



THE ALEXANDRIA SCHOONER



Series 74, #6

April 2020

Table of Contents

Presidents Letter	1
Public Policy	2
Special Initiatives	3
Members News	4
Interest Groups	6
State News	7
5 Star Letters	8
Officers	11

Important Dates

Board Meeting	4/2
VA Annual	4/18
Business Meeting	

Presidents Letter Gail & Lane

Dear friends,

COVID-19 reminds me of a line from 'The Wizard of Oz'. Most people think the line is something like, "Toto, I don't think we're in Kansas anymore," but that's not quite right. Dorothy actually says "Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore." Well, we want to get our actions concerning the COVID-19 right. And, we are definitely not in Kansas anymore. We've cancelled a few meetings, the AAUW-VA conference was called off, and the April branch board meeting will be held with a conference call. In that meeting the board will discuss our upcoming events.

Now for some good news. At the end of this newsletter you'll see we have earned three stars in the Five Star Recognition Program: Advancement, Public Policy & Research, Communications and External Relations. There are many members to thank besides the board – who are all rock stars, but then you knew that! If you bought a ticket to the Little Theater of Alexandria fundraiser or donated to Autumn Leaves, thank you! If you wrote a postcard for ERA or made a phone call to lobby for better laws to fight Human Trafficking, thank you and stay well.

Lane & Gail

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

PUBLIC POLICY

March 28, 2020

A Report from Richmond: Anti-Huan Trafficking Legislation

Submitted by: Sylvia Linke

As most of you know, the Alexandria VA branch of AAUW is committed to advancing the cause of anti-human trafficking efforts in the Commonwealth of Virginia. One facet of this effort is focusing on anti-human trafficking legislation, especially those bills in-process through the Virginia General Assembly. There are six (6) anti-human trafficking bills which were approved by the legislature this legislative session. Three (3) of those bills have been approved by the Governor. See the chart below for a recap of this legislation.

Bill Number	Description of Bill	Signed by President of the Senate/Speaker of the House	Approved by the Governor	Comments
SB 171	School resource officers and school security officers to be trained in recognizing human trafficking in schools and identifying its victims.	Signed by Speaker 02/24. Signed by President 02/25.	Yes. Effective 07/01/2020.	
SB 706/ HB 1006	Provides for child victims of human trafficking to be interviewed by social services departments w/o the legal guardian present.	Both signed on 02/27/20	Yes. Effective on 07/01/2020.	This bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Crime Commission.
HB 744	Requires a court to consider a juvenile's adverse life experiences when sentencing as an adult. When a juvenile is tried as an adult, a court may depart from any mandatory minimum sentence.	Both signed on 03/05/2020	Yes. Effective on 07/01/2020.	
HB 806	Adds a medical perspective to human trafficking and the treatment of its victims, and to the processing of claims for H.T. compensation	03/18 Signed by President. 03/19 Signed by Speaker.	Pending. Governor's action deadline April 11 2020	
SB 991	Establishes the Office of New Americans to implement a statewide strategy to promote immigrants' integration within the Commonwealth.	Both signed on 03/03/30	Pending. Governor's action deadline April 11, 2020	Immigrants are vulnerable to human trafficking. Effective integration makes them less vulnerable.
HB 1336	Provides for prevention of human trafficking to be integrated into the family life education offered in grades kindergarten thru 12.	03/06/2020	Pending. Governor's action deadline 04/11/2020	

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Equal Pay Day Proclamation

On March 10, 2020, Alexandria Mayor and City Council signed a proclamation declaring March 31 to be Equal Pay Day and citing AAUW research.



Front row, left to right: AAUW-VA Co-President Leslie Tourigny, AAUW-VA Public Policy Co-VP Susan Burk, Anne Simpson, Margaret Zebrowski, Bonnie Hershberg, Elizabeth Hendrix, Ruth Bennett, Diane Schrier. Back row: Mayor Justin Wilson. Not shown: Lane Stone.



MEMBER NEWS

Friendly Foursomes – Coming this Spring

Everyone has a story to tell and the senior members of AAUW Alexandria would like to hear yours. Once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, some of the senior members of AAUW Alexandria will reach out to new AAUW Alexandria members to set up get informal get togethers in local coffee houses, restaurants, or wherever the group would like to meet. Each gathering will usually total 4-5 people: two senior members and two to three new members of the branch. The gatherings will be a time of sharing, with the objective of learning about the interests and talents of our new members. These gatherings will also provide an opportunity for new members to ask questions about the branch and about the activities of AAUW National and State.

A get together as described above is called a Friendly Foursome, and they definitely are friendly. They provide a relaxed means of exchanging information and forming new connections within AAUW. Each get together is normally a one-time only event, but participants are welcome to build new relationships as a result of the get together. If I or one of the hostesses reaches out to you with an invitation to join a Friendly Foursome, please say “Yes”.

If you have any questions about this initiative you may contact to me via email at SFLaauw@gmail.com.

Sylvia Linke
Co-Chair Membership AAUW Alexandria

HOW OUR MEMBERS ARE COPING

A request went out to the membership to share stories of how they were dealing with our new and very unique situation during this Covid-19 Crisis. Here are some responses:

Margaret Wright

One thing that I have found to be helpful is to engage in FaceTime with all my loved ones, and I am starting to work on a book through Shutterfly of grandma and Papa with the grandchildren. I am attaching a little collage that I made up after St. Patrick’s Day, which is an important family celebration, but one that we weren’t able to get together for this year. We all sent a variety of pictures of our dinners and music listened to. I am finding it’s important to stay connected through positive ways and these are just a few of the things we have done. Here is a collage of her FaceTime companions on St. Paddy’s Day



Susan Werner

I've been once again watching the Phryne Fisher Mysteries on various PBS stations. While the series is fun and charming, the books are even better, great reading during a stressful period in our history.

Margaret Batko

I'm coping by trying to get my runs and rides on the trainer done. And planning meals. And eating. And eating. Here is a picture of what my son has done to my nesting area (disrupting it!) to fit in a giant TV for his teleworking. We are sharing the



space- I have days, he has nights (he works 11:00 pm to 7:00 am)

I'm also knitting and watching TV. It was the trip to Spain project (knitting needles and one skein off yarn, simple pattern). Now it's a shelter in place project.



Bonnie Hersberg

We have a 10' walk out patio from our condo. I disinfected two chairs and invited a neighbor down the street to come and visit from 10' away. On a lovely day outdoors, we were able to exchange information on our experiences and the revelations we've had since the crisis began. Really made my day and look forward to the weather improving over time and enjoying time with good friends in the neighborhood that we sometimes don't get to see as frequently as we would like.

Kvell & Kudos to Our Members

Member **Patty Steelman** and her husband Richard have completed the first year of a three year term on the LLI/NOVA Board of Directors. They were the first couple to have been elected to the board. LLI (Life-Long Learning Institute) used to be part of Elder Hostel but now there are 2 separate organizations: Road Scholars and LLI, the educational component.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Groups are open to all members.

Mystery Book Discussion Group

Susan Werner

Hello mystery fans. Hopefully, we will be able to meet in April. Our scheduled meeting date is 28 April, with Lane Stone as our host. Our book is *Dying to Live* by Michael Stanley. Lane's address is 203 Yoakum Pkwy, #908, Alexandria, VA 22304; 703-307-2431. Meeting time is the usual 7 PM. Please let Lane know if you plan to attend. Considering the health crisis going on, if we cannot meet, I will let you know. Our mystery for March will be rescheduled to a future date. If needed, we will reschedule April's mystery. But mysteries or books in general are a great way to use one's time during this crisis. For any questions about the Mystery Book Discussion Group, contact Susan Werner at susan.werner1@verizon.net. Happy reading. Stay well.



Francophile Group

Susan Cash

On hold until the COVID-19 situation improves. Plan for later months

Late May: France and the American Revolution

June: Visit to Degas exhibit in DC

July 14: Bastille Day Dinner



Gourmet Out

Susan Cash



On hold until COVID-19 situation improves.

A MESSAGE FROM VA CO-PRESIDENTS

We hope everyone is well, staying safe, and practicing social distancing!

We wanted to let you know that we are working out the details of holding our Annual Business Meeting using an online program that will enable everyone to participate from their homes. As soon as the details are worked out, we'll pass on this information. In the meantime, though, please save the date on your calendars: **April 18, beginning at 1:00 p.m.** We anticipate that the meeting will not last more than an hour and a half, and of course, it may be shorter, depending on how quickly we can complete the required business.

Also, we will be producing an online program book for the meeting, which will contain all the reports submitted by branches and state board officers, plus the very creative ads that many of the branches, state board, and members submitted. We are excited that we will have a much wider audience now for the program book than the number of members who registered for the conference.

Take care, everyone. We'll be back in touch once all the arrangements are finalized.

Carol Stephens and Leslie Tourigny
AAUW-VA Co-Presidents

State Conference Cancelled

The 2020 AAUW of Virginia State Conference, scheduled for April 17-19 in Alexandria, has been CANCELLED due to concerns about the health and safety of our members. We will be refunding all registration fees. For those who reserved rooms at the hotel, you will need to cancel those reservations individually.

We give a big thanks to the conference organizers Joanne Clark and Arlene Shapiro, our AAUW of VA VP of Program, Sandy Lawrence, and the branches who volunteered to assist with the event.

We will be holding our 2021 State Conference March 12-14 at the Holiday Inn and Suites Alexandria (same hotel we were going to use in 2020).

Everyone stay safe!

5 Star Letters For Advancement



Dear AAUW Alexandria Branch,

Thank you for your participation in the Five Star Recognition Program. After reviewing your submission, we are pleased to inform you that your branch has received a star for Advancement.

Thanks to branches like yours, AAUW remains one of the most recognized and well-respected names in the fight to advance gender equity for women and girls. Your generous contributions to Greatest Needs and unwavering commitment to the future of your branch are invaluable to AAUW's strength, relevance, and ability to carry out its mission into the future.

We deeply appreciate the years of dedicated support and look forward to our continued partnership.

Congratulations on your success in the Five Star Recognition Program!

Sincerely,

Kendra L. Davis
Senior Vice President, Advancement and Partnerships



1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20002 | 202.728.7631 | www.aauw.org

For Public Policy & Research



Dear AAUW Alexandria Branch,

Thank you for your participation in the Five Star Recognition Program. After reviewing your submission, we are pleased to inform you that your branch has received a star for Public Policy & Research.

Whether you are lobbying your representatives, collaborating with your state's public policy chair, or engaging your local community with your advocacy efforts, your actions have a profound impact on the implementation of AAUW's policy priorities that benefit women and girls.

With branches like yours lending their voices to the most pressing issues facing women and girls today, we can advance critical advocacy and research related to equal pay, paid family leave, Title IX, and other important gender equity issues.

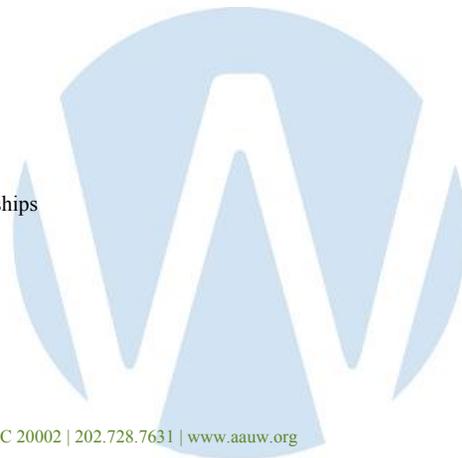
We appreciate your hard work and unwavering support of AAUW's vital mission.

Congratulations! We look forward to your continued success in the Five Star Recognition Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kendra L. Davis'.

Kendra L. Davis
Senior Vice President, Advancement and Partnerships



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For Communications & External Relations



Dear AAUW Alexandria,

Thank you for your participation in the Five Star Recognition Program. After reviewing your submission, we are pleased to inform you that the AAUW Alexandria (VA) branch has received a star for Communications and External Relations!

We envision a bold future for AAUW that includes using technology to promote initiatives, share ideas, and build community with our members and allies. Your website and social media presence exemplify the value of technology in the fight for gender equity.

AAUW has made groundbreaking progress for gender equity through our training programs, impactful research, and bold advocacy efforts. This could not be achieved without the dedicated support of our members. With our continued partnership we will lay the groundwork for the next generation of women leaders.

Congratulations and we look forward to your continued success in the Five Star Recognition Program.

Sincerely,

Kendra L. Davis
Senior Vice President, Advancement and Partnerships



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2019-2020 Officers

ELECTED OFFICERS			APPOINTED OFFICERS		
Co-Presidents	Gail Kalin	202-365-5212	Bylaws/Policy	Open	
	Lane Stone	703-307-2431	Christ House	Jan Jaynes	703-765-3203
Co-VP Programs	Virginia Kress	703-683-6196		Margaret Zebrowski	703-765-3076
	Lynn O'Connell	703867-4942	Directory	Susan Werner	703-764-1773
Co-VP Membership	Sylvia Linke	703-461-6822	Hospitality	Open	
	Susan Werner	703-764-1773	AAUW Funds	Susan Cash	703-780-3902
Treasurer	Anne Simpson	909-921-7111	Ed. Opportunity Fund	Arlene Shapiro	703-719-5467
Corresponding-Recording Sec.	Margaret Batko	703-941-2217	Historian	Arlene Shapiro	703-719-5467
			Editor	Eugenia Burkes	aaunewsltr.ed@gmail.com
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS			Campus Outreach	Lane Stone Danielle Beach	703-307-2431 703-751-1691
AAUW On The Go	Ruth Bennett	703-765-4536	Public Policy	Elizabeth Hendrix Diane Schrier	816-248-0793 352-209-3094
Cultural	Open				
Francophile & Gourmet Out	Susan Cash	703-780-3902			
Mystery Book	Susan Werner	703-764-1773			

Send your suggestions/comments about the newsletter to aaunewsltr.ed@gmail.com.

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