



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

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

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Celebrating Our Past— Creating Our Future

The 2015 Virginia/West Virginia States Conference

Kudos to Sylvia Rogers and the Northwest District branches of Harrisonburg and Winchester who organized one of the best-attended conferences ever! Historic Charlottesville was the setting for the April 18, State Conference, which celebrated AAUW of Virginia’s 90th and AAUW of West Virginia’s 93rd birthdays and looked forward into our future. We had two great speakers from AAUW national to talk about AAUW’s past and its future. AAUW Archivist Suzanne Gould expertly drew a picture of the early days of AAUW with some fascinating finds from her archival digging.

Linda Hallman devoted two days to us, first in attending our state board meeting on Friday and then in a relevant ad hoc conversation on stage with Caroline Pickens. She returned at the conclusion to wrap up our conference asking us all to be creative about solving problems, to work in new ways, and to embrace change.

Attendees enjoyed lunch and moments to visit with friends, browse educational handouts, and purchase Neola Waller’s timely publication, *The History of the American Association of University Women of Virginia, 1925–2010*.

(Continued on page 3.)



Caroline Pickens and Linda Hall

**AAUW of Virginia
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**Next Vision Deadline:
September 15**

Please send all copy to
Mary Anne Graham
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From Your Co-Presidents

**You Can Do Make a
Difference!**

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtfully
committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's
the only thing that ever has.—Margaret Mead*



Changing the world is not something most people personally feel they can do. There have been individuals, and some women in particular, who did accomplish change, like Marie Curie, Alice Paul, Susan B. Anthony, and Rosa Parks. But, in general, most people feel, in Linda Hallman's word at our state conference, that they can't *cause* the world to change. They are likely to say, "My hands are tied." "There are bigger forces at work than me." "I just can't do anything about it." "I can't change it."

When we join AAUW, we realize that nationally we have big ideas and a big agenda. Those ideals are generally the reason we join. By joining AAUW we become part of something bigger, something very special: a group of thoughtfully committed citizens. We, the members and branches of AAUW, truly make impacts in our communities that cause change in the world in which we live. For example: our efforts with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) have changed the minds of girls throughout the state who will seek out a career in those fields and cause positive change in the world. Our focus on Equal Pay Day in April opened the minds of previously unaware citizens, who will now join our efforts. Our signatures, along with those of our friends and coworkers, on the AAUW Human Trafficking Petition changed the minds of lawmakers who voted a bill into law.

When we vote, write letters to the editor, use the two-minute activist, participate in Get Out the Vote (GOTV) events, make contributions to AAUW Funds, attend branch functions and more ... as a group of thoughtfully committed citizens, we can and do change the world.

Our branches can be proud that by sponsoring and participating in any of those activities they are changing their communities, and eventually the world, in ways that are positive. Without our members and branches, very little can be accomplished on that big ole AAUW agenda. It is with thanks and appreciation that we salute each and every one of you for participating and acting as thoughtfully committed citizens!

Patsy Quick and Sandy Lawrence

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The 2015 States Conference (Continued)

After lunch Geoffrey Skelley from the University of Virginia Center for Politics shared an analysis of the 2014 midterm election and what we can predict for the future. His prediction for the 2016 election is that anything can happen and polls are having difficulty in reaching people as they had in the past. Be informed, vote, and encourage others to do so.

Three breakout sessions followed: “Preventing Campus Domestic Violence,” “What Stories Are Under the Bed?” and “Yes, Virginia, We Do Have Human Trafficking.” Each had speakers or panelists who came with a wealth of experience and knowledge.

Later, following a buffet dinner, University of Virginia professor Ann Mazur and her students performed the entertaining Victorian parlour play, “Not a Man in the House.” The play was one Ann found in her research of Victorian entertainments. Her scholarship was funded by an AAUW fellowship sponsored by McLean Area branch.

Sunday morning was time for getting together with friends before leaving for home or Ash Lawn-Highland, James Monroe’s home near Monticello. Special tours were arranged for an inside look at our fifth president.



Preventing Campus Domestic Violence Workshop: Claire Kaplan (UVA Women’s Center), MaryAnn Vega (GMU Grad Student), Mary Ann Sprouse (GMU Women’s Center), and John Stegner (UVA Undergrad)

Energized, informed, and inspired for our efforts in the coming year, attendees are looking forward to the next state conference hosted by the Northern District on April 15–17, 2016, at the Hyatt Dulles.

Equal Pay Day

Who would have thought that over 50 years after President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law, we would still be devoting lots of our advocacy energy to eliminating the gender pay gap? But alas, this is the sad reality—and AAUW of Virginia branches across the Commonwealth certainly made their voices heard on Equal Pay Day on April 14, 2015.

Joyce Saveika of AAUW Portsmouth and Bunny Jarrett of the AAUW Falls Church Area were each successful in having an Equal Pay Day letter to the editor published in the *Virginian-Pilot* and the *News Press*, respectively. Sandy Lawrence, one of our co-presidents, spoke about the dismal statistics on the gender pay gap at a George Mason pay negotiation workshop on Equal Pay Day. Northern District Co-Representatives Caroline Pickens and Jeanne Elmore educated students about the gender pay gap when they participated in Equal Pay Day activities at Northern Virginia Community College.

AAUW Alexandria was the force behind the Alexandria Mayor and City Council passing an Equal Pay Day Proclamation, and AAUW Virginia Beach was successful in having the Virginia Beach mayor issue an Equal Pay Day Proclamation. Caroline Pickens organized a request to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors from the Fairfax County branches: Alexandria, Fairfax City, Falls Church Area, McLean Area, Mount Vernon, Reston-Herndon, Springfield-Annandale, and Vienna Area, which resulted in the board of supervisors issuing an Equal Pay Day Proclamation as well.

And in the category of “yes, you can teach an old dog new tricks,” I participated in an Equal Pay Day Tweet Chat sponsored by the Virginia Women’s Equality Coalition with Congressman Don Beyer of the Virginia 8th Congressional District. Representative Beyer co-sponsored the Paycheck Fairness Act this year with Representative Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut.

Leslie Tourigny
VP for Public Policy
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Program

Great Year for Branch Programs

We are so proud of all our AAUW of Virginia branches this year. By talking to many branch members and reading your “Branches in Action” articles and Event Report-Back Forms, we’ve seen that you really do embrace and act on AAUW mission, policies, and programs.

The \$1,000 Impact Grant we received from national AAUW in August was offered to the branches in the form of \$100 mini-grants for programs and events related to voter registration/education, STEM, and human trafficking. You took us up on the offer—so much so, that the state board had to okay an additional three \$100 grants from state funds. Thanks and congratulations to the following branches for applying for the mini-grants and implementing those important programs (in order of applications received): Wytheville, Lynchburg, Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Fairfax City, Springfield-Annandale, McLean Area, Reston-Herndon, Harrisonburg, Vienna Area, Smith Mountain, Falls Church Area, and Woodbridge.

Human trafficking was chosen as an Impact Grant subject because we felt we needed to educate ourselves on this topic that has so much interest worldwide. The popularity of our conference workshop, “Yes, Virginia, We Do Have Human Trafficking,” by Lara Powers from the Polaris Project, showed how many of you took that challenge of educating ourselves to heart. Now maybe we can find ways to be part of the solution.

You are helping to promote AAUW’s name and mission by collaborating with organizations such as the League of Women Voters, National Center for Women in Information Technology (NCWIT), Running Start, Lion’s Club Youth Group, AARP, Youth for Tomorrow, and Latisha’s House. Many branches have good working relationships with community colleges, colleges, and universities in their area.

We will not apply for an Impact Grant for next year. We’ve had one for three years, and board members and branches have worked hard to devise workable plans and action steps to carry them out. We feel we all need a break from that, so take a little breather, BUT—please continue to plan programs and events with our public policy priorities in mind (<http://aauw-va.aauw.net/aauw/directors/publicpolicy/>); come to the Summer Leaders Meeting in July; and keep your ears and eyes open for opportunities to promote AAUW.

Kathy Batkin and Maureen Dwyer
Co-VPs for Program

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Membership

Summer Membership Report

As of March 15, 2015, AAUW of Virginia membership totaled 1,281 branch members and 1,058 national members for a grand total of 2,339. We should be proud of all members and officers for their work on membership, but it takes all of us to attract and retain great members. Our numbers over the past three years are trending down. We have some initiatives in place to reverse this decline, but we are facing a national wave of declining membership. The state board recognizes this and has made membership a top priority.

One new program will be a pilot Mentor-Protégé Program this fall, where AAUW members sign up as mentors and Virginia college students sign up as protégés. I will spearhead the first pilot, with others to follow. Please let me know if you are interested in participating.

Creative programs bring in new members and reinvigorate non-active members. Consider giving memberships to new members, giving free memberships for one year to recent college graduates, using social media (Facebook or LinkedIn), calling non-renewed members, featuring new members in the newsletter, carrying membership forms or AAUW cards with you, having hosts at meetings for guests, and collaborating with likeminded groups for special events.

(Continued on next page.)

Membership (continued)

I challenge each branch to do a new or different membership activity this year and report back the results. We can all learn from each other. Congratulations to our incoming Membership Vice President Cyndi Shanahan, who has many exciting ideas for membership. I know you will enjoy working with her.

The chart below is a list of branch member totals, based on the Membership Services Database on www.aauw.org. The percentages in the last column are the percentage of membership growth or loss from March 2013 to March 2015.

Branch	Count			
	3/25/13	10/28/14	03/15/15	% +/-
Alexandria	43	60	52	+ 21%
Arlington	136	136	114	- 16%
Ashburn/Leesburg	15	11	0	- 100%
Bedford	25	24	21	- 16%
Blacksburg-Va Tech	1	1	0	- 100%
Charlottesville-UVa	5	16	0	- 100%
Fairfax City	53	53	53	- 0%
Falls Church Area	36	59	47	+ 31%
Greater Manassas	10	9	7	- 30%
Greater Richmond	35	51	47	+ 34%
Hampton	11	16	14	+ 27%
Harrisonburg	42	53	52	+ 24%
Lynchburg	70	73	65	- 7%
McLean Area	122	124	111	- 9%
Mt. Vernon	55	62	60	+ 9%
Newport News	18	17	17	- 6%
Norfolk	45	44	40	- 11%
Norton-Wise	11	11	9	- 18%
Portsmouth	36	37	38	+ 6%
Reston-Herndon Area	92	116	94	+ 2%
Roanoke Valley	69	75	67	- 3%
Smith Mountain	48	55	49	+ 2%
Springfield-Annandale	60	69	58	- 3%
Suffolk	28	36	30	+ 7%
Vienna Area	58	75	70	+ 17%
Virginia Beach	54	63	60	+ 11%
Winchester	50	50	44	- 12%
Woodbridge	43	41	30	- 30%
Wytheville	40	39	32	- 20%
Total	1,311	1,476	1,281	- 3%

Sally Sledge, Membership Vice President
sasledqe@msn.com

Public Policy

“FAMILY” Time At the U.S. Capitol

Following up on our successful State Lobby Day in Richmond in February, AAUW of Virginia members headed to D.C. to lobby members of the U.S. House of Representatives on May 14. Thanks to Pam Yuen of the AAUW Public Policy and Government Relations Department, we joined seasoned Lobby Corps members to support the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act, H.R. 1439. This bill was reintroduced by Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) on March 18, 2015. Those of you who participated in Federal Lobby Day 2014 may remember that the FAMILY Act was our lobbying focus last year as well.

We were provided with talking points (excerpted below) and paired with Lobby Corps members. Together we visited representatives' offices encouraging co-sponsorship of the FAMILY Act, which had 88 co-sponsors as of May 14. Even if you were not able to participate in Federal Lobby Day 2015, it's not too late to ask your U.S. Representative to co-sponsor H.R. 1439.

Talking Points

- The FAMILY Act builds on the success of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), which was passed in 1993, by creating a national paid family and medical leave insurance program.
- The Act would provide workers with a portion of their wages for up to 60 workdays (12 weeks in a year) for their own serious health conditions, or for the serious health conditions of a parent, spouse, domestic partner, or child; to take care of a new child; and/or for specific military caregiving and leave purposes.
- The Act provides greater coverage than FMLA. Currently, about 40 percent of workers do not qualify for FMLA. The FAMILY Act would cover workers in all private sector companies regardless of size, plus self-employed workers.
- The Act would be funded by a small contribution by both employees and employers (about two-tenths of one percent of a worker's wages per paycheck) to an insurance fund, which will be administered by the Social Security Administration.

Leslie Tourigny, VP for Public Policy
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AAUW Funds

2014 Report

The 2014 philanthropic efforts by the Virginia branches have been outstanding. All but one branch sent in contributions. A total of \$91,852.49 was raised, which is \$21,324.05 more than raised in 2013. The figures below indicate the total amounts donated by the branches and state.

Peggy Stotz, AAUW Funds Chair
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Branch	Total Donated		
Alexandria	\$ 4,912.00	Hampton	\$ 2,375.00
Arlington	\$ 6,430.00	Harrisonburg	\$ 1,200.00
Ashburn/Leesburg	\$ 201.10	Lynchburg	\$ 640.00
Bedford County	\$ 95.00	McLean Area	\$21,480.00
Blacksburg Area	\$ 100.00	Mt. Vernon	\$ 4,524.00
Charlottesville	\$ 55.00	Newport News	\$ 1,000.00
Fairfax City	\$ 914.00	Norfolk	\$ 715.00
Falls Church Area	\$ 8,400.00	Portsmouth	\$ 1,781.00
Greater Manassas	\$ 210.00	Reston-Herndon	\$ 3,596.50
Greater Richmond	\$ 2,855.00	Roanoke Valley	\$ 4,080.00
Greater Farmville	\$ 50.00	Smith Mountain	\$ 1,504.00
		Springfield-Annandale	\$ 4,490.00
		Suffolk	\$ 35.00
		Vienna Area	\$ 1,815.87
		Virginia Beach	\$13,595.84
		Winchester	\$ 763.00
		Woodbridge	\$ 2,689.00
		Wytheville	\$ 555.00
		Virginia	\$ 790.00
		Total	\$91,852.49

(Continued on next page.)

AAUW Funds (Continued)**2014 Names Honored**

Alexandria	Arlene Shapiro, Lane Stone, Leslie Tourigny, Susan Werner, Mary Ann Bier, Virginia Kress, Rita Rutsohn, Ginger Chamberlain, Danielle Beach
Arlington	Susan Senn, Carol Dabbs, Marjorie Hobart, Mary Ann Ullrich, Michele Milden, In memory of Betty Vertiz, Marguerite Clossmen
Fairfax City	Barbara Klementz
Falls Church Area	Mollie Jewell, Mary Youman, Martha Trunk, Christiane deJong, Susan Hesser, Nancy Fulwiler
Greater Richmond	Virginia Provence, Marsha King Carter, Carol Mazur, Constance Sorrell, Marcia Phillips
Harrisonburg	Jan Leach, Chris Edwards
Lynchburg	Carol Hannah
McLean Area	Virginia MacEwen, Linda Regan, Marge Degnon, Phyllis Krochmal, Carol Langelier, Nancy Richardson, Pam Bacher, In memory of Dorothy Dibner, Cyril Leland, Hope Syverson, Ruth Rickard
Mt. Vernon	Joanne Clark, Joanna Crane, Bianca Daugherty, Cynthia Gindlesperger, Elizabeth Lonoff, Joanne Malkin, Louise Meade, Lois Passman
Portsmouth	Amy Moore, Jean Hilton
Reston-Herndon	Jackie Gladstone, Roz Zietz, Karen Singer, Mary Schaefer, Maureen Dwyer, Cyndi Shanahan, Judi Ornoff
Roanoke Valley	Peggy Shifflet, Betty Black, Judy Goodwin, Vicky Piper, Lottie Hebblethwaite, Ethel Born, Dorothy Provine, in memorial
Smith Mountain	Jean Carpenter (Gay), Nancy Umberger
Springfield-Annandale	Mary Sue Nelson, in memorial
Vienna Area	Connie Dillman, Julie Mendosa, Gail Rosner
Virginia Beach	Alice Forrest, Arlene Ney, Barbara Paige, Bettye Sterzing, Carole Szetela, Chris Medlin, Constance Davis, Dottie Holtz, Fran Adams, Ginny Werner, Herta Okonkwo, Jo-Ann Clegg, Leslie Tourigny, Linda Todd, Louise McManus, Louise Wild, Marcella Germanotta, Martha Sorenson, Mary Pat Liggio, Mary Rau, Neola Waller, Pat Wright, Rachel Alvidrez, Rosemary Plum, Ruby Arrendondo, Sally Daniel, Tammie Mullins-Rice
Winchester	Rosemary Green
Woodbridge	Carol Campbell, Ali Cohen, Jeanette Rishell, John S. Sarsiak, John Fairey
Wytheville	Anna Ray Roberts

Historian**The History of the American Association of University Women of Virginia, 1925-2010**

The History of the American Association of University Women of Virginia, 1925-2010, rolled off the press in time to make its debut at the 2015 Virginia conference in Charlottesville. The history consists of three parts—the first from 1925–1960 written by Dr. E. Marion Smith, the second from 1960–1970 written by Bea Lovitt and Mary Thrasher, and the last from 1970–2010 written by Neola Waller, AAUW of Virginia historian. The book proudly chronicles AAUW’s efforts to promote education and equity for women and girls.

The state board voted to present complimentary copies to each branch and to past state presidents. The book is for sale at \$10 a copy and will be available at district meetings in the fall.

Neola Waller, AAUW of Virginia Historian
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Summer Leaders Meeting

Gain a Fresh Understanding of Leadership!

We'll see you July 18, 10:30–4:30, at the Clarion Hotel Historic District, Williamsburg.

We listened to your suggestions! The Virginia Summer Leaders Meeting will take place in a new venue and lunch will be offered. The topics will include Leadership, Managing Volunteers, Email Management and Public Policy for Branches. Networking and small group work will be an important aspect of the day.

Lunch will cost approximately \$20. Plan now to carpool with other members in your branch. You will leave this meeting with new energy and a fresh understanding of leadership.

Connect with AAUW

Got Questions? We Got Answers.

In an organization as big as AAUW, it can be difficult finding the right connection. There is an answer to this dilemma: connect@aauw.org. Connect@AAUW is there to provide AAUW members and supporters with live personal contacts who can assist with most everything related to AAUW. This office also connects members to local AAUW branches. The office is a vital link in assisting leaders in their roles. The office hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EDT), Monday–Friday.

In Memorium

Recently we lost two well-known, passionate AAUW of Virginia members.

Mary Sue Nelson, past state secretary, died January 24, 2015. She was a member of AAUW Springfield-Annandale and will be remembered for her quick wit and love of music.

Kay Koehler, past webmaster and *Virginia Vision* layout editor, died March 13, 2015. She was a member of AAUW Roanoke Valley and will be remembered for her limitless knowledge of technology and her love of Disney and mermaids.

We extend our sympathies to their families and friends.

Patsy Quick and Sandy Lawrence,
AAUW Of Virginia Co-Presidents
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2015

AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION

June 18–21, 2015 | San Diego

Branches in Action

AAUW Falls Church Area during the past year has been guided by the Action Plan that was the culmination of the Visioning Process undergone in 2013-2014 under the guidance of AAUW's Leadership Development Department. The Action Plan comprises intermediate and long-term goals and action steps in the areas of membership/programs, diversity, and fundraising. Progress on the goals was reported to the board at designated times throughout the year. The following example illustrates how goals and action steps with reporting dates resulted in action by the board and the members.



AAUW Hampton December Book Discussion Group

Goal: Explore possible sources of donations to the branch

- Explore corporate donors
 - ◇ 5 months/Jan 2015: Treasurer Martha Trunk and an ad hoc committee met to explore corporate donations and explore implications of tax status, using Caroline Pickens, Northern Virginia co-representative, as a resource.
 - ◇ 6 months/Feb 2015: Report to board on recommendations for corporate donations
- Explore alternate sources of revenue
 - ◇ 5 months/Jan 2015: Alternative sources of revenue was an agenda item for the January board meeting

The *Corporate Donation Fundraising Feasibility Report* by Martha Trunk, Susan Hesser, and Christiane deJong was approved by the board in January 2015. Implementation was delayed until the report can be considered along with a review of the branch's annual book sale in fall 2015.

Bunny Jarrett, President
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AAUW Hampton began its new season with a luncheon meeting at the Park Lane Tavern in Hampton. The meeting gave everyone a chance to socialize and to receive information about the Leadership Conference held in July 2014 in Charlottesville attended by members Joan Aaron, Enid Housty, Joan Jenkins, and Lona Ross. In October, members attended the Southeast District meeting held in Williamsburg.

In December, the branch met at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center in Newport News to discuss *My Beloved World* by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. It was a lively discussion about Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor's life in the Puerto Rican community in

New York City

Branch members were unable to attend the February Southeast District meeting due to winter conditions. The March meeting was held at The Arbors in Newport News to make plans for our future projects. Joy Hendrickson attended the April 17-19, 2015, state conference and will share the information that she learned from the conference at the next branch meeting.

The Hampton branch is very fortunate to have dedicated members Dort Pride and Dick Pride, our Ways and Means Chairs, who sell our nuts to support our AAUW projects. Our nuts sales continue to be a great success due to their hard work and to Enid Housty, our top seller. The branch is also very grateful to our AAUW members throughout Virginia who support our nuts sales.

Joan Jenkins, President
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AAUW Lynchburg selected Lisa Pyle as a scholar recipient and awarded her a \$2,500 scholarship. This young woman qualifies as an excellent STEM candidate.

As a junior Lisa was the only girl in her computer science class. She took advanced placement classes in computer science, physics, and calculus in 12th grade and plans to attend Virginia Tech in the fall of 2015. She is now an intern at Innovative Wireless Technologies, where she is getting engineering experience.

She is an Affiliate Winner at the National Center for Women and Information Technology and a Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholar that included a week at NASA Langley Research Center. She

Branches in Action

needs monetary assistance and the branch is very pleased to be able to find a candidate that we feel will succeed in the scientific field, which AAUW is currently very interested in supporting.

Janet McVey, Co-President
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AAUW McLean Area's year started in May 2015 with preparations for our used book sale in September. All summer long, members worked sorting more than 40,000 books, CDs, and DVDs for the sale. The sale, a tradition in the McLean community, was a huge success. It gives the branch great visibility and is a major recruiting event. This year our funds supported AAUW Funds and local college scholarships for returning women at Marymount University, George Mason University, and Washington Trinity University. Awards were also presented to six McLean high school junior girls who did outstanding work in math and science, as well as a female awardee in the Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

Our kickoff September meeting was a grand celebration with scholarship recipients and award winners present and a Victorian Parlour Theatre presentation by our AAUW American Fellow recipient from University of Virginia, who is its director.

McLean AAUW and the League of Women Voters jointly held a "Meet and Greet" for all candidates running in the November election in our area. It was an informal meeting, so many topics of local importance were discussed.

We once again worked with other Northern Virginia branches (Springfield-Annandale, Vienna Area, and Fairfax City), to present STEMtastics for middle school girls in March. This is a well-attended, half-day program to introduce young girls to the possibilities of STEM careers.

The branch's special interest groups are active and offer something for everyone to fill in learning and fun between our monthly events.

Nancy Richardson and Peggy Stotz, Co-Presidents
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Because every year is a voting year in Virginia, **AAUW Newport News** conducted voter registration at Thomas Nelson Community College during registration for the spring and fall semesters. We are greatly

aided in this by members of Delta Sigma Theta, Denbigh Alumni Branch, and by a devoted national member. We registered over 250 students in one year.

In December, the branch visited the Mattaponi Medical Clinic, taking items for a Christmas party, lunch for the medical volunteer staff, and items for the clinic's first aid kits. This is a project of the United Methodist Women to which several members belong and was a good opportunity to learn more about these first Americans as they strive for federal recognition.

In line with the incentive to work against sex trafficking, following last October's district meeting, the branch continued to offer needed clothing and materials to Latisha's House in Williamsburg. We also had a speaker from the Center for Sexual Assault Survivors who works in this area and will have a program at the center in September to investigate volunteer training and other opportunities to assist them.

The branch started investigating tutoring and other volunteer opportunities with family shelter Menchville House. Several members accepted Christopher Newport University's (CNU) invitation to their community actions symposium, where faculty and students presented their papers. We will have a display at Newport News/CNU STEM Community Day. Our cultural activities centered on supporting the local choral group and several local restaurants.



Carolyn C. Hughes, President
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AAUW Portsmouth turns 75! March 8, 1940, was the organizational meeting of what became, on May 3, 1940, the Portsmouth Branch of AAUW with 54 charter members. While none of the charter members are still with us, the branch has three members who joined

Branches in Action

AAUW in the 1940s: Zelma Riven, who joined in 1947, and Dot Hill and Caroline Green, who joined in 1949.

Throughout the years the branch has been active in support of the mission of AAUW. In the 1970's, with over 100 members, Portsmouth was the only AAUW branch to get a federal grant to help with school integration. The branch established a hotline to answer questions and provide support during the integration of the Portsmouth public schools. Other highlights include Girls Can, Too workshops in the 1990's, an eldercare workshop in 2000, and countless public meetings on AAUW issues. This past year included staffing voter registration events, having a branch officer's Equal Pay Day letter to the editor published, and educating ourselves on human trafficking in our area. On May 11, we celebrated our anniversary with a picnic and birthday cake. Members shared what AAUW and the Portsmouth Branch has meant to them. We planned a "Vision to Reality" session for February to be facilitated by our state co-presidents. Mother Nature had other ideas, however, so the session was rescheduled for June. Branch members look forward to planning for the future.

Jacque Dessino, President
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One of **AAUW Winchester's** signature events is the Woman of the Year recognition. We honor a local woman who embodies the mission of AAUW—either thru advocacy, education, or leadership. Our honoree this year was Dr. Cheryl Thompson-Stacy, President of Lord Fairfax Community College (LFCC). Her dissertation topic was on gender salary equity in higher education. She is a member of the Front Royal Women's



Marsha Gochenour, Winchester AAUW President, WOY Honoree, Dr. Cheryl Thompson-Stacy, President, Lord Fairfax Community College; Liv Heggoy, Director of Development, Lord Fairfax Community College and AAUW branch member

Resource Center group and serves on the Governor's Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success and the state-wide GenEdge Alliance. Because our branch awards a scholarship to a LFCC student returning to school for a degree or to improve her workplace skills, we have a direct tie-in with LFCC. At the reception we also announce our branch Named Gift Honoree.

In January, a committee meets to select an honoree from branch nominations. We hold the reception in the Board of Supervisors' room at the Frederick County Office Building. We chose March because it is National Women's History Month. Invitations go out to the honoree's family, friends and work place staff as well as previous honorees and local officials. A press release is issued and the local paper prints coverage the week of the reception. Programs are printed with the honoree's bio, list of previous recipients; previous branch named gift honorees and information on AAUW. This program is based on the Business and Professional Women's program, which our branch assimilated after the BPW club folded. This worthwhile program is a valuable and highly visible way for AAUW to make a difference in our local area.

Marsha Gochenour, President
mgochen@yahoo.com

AAUW Smith Mountain programs for this year provided the opportunity to learn from some incredible women. Erin Kulpa, Assistant U.S. Attorney and Community Outreach Coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's Office for Southwest Virginia, spoke on human trafficking at January's meeting. She riveted her audience with her first-hand knowledge of the fight against human trafficking, dispelling myths, and sharing her years of experience in the fight against this international, national, and local epidemic.

Deborah Kelly, Assistant Professor at Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute and Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, College of Science, Virginia Tech discussed her use of nano-technology to take a unique and innovative look at the behavior of cancer cells at the March meeting. She shared a presentation showing her method for the creation of 3D models of cancer cells using a technique not unlike CT scans on a macro level and, most fascinating, her observation of the protective behavior exhibited by cancer cells using electron microscopy. One hope for fighting cancer without poisoning the patient is the targeted delivery of cancer-fighting drugs using nano-particles.

Branches in Action

Dr. Kelly was joined by Elizabeth McBride, Development Director for the Virginia Tech Carilion Medical School and Research Institute, as well as a group of graduate students participating in research teams at the institute. Ms. McBride described the mission of the Research Institute to become a center of innovation as well as a resource for researchers everywhere in fighting disease.

At this meeting, the branch hosted three outstanding female science students from Staunton River High School. The girls were excited by Dr. Kelly's presentation and by the opportunity to have lunch with Elizabeth McBride and the graduate and post-graduate researchers.

The May program was the scholarship presentation to two local women. Thanks to our fundraising Fashion Show, these two women will be receiving \$2,500 each to continue pursuing their educational endeavors.

Ann Johnson, President
asijah@aol.com

Southeast District branches have continued to be active, as evidenced by the attendance at the state meeting in Charlottesville in late April. We had nine members attend our district session, which represented five of the seven branches and all participated in suggestions for increasing attendance at district meetings during the next year.

Plans are being made to have the October meeting on the south side of Hampton Roads since district meetings were in Williamsburg both times this past year. A program on women's health is likely the topic. We look forward to welcoming many of you to the Southeast District for the summer leaders meeting to be held in Williamsburg.

Marilyn Riddle, Southeast District Representative
mriddle@cox.net

The 2014/2015 AAUW year is winding down, but it has been a successful and active one for our six

Southwest District branches. All of the branches had special projects and programs this year. Wytheville held its first STEM program for 7th grade girls in the fall with the help of Dr. Barbara Ryder and her students. After holding a wonderful state conference last year, Smith Mountain continued its momentum with a fascinating program concerning Human Trafficking with speaker Erin Kulpa, Assistant U.S. District Attorney. Lynchburg continued its Great Decisions pro-

grams and Bedford's mentoring program was a focal point of their year. Norton Wise held its writing contest for area students and Roanoke's book sales were a huge fundraiser for local scholarships and AAUW funds.

The district looks forward to continuing its work in Get Out the Vote (GOTV), STEM and Human Trafficking, while encouraging each branch to grow stronger. Our 2015/2016 district meeting will focus on these goals. The meeting will be held at the Bolling Wilson Hotel in Wytheville, October 24, 2015, from noon to approximately 3 p.m. All Southwest District AAUW members are invited and encouraged to attend. It has been a very good year and we eagerly anticipate the year to come.

Julie Kause, Southwest District Representative
david.kause@pepsico.com

AAUW Springfield-Annandale held its 14th annual Spring Fling on March 14 at the Country Club of Fairfax. From the silent auction to the delicious luncheon to the eagerly awaited speaker, *Washington Post* columnist Petula Dvorak, the nearly 185 guests enjoyed themselves. A devoted following come each year happy to support the AAUW programs such as fellowships, leadership development, lifelong education for women, and the Legal Advocacy Fund. The bulk of the receipts go to the unrestricted AAUW Funds. This was an especially important Spring Fling for the branch because it was celebrating its 60th anniversary, it was Women's History Month, the International Women's Day had been the previous week, and it was Pi Day!

Branch members rally around the Spring Fling, with many assuming important roles. The Silent Auction featured multiple solicited business donations and gently used treasures from members and friends. The items were priced ahead of time with a minimum bid and displayed with their bid sheets. Winners were notified at the end of the luncheon. This year, the branch tried something new in the silent auction area: Cash and carry tables. No bidding here: prices were set low and the items were purchased at the given price. Following the event, the board and committee heads got together to compare notes and to suggest improvements for next year.

Ginny Wells, Co-President
vkwells@verizon.net

AAUW Woodbridge cosponsored the 25th annual

Branches in Action

GIRLS + MATH + SCIENCE = SUCCESS! Conference in March. Almost 200 girls, over 100 adults, and 41 presenters participated. The attendees represented 40 Prince William Schools (the most ever!). Students chose among 14–15 workshops during each of their five sessions; adults chose among seven workshops for each of their four sessions.

The event culminated at noon with participants trading their completed surveys and evaluations for their t-shirts, every year a different color. Our branch AAUW table was visited by several interested people and with our Virginia AAUW impact grant, we ordered many AAUW items for the participants' take-away bags.

The Saturday before, we judged 7th and 8th grade girls'

projects at the Prince William-Manassas Regional Science Fair. The branch awarded four prizes. The awardees and their parents were invited to attend and present their projects at our May luncheon. We always enjoy sharing their STEM-based projects and the importance AAUW places on young women and their education.

Sandy Lawrence, President
sandyaauw@juno.com



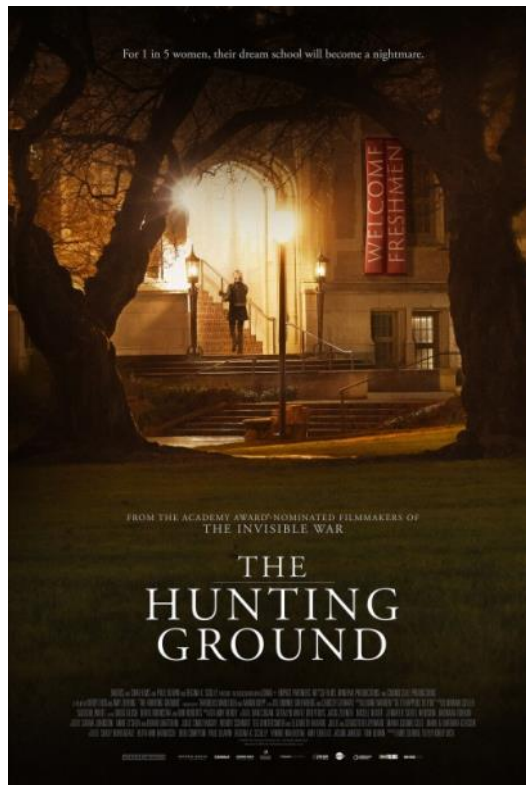
Opening ceremony of AAUW Woodbridge's Success Conference

Hunting Ground

Mason's Wellness, Alcohol, and Violence Education and Services (WAVES) joined with Women and Gender Studies to raise awareness about sexual violence on campuses by screening *The Hunting Ground* on April 16. The film was part of Mason's annual week-long effort to raise awareness about cooperating to create a safe campus environment. AAUW of the Falls Church Area provided a \$200 Special Projects Grant to pay half the cost of the screening fee.

The almost two-hour film interviews numerous victims of campus sexual assault and many college/university administrators from schools across the country. Numerous universities are profiled, including University of Virginia. Some statistics cited from the movie are astounding. "One in five women will be assaulted during their college experience; the percentage of false claims, 2 percent to 8 percent, is the same as for other crimes." "Eight percent of men in college are responsible for 90 percent of all assaults." The film is strongly critical of the inadequate re-

sponse of administrators on many campuses. Concern for their "brand" and their alumni contributions leads to mistreatment of the incidents and the victims. Boston Globe reporter, Ty Burr, points out that the movie would "be merely a screed of numbers and outrage without the heroes at the center: The young women—in the dozens—who come forward to tell their stories, pushing past shame and shedding their anonymity." Two of these heroines filed a Title IX charge against the University of North Carolina (UNC) in 2013, resulting in the U.S. Department of Education opening an investigation into how UNC handles sexual assault cases.



The screening was well attended. Representative from WAVES and staff of Women and Gender Studies coordinated the event. Mason's Title IX coordinator participated in the Q&A that followed the screening. Another film viewer who came forward to do Q&A was Mason President Ángel Cabrera. He pledged his commitment to open discussion and encouraged all segments of the Mason community to work towards the safety and support of all.

Kitty Richardson
Falls Church Area Membership VP
kittyrichardson6@gmail.com

2016 Virginia State Conference

Where Will You Be Next April?

Join all your AAUW friends April 15–17 for the 91st Virginia State Conference at the newly renovated Hyatt Dulles at Dulles International Airport, 2300 Dulles Corner Boulevard, Herndon, Virginia.

We promise super star speakers, thought-provoking workshops, fun evenings, and the company of the most amazing women you've ever known—your fellow AAUW members. At night we'll all sleep in executive suite rooms at a great rate of \$99, including breakfast. After the yummy meals, you'll want to get up early to swim in the lap pool or work out in the 24-hour fitness center (or maybe not).

A not-to-be missed weekend! See the website at <http://dulles.hyatt.com/en/hotel/our-hotel.html> for more information about the hotel.

Hosted by the Northern District Branches



2015 Virginia/West Virginia States Conference Photo Gallery



Sandy Lawrence and Patsy Quick, Co-Presidents of AAUW of Virginia, celebrate AAUW of Virginia's 90th birthday.



Geoffrey Skelley, UVA Center for Politics, talks about the 2014 Midterm Election.



EEK! EEK! A mouse!



Neola Waller is honored for her years of dedication and service to AAUW on the local, state, and national levels.



Member of the Victorian Theatrical Society cast gives AAUW of Virginia a thumbs up!

See more pictures on the AAUW of Harrisonburg website at <http://harrisonburg-va.aauw.net/18-april-2015-aauw-of-va-and-wva-state-conference/> and the AAUW of Virginia website at <http://aauw-va.aauw.net/2015-virginiawest-virginia-states-conference-photo-gallery/>.



AAUW of Virginia members in front of 300-year-old oak tree at Ash Lawn-Highland.

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800 college & university partners

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