contacted past members and MALs to invite them to participate. Rene Prasad arranged for four cakes to be brought to the Country Club. Trudi Arnold had beautiful floral centerpieces delivered for the luncheon tables even though she was unable to attend.

The 2010 event raised \$4,000 for scholarships to George Mason University and \$1,625 for AAUW's Educational Opportunities Fund. We hope this year's Book and Author Luncheon, on November 5 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Country Club of Fairfax, will be as successful.

Leslie Vandivere, Co-President  
571/213-6384, [lvandivere@cox.net](mailto:lvandivere@cox.net)

*Mount Vernon Branch* is providing educational assistance to a future Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) by providing money for two of the three courses needed for her certification. This future EMT is a working single parent who has already taken a certified nursing assistance program. She wants to increase her knowledge in the medical field. Her job prospects are strong. One polling firm expects EMTs will see 20 percent increases in demand each year the next decade. With certification, it is expected that our grant recipient will have a better future while making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Louise Meade, a member of the Mount Vernon Branch, serves on the board of a local non-profit organization, Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services (GHSFS). This organization's clients include limited income women who are heads of households and who possess a

strong desire to become self-sufficient. Louise Meade identified our recipient as ambitious, self-motivated, and deserving, and brought her need for educational assistance to the attention of the Mount Vernon Branch.

This is the third year that the Mount Vernon Branch has helped women by making limited but useful contributions to their educational needs. David Levine, Director of Housing at GHSFS, reports that the recipient is very appreciative of the help she has received. He notes that there are many short term training programs through which women can qualify for better jobs leading to self-sufficiency.

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*Norfolk Branch* has found its September opening dinner meetings at Old Dominion University so successful they have become annual events. In the past several years, we have had English professors who were also best-selling book authors (one of which was selected by Oprah), women basketball coaches, a women's studies professor from Old Dominion University, and the artistic director and playwright from The Virginia Stage Company as our guest speakers. This year Mary Pat Liggio spoke to us about *The Power of a Dream: Building the Women's Center at TCC (A Story of Women Empowering Women)*. Mary Pat told how, with the aid of other women, the Women's Center became a reality at all four campuses of Tidewater Community College.

(See NORFOLK on page 8)

# More Branches in Action

**Vienna Area Branch** enjoyed a special educational program of the Vienna Branch featuring two representatives of the Japanese American Veterans Association. Grant Ichikawa and Terry Shima, shared their experiences during World War II. Mr. Ichikawa also was detained in an internment camp in the 1940s.

Marian McLaughlin, Co-Vice President for Program, always on the lookout for programs that would interest members, the general public, and potential new members, had read an article in a local newspaper about the Japanese American veterans. An internet search provided contact information.

Mr. Ichikawa was sent to an internment camp after Pearl Harbor. He volunteered to enroll in a U.S. Army language school. He talked about not only his experiences in the internment camp but also his fascinating military career.

Mr. Shima was born in Hawaii and served in Europe during WW II. His unit was composed mostly of Japanese Americans, many of whom had been in internment camps or who had families living in the camps. The unit became the most highly decorated regiment in the history of the US Armed Forces, and included 21 Medal of Honor recipients.

Marian's daughter put together a slide show by doing an internet search to find public-domain photos of the Japanese American internment experience.

Publicizing these events is becoming difficult, since the local print media no longer guarantee to print all community events. Our publicity chair sent press releases to the electronic media formats, advertised under "Community Events" on Craigslist, and publicized this event through word of mouth.

## Norfolk Branch

*(Continued from page 7)*

Sister Mary Agatha Munyanyian, AAUW Fellowship recipient from Zimbabwe, was able to attend the dinner meeting as our guest. Sister Agatha brought us up to date on her research.



She is working on her doctorate at the ODU Chemistry Department and researching Parkinson's disease. She plans to complete her work by December 2013.

**Wilma Robinson, President**  
757/489-8438, [wrobinson7@cox.net](mailto:wrobinson7@cox.net)



**Roanoke Valley Branch** is located in an area well known for its strong focus on the arts. In an effort to highlight artists who are often overlooked in many of the Valley's larger art shows, the branch held a *Women in the Arts* program in April to coincide with *Women's History Month*.

Curated by local artist and AAUW member, Mary Tousman, pictured above with some of her own work, the show was mounted in the AAUW Book Sale space in Tanglewood Mall, Roanoke. The program included a vocal performance by Mary's daughter, Emily Tousman, original readings by Kimberly Byles and Branch members Peggy Shifflett, who read from her own works, and Jennie Sue Murdock, who read from member Ethel Born's book on the rural postal service. There was also storytelling by Beth Ann Rossi. On display were enamel art by Margaret DuBois, photography by Betty Hancock Bright and Deborah Goglia, and paintings by Beverly Impara, Mary Anne Meador, Mary Tousman and Janet Wimmer.

**Paula Prince, Co-chair, Communications**  
540/343-6844, [pegprince1@cox.net](mailto:pegprince1@cox.net)

## Northern District to Meet October 22

Come to the Northern District fall meeting to hear our guest speaker, Chuck Bean, Executive Director of the Nonprofit Roundtable of Greater Washington, DC and former manager of the Community Capacity Fund for Washington Grantmakers, present "Giving to Charity: Who Do You Trust?" at 10:30 a.m. October 22 at Kings Park library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA. Also on the agenda: One Member One Vote for state officers and bylaws this spring and the upcoming State Convention.

**Nancy D. Joyner**  
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## Branch in Action

**Smith Mountain Branch** will hold a fashion show, luncheon and silent-auction Wednesday, November 16 as a fund-raiser for this year's scholarship. We are proud to have raised enough money last year to award two scholarships. Both recipients are traditional students. Crystal Prom, a senior at Virginia Tech, is majoring in Animal and Poultry Science. She has a goal of becoming a veterinarian. The other recipient, Mavis Hodges, is in her second year at James Madison University. Mavis is planning to obtain a master's degree as a physician assistant. We are working on increasing our membership in the hopes of spreading the message of AAUW's mission to more residents in our lake area.

**Toni Seidelmann, President**  
540/721-1545, [toniseid@hotmail.com](mailto:toniseid@hotmail.com)



Smith Mountain Branch members attending the Southwest District meeting in Roanoke October 1 were Doreen Faga, Gay Carpenter, Toni Seidelmann, and Ann Johnson

### News from National

## Virginia's Braeman Appointed Director

On June 17, the polls closed at 9 p.m. on the first AAUW National election in which all members were eligible to vote. The ballot included the slate of national officers, bylaws amendments and amendments to the Public Policy Program.

The new National AAUW President is Carolyn Garfein of Norcross, Georgia, and the new Vice President is Patricia Ho of Newbury, Massachusetts. Thirteen Directors-at-Large were also chosen. Kathryn Braeman, former Vice President for



**Braeman**

Program for Virginia and a member of the Arlington Branch, was named to the National board. She has served on the National AAUW Leadership Corps, which concentrates on talent scouting, branch development, and mentoring future leaders. She continues also to be active with AAUW Lobby Corps and goes to Capitol Hill to lobby on equity issues. Kathy retired after a career as a lawyer and experience as a judge. The

other 12 Directors-at-Large are: Kathy Anthon, Amy Blackwell, Julia T. Brown, Sandra Camillo, Kathleen Cha, Charlene Goehring-Fox, Connie M. Hildebrand, Millie Hoffler-Foushee, David Kirkwood, Betsy McDowell, Dot McLane, and Peggy Ryan Williams.

It was a successful beginning for One Member One Vote. Virginia will implement OM/OV in the spring. We are one of only two states to do so this year.

**Nancy H. Morgan, Editor**  
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## Breaking Through Barriers Donors Recognized in D.C.

The successful completion of the \$1 million *Breaking through Barriers Major Gifts Campaign* goal was announced at the National Convention in June. Major donors attended a reception where individuals were honored. The final total was more than \$1.1 million representing participation by 100% of the national board, all fifty states and the District of Columbia, and others.

Contributions to the *Breaking through Barriers Major Gifts Campaign* make possible AAUW programs that are not funded by our endowment but are vital to our mission. They help us protect the rights of those who are facing discrimination; educate women for a lifetime of success; advocate for policies and laws that are fair to women; research issues important to women and girls; and teach others to lead in our schools, workplaces, and communities.

Neola Waller served on the *Breaking through Barriers Major Gifts Committee* along with 10 other members from across the country. They were led by Carol Rognrud, senior development officer for AAUW, and Kristie Malley, Manager of Major and Planned Giving.

Sincere thanks go to the individuals who supported AAUW through their generous gifts.

**Neola Waller, Past Virginia State President**  
757/217-2356, [wallerwn@wcbeach.com](mailto:wallerwn@wcbeach.com)





Virginians attending the AAUW convention in Washington, D.C., in June were, from left, front row, Patsy Quick, Caroline Pickens, Lauren Germain, Nancy MacKenzie; seated second row, Anita Aymer, Denise Decker (with Wonder), Mary Maher, Enid Housty, Mary Lou Melley, Theresa Merkel, Marian Stillson; back row Peggy Stolz, Marcia Gouchenour, Sandy Sieber, Kathy Braeman, Kristin Moyer, Mary Swain, Shirley Ritchie, Joanne Malkin, Susan Fairey, Peggy Gross, Stephanie Abbott and Neola Waller. See Page 8 for a report on the outcome of the national AAUW elections.

**Make Waves with AAUW!**  
**AAUW State Convention**  
**April 20-22, Newport News**

*(Continued from page 1)*

A highlight of this year's convention will be an appearance by Rita Dove, former Poet Laureate of the United States and of Virginia, at the Saturday banquet dinner. You'll want to bring your family before and after the convention so you can visit nearby Jamestown, Colonial Williamsburg, the beaches of Virginia Beach, or any or the fabulous nautical, historical, and cultural locales within or near Newport News. Go to <http://www.newport-news.org/files/brochure/2011-newport-news-visitor-guidesi-s.pdf> for a free Visitor's Guide- we think you'll be excited! Mark your calendar now.

**Sherry Warren**  
**Convention Co-chair**  
**757/399-5716, Varrtl@aol.com**

## AAUW of Virginia Co-Sponsors Event at Ethiopian Embassy

AAUW of Virginia and The Tigray Development Association presented a fundraising event for the Segenat Children and Youth Library September 25, 2011 at the Ethiopian Embassy in Washington, D.C

Ethiopian Ambassador Girma Birru Geda welcomed guests. Dr. Gebrewahid Woldu, Chairperson, TDA Board. Janet Lee, librarian, Regis University, Denver, and returned Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia, gave a multi-media presentation on the Tigray Library and Literacy Development Project.



Athena Michael, International Relations Chair for AAUW of Virginia, gave the closing remarks.

# Nominating Committee Seeking Member Input

*(Continued from page 1)*

**The President** must have previously served on the State Board and represents AAUW of Virginia in all matters, runs all state board and general meetings, visits the branches and is generally responsible for insuring that all branches and the state conform to all national and state bylaws.

**The Vice President for Program** prepares for all state programming and assists all branch programming vice presidents in advancing AAUW's mission through thoughtful and educational activities. The Vice President for Programs also serves as President in the absence of the President.

**The Vice President for Public Policy** is responsible for public policy issues to meet state and federal needs, in accordance with AAUW guidelines.

**The Vice President for Communications** is responsible for the Communications Committee, which includes the public information officer, the technology chair/webmaster, and those responsible for publication of the newsletter.

All positions may be held as a "co" position with two people. For the past term, our Public Policy vice presidency was held by two people who split the responsibilities to great effect. Co-holders of a position are in fact sharing one position and have one vote at board meetings. It is a viable option for people who want to serve but are concerned about the responsibility. Many hands make light work.

Board members must attend three meetings a year (summer, fall, and winter conference call) as well as a meeting the afternoon before the state convention or meeting starts. Board members are partially reimbursed for hotel fees and are given a mileage reimbursement. Meals at board meetings are paid for.

For detailed descriptions of these positions, please see <http://www.aauwofva.org/board.htm> and click on "Bylaws".

Please note that a previous email from me indicated that District Representative nominations were to be made as well. However, the vote for the district representatives is to be made by the districts themselves. The term of office is also from July 1, 2012 until June 30, 2014. Districts should discuss how and when they are going to vote on their representatives for the upcoming term.

Send your nominations to:

**Suzan Herskowitz, Nominations Chair**  
540-664-8336, [sdhersk@verizon.net](mailto:sdhersk@verizon.net)  
206 Montgomery Circle, Stephens City, VA 22655.

## Bylaws Proposals, Resolutions Call Is Issued by Committee

The co-chairs of the Bylaws/Resolutions Committee have issued a call for proposed amendments to the State Bylaws, and for resolutions to be presented at the State Convention in April 2012 in Newport News. These will be voted on under the new One Member, One Vote amendment approved at the Spring Meeting 2010 in Wytheville. The deadline for submission is December 1, 2011.

Proposed bylaws amendments must state the specific section of the bylaws being amended, the specific wording of the amendment, and the rationale for the amendment. Each proposed resolution must include a statement of the rationale for the proposed resolution, and a proposed plan for the implementation of the resolution.

Bylaws Amendments and Resolutions are to be submitted to either of the Co-Chairs of the Committee either by mail or by e-mail.

**Enid P. Housty**

1210 Old Buckroe Road, Hampton, VA 23663

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Bylaws/Resolutions Co-Chairs



AAUW will celebrate our 130th Anniversary on November 28, 2011. To honor this occasion, the Association has declared November National AAUW Month.

Each November, we will host a nationwide Cocktails and Convos night by inviting all of our branches to host their own event — on the same evening — at a popular restaurant in their area. This year, the nationwide Cocktails and Convos event will be held on Tuesday, November 8, approximately one year before the 2012 presidential elections. The focus of the evening will be AAUW's new My Vote campaign, with special emphasis on prompting young people to register to vote.

We have created a Cocktails and Convos Program in a Box, which gives you a basic format to follow. We also recommend that you have a guest speaker or panel; however, branches are encouraged to customize the event for their own community.

Be sure to share photos and videos of your branch's anniversary Cocktails and Convos celebration on your website and with us. Questions? E-mail [marketing@aauw.org](mailto:marketing@aauw.org).



From the AAUW Blog: <http://blog-aaunw.org/>

This past summer, talk of the movie *The Help* saturated every media outlet. Despite declarations of its historical inaccuracies, including an open letter from the Association of Black



Women Historians, the film's portrait of life for black and white women in 1960s Mississippi reigned. Meanwhile, there was utter silence about an event that sheds light

on Mississippi's past and present: the racist murder of James Craig Anderson in June 2011.

The silence around Anderson's death — and his family's turmoil in its wake — point to the nation's lack of interest in the complexities of black life, suggesting that it doesn't have to be history to be forgotten. But placing that silence alongside the passionate responses to *The Help* is also revealing because it highlights a refusal to think about American women and racial violence simultaneously. In this climate, several U.S. theaters are proving themselves committed to drama's loftiest ideals by encouraging their audiences to grapple with challenging issues.

Productions of lynching dramas that spotlight women's encounters with violence are especially timely and courageous. The New York International Fringe Festival, Indiana Repertory Theatre, and Chicago's Victory Gardens have all recently presented plays with lynching as a major theme. Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., is currently reviving the 1955 drama *Trouble in Mind*, which focuses on the staging of a play about lynching and the lead actor's objection to its portrayal of African Americans. The protagonist of Alice Childress' classic is a black woman actor, Willetta Mayer. She insists that her character's actions in the play are not realistic, which leads to frequent rehearsal interruptions. Tensions rise between her and the white director as well as with the other actors as they pressure her to appease the white director so that they can get back to work.

The play encourages audiences to consider what kinds of stories gain the support of the mainstream entertainment industry. When African Americans are featured, as *The Help* demonstrates, they often serve as props that illuminate a white character's story. Their presence enables the depiction of ethical dilemmas that whites must face to mature and evolve. To capture large audiences, these stories are never actually about African Americans, their experiences, or perspectives.

Toward the end of the action, Mayer's director, Al Manners, explodes because he is tired of her insistence that the play that they are rehearsing should tell some kind of truth: "Get wise, there's a damned few of us interested in putting on a colored show at all, much less one that's going to say anything."

Ultimately, by placing a spotlight on a black woman's perspective on portrayals of racial violence, the play asks audiences to grapple with questions of how black people's behaviors and opinions are represented. What are the limitations of such representations, and what do they say about our country? Because it raises those questions, Childress' work proves as relevant today as when it first appeared in New York City in 1955.

The revival of *Trouble in Mind* at Arena Stage runs through October 23. With this controversial classic in its 2011–12 season, this theater has made a bold choice that will help its audiences view American culture more critically. While many believe that *The Help* has commanded so much attention because it is facilitating fresh, rigorous conversations, we are really witnessing something very routine: the role that the mainstream marketing machine plays in designating what is worthy of distribution and discussion and the very specific kinds of stories that it supports.

*This post was written by 2009–10 AAUW American Fellow Koritha Mitchell. She is an associate professor of English at the Ohio State University. Her book, Living with Lynching: African American Lynching Plays, Performance, and Citizenship, 1890–1930, was released by the University of Illinois Press earlier this month.*

*To respond to an AAUW Blog Post, go to <http://blog-aaunw.org/>. If you would like to subscribe to the AAUW Blog, there is a link on the page. **Oision** also welcomes responses from readers.*

# Visions of 2011-2012 Events



## OCTOBER

22: **Northern District Meeting:** Kings Park library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA. *Joyner and Lawrence, Northern District members.*

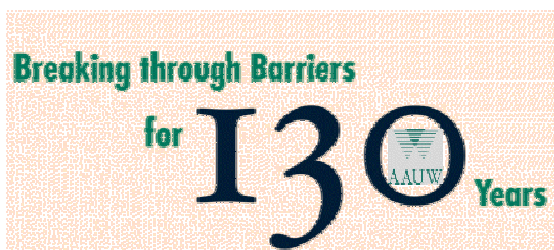
## NOVEMBER

### National AAUW Month

8: Nationwide Cocktails and Convos events. Has your branch planned one? <http://tinyurl.com/6gbyg8d>

12-13: State Board Meeting, Ashland

28: 130th Birthday of AAUW



## DECEMBER

1. deadline for submission of candidate names to Nominating Committee and for submission of proposed bylaws amendments and resolutions to **Enid Housty**

# 2012

## JANUARY

15: **Vision** deadlines: Branches, Alexandria, Arlington, Ashburn-Leesburg, Bedford County, Charlottesville-UVA, Greater Manassas, Reston-Herndon Area, Richmond/Bon Air Area, Virginia Beach, Woodbridge; District: Northwest

## FEBRUARY

1: **State Lobby Day**, Richmond., in conjunction with the League of Women Voters. *Blais and Wimmer, all members*

1. Early bird registration for NCCWSL conference to be held May 31–June 2 at the University of Maryland, College Park.

## APRIL

20: Training for state Impact Grant participants in Newport News

20-22:

Make Waves with AAUW!  
AAUW State Convention  
April 20-22, Newport News

All members.

## MAY

10: AAUW Federal Lobby Day, Washington. *Blais and Wimmer, all members*



15: **Vision** deadlines: Branches, Falls Church Area, Hampton, Lynchburg, McLean Area, Newport News, Portsmouth, Springfield-Annandale, Winchester, Wytheville; Districts: Southeast and Southwest

## JUNE

30. End of AAUW fiscal year.

**2012-2013 DUES ARE DUE!**

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Click on the highlighted president's name or the name of the Branch for other contacts.



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**Make Waves with AAUW!**  
**AAUW State Convention**  
**April 20-22, Newport News**

"The thing I'm happiest about in my writing career is the sound of my father's voice on the telephone when I told him that I had been awarded the Pulitzer Prize. That the book, *Thomas and Beulah*, dealt with my home town and was about my maternal grandparents made the announcement that much sweeter." --Rita Dove.

Rita Dove, who served as Poet Laureate of the United States and Consultant to the Library of Congress from 1993 to 1995, and as Poet Laureate of the Commonwealth of Virginia from 2004 to 2006, will be honored with the Woman of Achievement Award at the state convention in Newport News on April 21.

