

PERSPECTIVES

Annual Branch Business Meeting and Planning Session

The annual branch business meeting in May was cancelled due to several members being out of town. A combined annual business meeting and planning session for 2018-19 will be held during the summer. The date is still to be determined. Branch members will be notified by email of the date and time. Plan to come with suggestions for the coming year!

Thank You to Marilyn Riddle!

We thank Marilyn Riddle for an excellent job in serving as our AAUW District Representative and co-chairing the AAUW-VA 2018 Conference, as well as planning the bi-annual district meetings! Thanks also go to the five branch members who attended the state conference and helped with our branch responsibilities! An additional two members attended the banquet. Great representation for a branch of 15 members!

The following message was sent to Carolyn Hughes from our Virginia AAUW co-presidents:

From: Patsy Quick <pnquick@cox.net>
Date: May 7, 2018 at 11:25:53 AM EDT
To: Carolyn Hughes <Carolhug@msn.com>
Cc: Marilyn Riddle <mriddle@cox.net>, Tammie Mullins-Rice <tammieaauw@gmail.com>, Sandra Lawrence <sandyaauw@juno.com>
Subject: Re: AAUW VA thank you

Dear Carolyn and the Newport News Branch,

In our email below we neglected to thank your branch, and state board, member, Marilyn Riddle for co-chairing the AAUW-VA 2018 Conference! This was a huge task which Marilyn accepted with aplomb. We thank her for organizing and coordinating the many various committees, tasks and volunteers for the conference among other things. She was ready and able to provide outstanding assistance to all attendees during the conference. What an asset to AAUW of Virginia she is!

With gratitude,
Patsy and Sandy

Voting on Proposed Amendments to National AAUW Bylaws

If you have not voted in the national election on the proposed amendments to the bylaws, keep in mind that the **deadline for online voting is Saturday, June 9**. See an email from national on or around April 25 for a link to online voting. If you have already voted, good job!

Report on AAUW-VA 2018 Conference

Five branch members (Nancy Jane Bains, Dana Dunham, Judi Harness, Marilyn Riddle, and Ethel Woolfolk) attended the AAUW of Virginia 2018 Conference April 20-22, 2018 at the Renaissance Hotel, Portsmouth, VA. The Conference title was *Changing the Climate for Women and Girls*. In addition Barbara Smith, Carolyn Hughes, and John Hughes attended the banquet on Saturday evening.

The conference agenda is included in the state newsletter. Newport News members did not attend any of the afternoon pre-conference activities on Friday because we were busy stuffing bags and preparing badges and meal tickets for those who had registered so that registration could open at 3 PM--and we almost made that deadline! When Hampton Branch members showed up to relieve us at 5 PM, we had dinner in downtown Portsmouth, and then Nancy Jane, Judi and Dana went to the Hospitality Room to make necklaces to support the Student Branch sponsored by Suffolk.

The conference started on Saturday morning following breakfast on your own. We started at the Registration table to show Norfolk Branch members what to do and then headed to the opening session. Following a short business meeting, we were welcomed by the Suffolk mayor Linda Johnson, and then heard from Kendra Davis, AAUW Senior VP, about some of the things going on at the national level. The business meeting then continued until time for the workshops. Most of us attended the Cyber Self-Defense workshop taught by Michael D. Mann, Associate Professor and Program Head for Networking and Cybersecurity, at Thomas Nelson Community College. He was very good and offered to do a workshop for our branch in the future.

The Luncheon Speaker was Edith Mayo on "Treasures for the Nation's Attic: Collecting Women's History for the Smithsonian."

Edith Mayo is curator emeritus in political and women's history at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, where she worked for more than 40 years as a curator and historian. She has curated major exhibitions on political history, voting rights, and women's history and shared her reminiscences of collecting women's history from the suffrage movement to the first ladies' gowns. She was an excellent and entertaining speaker!

Following the luncheon, we heard from AAUW LAF plaintiff Zoe Spencer, Ph.D., one of four female employees at Virginia State University who filed a lawsuit against the school (November 2016), alleging gender pay discrimination, sexual harassment, and a pattern of retaliation against anyone who tries to speak out. She was followed by speakers from Portsmouth Public Schools and Tidewater Community College talking about challenges in STEM education from 3rd grade through the community college level.

The banquet Saturday evening honored Dr. Christine Darden, AAUW of Virginia's 2018 Woman of Achievement. Dr. Darden is a retired NASA mathematician, scientist, and aeronautical engineer. At NASA she advanced to become the first African-American woman at Langley to be promoted into the Senior Executive Service, the top rank in the federal

civil service. In March 2007, Darden retired from NASA as director of the Office of Strategic Communication and Education. Dr. Darden and her husband (Walter) of 53 years are the proud parents of three adult daughters, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She spoke on her early life and its impact on her career.

Sunday we had breakfast provided as part of registration and ate while we had our district meetings. Then we heard from Paula Coughlin, the only named victim in the Tailhook scandal, about her experiences in the military and her current role working for a non-profit supporting military victims of sexual assault. A final business session concluded the conference. The conference was well organized and the speakers each were informative and entertaining. Marilyn and Tammy deserve our thanks for showing the Southeast District off to the rest of the state!

Dana Dunham

Dues are Due!

2018-2019 AAUW Membership Dues

AAUW membership renewal dues are due to National June 30, 2018. **The dues amount of \$87 reflects a \$10 dues increase for AAUW.**

Dues money is dispersed as follows:

Newport News Branch	\$13
State	\$15
National	\$59 (\$56 may be used as a charitable donation for tax purposes)

Paid AAUW Life Members pay state and local dues only which total \$28.00

Honorary Life Members pay \$0.00.

A renewal email was sent to dues paying members detailing payment procedures. Please check it to make sure your contact information is up to date. **You have the choice of renewing online with a credit or debit card or mailing a check made out to AAUW Newport News and mailing it to me, Ethel Woolfolk, 137 W Rexford Drive, Newport News VA 23608-1419.**

If your plan is to mail your check to the treasurer, please do so by **June 20, 2018** so your information can be entered in the Membership Payment Program and checks mailed to National in a timely manner.

Treasurer, Newport News AAUW

Ethel Woolfolk

Branch Leaders 2017-2018

President: Carolyn Hughes 247-0553
Membership VP: Judi Harness 565-7937

Secretary: Marilyn Riddle 229-2177
Finance: Ethel Woolfolk 874-1654

Program VP: Dana Dunham 868-4102
Public Policy: Maggie Keator 812-0127
Joan Mills 898-7328

Communications: Sylvia Winfrey 595-3001
Yearbook: Marilyn Riddle 229-2177