

**AAUW** advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. 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 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, or socioeconomic status.

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## AAUW-VA HISTORY WAS MADE

It was a little over a year ago when we were together at the state conference in Vinton that we announced that the 2020 state conference would be hosted by the Northern District in Alexandria. At that time, we did not have any premonition that we would have to cancel the conference because of a pandemic.

It was not the first time that AAUW-VA had to cancel a state conference. That happened in 1945 during World War II. There were no virtual methods to enable gathering 75 years ago when that happened. No internet. No email. No online platforms.

Our bylaws require that we hold an annual business meeting. **On April 18, 2020, we made AAUW-VA history by holding a virtual annual business meeting using Zoom--a web-based video and teleconferencing service.** The turnout was great—99 members signed into the meeting, and almost two hours later, when we gaveled the meeting adjourned, there were 90 members remaining.

*Vision* editors **Mary Anne Graham** and **Bianca Daugherty** produced an

84-page program book which was distributed online prior to the meeting. It chronicled the biennial activities of AAUW-VA, the districts, and branches—an amazing array of activities. Bravo! At the meeting, we received short updates from the board elected and appointed officers, committee chairs, and district representatives. Nominating

Committee Chair **Barbara Woodlee** introduced the slate of officers for the 2020 AAUW-VA elections. Then a major focus of the meeting allowed for discussion of a proposed bylaws amendment and proposed AAUW-VA public policy

priorities for 2020-2022. The proposed bylaws amendment was to delete Virginia's half-price dues discount for new members joining a branch between January 1st and March 15th because this discount is rarely used, and there is a better discount for candidates for membership. The proposed public policy priorities include those previously identified for 2016-2018 and 2018-2020, but were expanded to include AAUW National public

*(Continued on page 5)*



## AAUW of Virginia Elected Officers

- ◆ **Co-Presidents**  
Carol Stephens  
Leslie Tourigny
- ◆ **Vice President for Program**  
Sandy Lawrence
- ◆ **Vice President for Membership and Branch Development**  
Cheryl Spohnholtz
- ◆ **Vice President for Finance**  
Marsha Melkonian
- ◆ **Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy**  
Susan Burk  
Sylvia Rogers
- ◆ **Vice President for Communications**  
Patsy Quick
- ◆ **Recording Secretary**  
Deborah Dodd

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### VIRGINIA VISION

**Copy Editor:**  
Mary Anne Graham

**Layout Editor:**  
Bianca Daugherty

## From your Co-Presidents



Remember the excitement that we shared in January when Virginia became the 38th and final state needed to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment? We thought that with such a great start, 2020 would be a historic year. Historic it is, but not in the way we thought! Who could ever have imagined that less than two months later, 2020 would turn into such a downward spiral? The challenges that we are facing now, with the covid-19 virus and the long-overdue demands for addressing racism in our society, have placed us all in uncharted territory, while also providing opportunities for serious conversation and much needed change.

We are hopeful that our emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion over the last 24 months will help branches engage in important dialogues about racism and implicit bias, seek out meaningful collaboration with other organizations in our communities, and take meaningful action.

Some of our members are those who are working on the “frontlines” of covid-19. We are grateful for their contributions. Some of our members have made masks, donated money, and done whatever else they could do to make life better for others, the least of which is wearing a mask and social distancing. Some members have had loved ones die due to covid-19 and to them, we send our heartfelt condolences.

Just as we have had to learn how to cope and to adjust to covid-19 as individuals, AAUW of Virginia has had to do the same. After much planning, we had to cancel our spring conference in Alexandria, just one month before it was to take place. Thanks to our conference co-chairs, **Joanne Clark** and **Arlene Shapiro**; their committee of

volunteers; and VP for Program, **Sandy Lawrence**, for all their hard work! Instead of convening in a hotel, almost 100 of you joined us on our Zoomed Annual Business Meeting on April 18th. Although it could not begin to equal meeting in person, we were able to conduct the business we are required to do by our bylaws. We thank you for bearing with us and participating.

Our branch leaders have had to face many of the same dilemmas. While many end-of-the-year banquets, activities, and fundraisers have had to be canceled or postponed, many events have gone forward by the use of virtual means such as Zoom. It is amazing how much can be done with Zoom. We are hopeful that we are able to all gather again in our branches in the fall, but that is not a given at this point. We encourage branches to continue to be creative in using technology to keep members together and focused on the issues. Many of the branch reports in this newsletter demonstrate various ways branches have adapted. Summer is also the perfect time to contact your state delegate and senator to discuss our public policy priorities and how they can help with legislation that addresses those priorities. You might even be able to meet with them via FaceTime or Zoom.

Please reach out to your members to let them know you care about them. It is important that we support each other during this very difficult time. If you need anything from us, do not hesitate to contact us or your branch liaison from the state board.

We wish you good health and safety during these uncertain times!

*Carol and Leslie*

## District Representatives

### Northern

Sara Anderson  
Kate MacLeod

### Northwest

Mary Froehlich  
Marsha Gochenour

### Southeast

Barbara Woodlee  
Tammie Mullins-  
Rice

### Southwest

DebraLee Hovey

## AAUW Stands Against Racism – Join Us!

Our Chief Executive Officer, **Kim Churches**, has taken a strong stand against racism in her [June 1 press release](#):

*“On behalf of our 170,000 members and supporters, we commit to fighting for justice, long-term and lasting change, and we stand in solidarity against racism. We also acknowledge that as an organization we have our own work to do.”*

On June 3 she followed up by issuing a call for action in an AAUW Action Network message. Pointing out that AAUW is a powerful and positive force for change, **Kim** then challenged members and supporters to join her as follows:

*“**First— listen.** Listen to the Black and Brown leaders and members of your community when they speak. Remember that many people are struggling with enormous pain and despair, so we urge self-educating instead of asking Black and Brown people to work for the benefit of your learning. . . . When listening, minimize questions to a simple, ‘Is there anything I can do to help you today?’*

*“**Second— learn.** Read our [recent statement](#) highlighting AAUW's stand against racism and this [Washington Post article](#) by 2016-17 AAUW American Fellow alumnae Keisha Blain about the problematic history of policing in this country. Systemic racism is firmly rooted in the United States— from police brutality to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color. Then talk to your family, children, and friends. Talk to them about how today's injustices mirror our own country's shameful history. Saying ‘Black lives matter’ is important and needed. This is an historic moment that requires your vocal support.*

*“**Third— vote.** . . . Our democracy works when everyone can fully participate, but people of color often experience discrimination at the ballot box. With a pivotal election ahead, persuading policymakers to expand voting rights is a powerful way to support marginalized communities.*

*“**Change begins with understanding and ensuring that all are being heard.***

*“This can be a difficult experience. But it's incumbent on all of us to do the hard work. We at AAUW also acknowledge as an organization that we have work to do. We invite you to join us in learning and supporting this work towards long-term and lasting change.”*

## AAUW-VA Action on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Here in Virginia we have already begun the process that **Kim Churches** laid out for us in her June 3 AAUW Action Network message (see above).

I am proud that we are on our way to listening and learning about this topic within our state and branches of AAUW of Virginia. We, however, have much more listening, and learning to do. We also must continue actively with our efforts to Get Out the Vote.

AAUW is providing us with great resources, including recommendations for reading and [webinars](#) so that we can hear from experts in the areas of diversity, inclusivity, and equity. Please take time out of your day to avail yourself of these resources. Additionally, on the new AAUW website you will find the [Equity Network](#). I encourage you to join this group.

We continue to update the [AAUW of Virginia website Diversity and Inclusion page](#) with resources that you can

use personally and within your branch to gain further understanding of this topic. If you are on [Facebook be sure to friend our page](#), which includes immediate updates and current information on this topic. Also, our virtual Summer Leadership Meeting on July 27 from 2 pm to 4 pm will focus on this topic. The information about that meeting will be available shortly.

In Virginia, we have accomplished a great deal this past year related to the study and improvement of diversity, equity, and inclusion within our communities. We have learned from recent events that we have a long way to go to achieve our goals, but we are on our path. We will continue to work to listen, learn, and get out the vote.

Cyndi Shanahan  
Diversity and Inclusion Chair



## Public Policy

### **Achievements, Challenges, and Opportunities**

**T**hanks to all who joined us in Richmond this year to lobby our state legislators about Virginia's gender pay gap. Of four pay equity bills on the table, one made it to the finish line and was signed by the governor into law on April 22, 2020. **House Bill 622 (Hurst, Levine, Simonds) prohibits an employer from discharging or taking other retaliatory action against an employee who discloses or otherwise discusses their own wages or other compensation.** This is a step in the right direction; we will work to build on it. Legislation to raise the minimum wage in Virginia was also passed, but implementation will be delayed until May 2021 due to the economic impact of covid-19. Progress is progress, though, and we are gratified to see these measures adopted.

**Get Out the Vote (GOTV).** Your constitutional rights are not paused during a national crisis, but the constraints imposed by the pandemic will be a factor during the upcoming elections. **AAUW supports vote by mail, on-line registration, early voting, no excuse absentee voting, and in-person voting with proper health precautions – anything to make voting easier and more accessible.**

This year, Virginia's state legislators passed and **Governor Northam** signed major legislative steps to expand voting access that look especially prescient in light of the current health crisis. **These measures take effect July 1, 2020, (unless otherwise indicated) and include:**

- 1) No-excuse absentee voting and no-excuse early voting 45 days prior to an election;
- 2) Elimination of the requirement for a picture ID at the polls;
- 3) Designating Election Day as a Virginia state holiday;
- 4) Implementing automatic voter registration for individuals accessing service at a DMV office or DMV website; and
- 5) Same-day registration (not effective until October 1, 2022).

As we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which granted so many women the right to vote, we will be focusing on how we can help educate our community about the changes that have been made in Virginia to facilitate voters' access to the polls. Your vote is your voice!

*Susan Burk /Sylvia Rogers  
Co-VPs for Public Policy*

### **Be Careful in Election Season Not to Be Partisan in AAUW Activities!!**

**W**hile we are often reminded that AAUW is a nonpartisan organization, it sounds contradictory when we also hear that our work has always been political. With a presidential election on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, it is a good time to revisit what AAUW defines as political and partisan, and how to stay on the nonpartisan side of the divide.

*"Political work can be characterized by shared values, working toward a common goal, and an end result that is best for the community as a whole. Put simply, being political is a way to influence legislation and regulation through government or public affairs, while partisan activities have a firm adherence to a party, faction, or person."*

This means that we can work on issues that are consistent with our values and mission and which are in line with our public policy priorities, engage equally with candidates and elected officials from different political parties, and participate in voter registration and education regardless of individuals' political party identification. What we **cannot** do is endorse or strongly advocate for candidates in partisan races, encourage voter registration with a particular party, fundraise for partisan candidates, or coordinate with partisan campaigns or political parties.

*Leslie Tourigny  
Co-President*

policy priorities where we can play an advocacy role in Virginia. The format of the priorities was changed to align with the key issue areas outlined in the AAUW Strategic Plan, particularly those that address equality, economic security, and education. The officer positions, bylaws amendment, and public policy priorities were voted on during our online state election from April 26-May 16. (See page 6 for election results.)

It is no surprise to anyone that the AAUW of Virginia Board of Directors is composed of a cadre of volunteer members who devote a significant amount of time to ensuring that our organization functions well. At the meeting, we recognized the following board members who were leaving their current board positions:

- **Kate MacLeod** (Vienna Area), Northern District co-representative; **DebraLee Hovey** (Smith Mountain), Southwest District representative; and **Mary Froehlich** and **Marsha Gochenour** (Winchester), Northwest District co-representatives, are leaving the board.
- **Carol Stephens** (Greater Richmond), co-president, will become Northwest District co-representative.
- **Sylvia Rogers** (Harrisonburg), co-VP for public policy, will become Northwest District co-representative.
- **Sandy Lawrence** (Woodbridge), VP for program, will become co-representative for Northern District.
- **Suzanne Rothwell** (Vienna Area), bylaws and resolutions chair, will become co-president.
- **Barbara Woodlee** (Virginia Beach), Southeast District co-representative, will become college/university relations chair.

There is one board member leaving the board—**Neola Waller** (Virginia Beach) whom we recognized for being in a category of her own! **Neola** has been on the state board from 1991-2002 and then again from 2009-2020. She has served in seven different positions, including president. She is leaving the position of historian, which she has held for over 10 years! **Neola** is also recognized around AAUW for her service to the national organization. We will miss her.

*Leslie Tourigny  
Co-President*

## \*\*\* Annual Business Meeting by Zoom Evaluations \*\*\*

**We would like to thank everyone of you who joined us by Zoom for the annual business meeting.** We are very appreciative of your thoughtful input. A summary of the evaluations has been sent to the board for use in future planning.

Overall, the responses were extremely positive. A few folks suggested they would have liked to have received the evaluation questions ahead of time. We agree, and normally that would have happened. To be quite honest, we were so busy scrambling to pull the meeting off via Zoom that evaluations were overlooked. It was only several days after the meeting that the idea of polling how folks thought it went came about. The highlights for our participants seemed to be the ability to put names with faces on the board, hearing summaries of the reports from the officers, and the sharing of how branches are persevering during covid-19. Many appreciated the explanation about the public policy priorities and bylaws amendment and enjoyed being able to hear from the

candidates for office. Several folks mentioned the advantage of not having to travel to a meeting and paying the expense of a hotel. Others missed the camaraderie of a personal gathering. Kudos to **Mary Anne Graham, Leslie Tourigny, and Bianca Daugherty** for producing a wonderfully professional program book. It received high praise, and many liked the idea of it being available electronically and saving printing costs.

Some of the improvements suggested mainly had to do with the technicalities of the Zoom production, and we are grateful for those suggestions. Again, we apologize for not understanding how the Zoom meeting would handle the roll call. We mistakenly thought that the administrator would be able to mute everyone except the speaker, but that did not seem to be the case.

Again, thank you so much for participating and sharing your ideas!

*Carol Stephens  
Co-President*



## Results are in!

Thank you to the 321 AAUW of Virginia members who voted in the recent **One Member One Vote State Election**; that is a voting rate of 29%, which met the 7% quorum needed for the election.

Each candidate was elected with 99% or more of the vote. The following AAUW of Virginia 2020-22 officers were elected:

- **Co-Presidents - Suzanne Rothwell and Leslie Tourigny**
- **Vice President for Communications - Patsy Quick**
- **Vice President for Program - Nadine James**
- **Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy - Susan Burk and Denise Murden**

Additionally, both the proposed bylaws amendment and the proposed 2020-2022 public policy priorities passed with 96% of the vote.

**Congratulations and thank you to these members!! We look forward to working with you in 2020-22.**

*Sandy Lawrence  
Voting and Elections Chair*

### **Required Submission of IRS Form 990-N Information to AAUW**

All branches are required to submit **IRS Form 990-N** information for the 2019 tax year to AAUW through the **Member Services Database by October 15, 2020**. Some branches are required to also submit the **Form 990-N** for 2019 directly to the **IRS by November 15, 2020**. I sent an email in mid-April to branch presidents (asking that the email be sent to the branch finance officer) that contained step-by-step guidance on how to make the required entry on the AAUW website. Please contact me if you need another copy of that email or have any questions.

Failure of a branch to timely file a **Form 990-N** with the IRS in any year will result in an inquiry by the IRS, with the opportunity to submit the delinquent filing. Failure to file the **Form 990-N** for three consecutive years will result in the branch losing its IRS non-profit exemption, although the branch can apply for reinstatement.

All branches made the required filings in the last two years. Let's ensure we do so for this year.

*Suzanne Rothwell  
Bylaws/Resolutions Chair*



## **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF US!**

Virginia ranked **4<sup>th</sup>** in all AAUW total contributions from members and branches in 2019 with a grand total of **\$86,451.88**. That surpassed our 2018 total by more than \$3,300. A huge thank you and pat on the back to all! For every \$500 contributed, branches could honor someone with a Names Honored certificate. The 2019 list of 76 Names Honored is on page 12.

The Top 10 Branches were **McLean Area** (\$29,330), **Falls Church Area** (\$10,124), **Roanoke Valley** (\$5,550), **Mt. Vernon** (\$5,400), **Alexandria** (\$4,945), **Fairfax City** (\$4,058), **Reston-Herndon Area** (\$3,434), **Virginia Beach** (\$3,254), **Greater Richmond** (\$2,940), and **Vienna Area** (\$2,814). The top three have big used book sales, and the next two have a joint theater evening event. Not every branch can do that, so please go on to the next paragraph...

There is no doubt the covid-19 virus will affect our fundraising for 2020. McLean's used book sale has already been canceled, for example. We can still work in alternative ways to continue to support AAUW Funds and other projects that enhance girls' and women's education and equity. On page 14 in this newsletter is a list of some easy, alternative fundraisers, some of which are even lots of fun. Please consider having at least one of these—maybe even two or three. We may not match that \$86,000—but let's see how close we can get!

*Caroline Pickens  
AAUW Funds Chair*

## Membership

### It's time to renew!

Spring means warmer weather, pretty flowers, and renewal time for AAUW memberships! The AAUW fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30; AAUW National normally sends out the initial renewal notices every year in May. You may also receive renewal notices from your branch membership chair. The simplest way to renew is to respond to the renewal email and renew online. In 2019-2020, Virginia branches had an overall renewal rate of 99%! Congratulations to the 12 branches that maintained or increased their numbers over 2018-2019: **Alexandria, Arlington, Bedford County, Manassas, McLean Area, Mt. Vernon, Newport News, Roanoke Valley, Smith Mountain, Suffolk, Winchester, and Woodbridge.**

Help us continue to support equity for women and girls and renew now! As a thank you, check out the benefits you receive:

- Office supplies and printing discounts - remember to use your Office Depot discount card! If you can't find your card – no problem! Simply Text AAUWSPC to 555-888 and save your free store discount card on your phone.
- Cheaper prescriptions - AAUW members can receive a FREE card to start saving up to 55% on prescription drugs today! This card has no fees; it will never expire; and one card covers the entire household, including pets. For more information call toll free: 1-800-931-8872 or visit <https://www.uspharmacycard.com/aauw/>
- Lower cost insurance – car, long-term care, pet? AAUW offers discounts on all of these!
- Discounts on travel - AAUW has arranged discounts on hotels, cruises, rental cars, and packaged tours.

For more discounts, go to <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/why-join/discounts-and-perks/>.

*Cheryl Spohnholtz  
VP for Membership*

### BRANCH PRESIDENT REMINDER!

All branches must update the MSD with their new or continuing officers for the year 2020-2021. Please complete by **June 24!** Contact **Carol Stephens** if you need help with the MSD.



### AAUW-VA Mini-Grants Status – Past and Future

COVID-19 certainly put a wrench in conducting some projects that were awarded AAUW mini-grants for 2019-20, resulting in several being canceled for this fiscal year. The good news is that the state board agreed to carry over funding for any projects that were canceled but will occur in 2020-2021. Also, branches that had already spent money for projects that were canceled or postponed because of no fault of their own will be reimbursed from the grant money.

Smith Mountain Branch was able to complete a \$500 mini-grant project that is a good example of how diversity and inclusion can be an area of focus. Branch members visited 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes in three local counties, read to them, and discussed the book Can I Join Your Club? Copies of the book were also left behind for classroom libraries.

At its April meeting, the board approved \$1,500 for public

policy mini-grants for 2020-2021. The application form (in a simplified format) and instructions will be announced later this summer and posted on the AAUW of Virginia website. Requests for mini-grants may be submitted electronically or by mail in two categories--*Tried and True* and *Bold and New*--in amounts up to \$500. Applications must be received by the mini-grant committee by October 1, 2020. Awards will be announced no later than November 1, 2020. It is not too early to begin thinking creatively and strategically about activities that would qualify for mini-grants. All projects must address an aspect of AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls within local communities. The new 2020-2022 AAUW of Virginia Public Policies that were approved during our 2020 state election can be found on our website using this link: <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/aauw/directors/publicpolicy/>

Let's think out of the box about ways to further our AAUW mission if the virus lingers. Zoom anyone?

*Sylvia Rogers/Susan Burk  
Co-VPs for Public Policy*

# Branches in Action

Alternate means to engage the community have driven the actions of the **Arlington Branch** starting in March when in-person activities ceased. The branch plans to re-schedule canceled public programs concerning women's financial security, careers at NASA, and the 2020 scholarship and award recipients for our 2020-21 program year. Nomination, selection, and notification of awardees for the Elizabeth Campbell Scholarship for the Arts, Lunch Bunch Scholarship, and Teacher of the Year Awards were completed, using funds raised by mid-March. The timing was critical because scholarship funds needed to be deposited to their schools over the summer.

The branch's annual business meeting in late May was virtual, using Zoom, based on the successful experiences of the book group and board. Members learned to use Zoom, and don't miss driving across the county. Virtual meetings will continue as necessary.

*Carol J. Dabbs  
President*

The **Greater Richmond Branch** is trying to keep in touch with members. The board has met through Zoom since the April and May meetings were not safe in person. Although the spring monthly meetings were canceled, communications have gone on even better than ever. The branch is hopeful to meet in July for the old/new board meeting to change leadership. The new president will be **Laura Wimmer**; new co-vice presidents of programs will be **Kathy Kelly** and **Lisa Scott**; and new membership chair will be **Marcia Phillips**.

Branch members and the state board agreed to GRAAUW's move from the Southeast District to the Northwest District.

Hopefully, the branch will have its potluck dinner in September and wine tasting in November to raise funds for scholarships and contributions to AAUW Funds.

*Dulce Lawrence  
President*



The **Hampton Branch's** February 2020 meeting featured guest speaker **Dr. Natalie Robertson**. She wrote [The Slave Ship: The Clotilda and the Making of AfricaTown, USA](#). Her book chronicles the capture of slaves in Nigeria who were smuggled into Alabama and founded AfricaTown. The descendants still live in Africa-Town, located not too far from Mobile, Alabama.

Pictured from left to right are **Carmina Sanchez, Joan Jenkins, Gwen Lee Lomax, Dr. Natalie Robertson, Laura Greenfield, Margaret Bristow, Joy Hendrickson, and Carolyn Stewart**.

The **McLean Area Branch** canceled all in-person meetings to comply with Virginia's Executive Order 55 and to protect the health and well-being of members. Members continued to hold board meetings and branch activities through Zoom. The branch held its annual meeting to elect officers via Zoom; 41 members participated. (See the branch's website for photo of participants.)

The branch canceled the annual book sale for 2020: the current pandemic poses too many risks and unknown outcomes to allow to continue planning. A fundraising committee was formed to find alternatives to the book sale. The

*(Continued on page 9)*

# Branches in Action

branch mailed letters to members asking for donations and is examining avenues to solicit funds by offering a signed baseball by **Max Scherzer**, pitcher for the Washington Nationals. **All Nats fans, stay tuned!**

Through the internet, the branch successfully fulfilled its STEM initiatives such as the middle school essay contest, science fair engineering award (through videos), and high school math and science awards.

*Myrtle Hendricks Corrales  
Co-President*

The **Newport News Branch** started the year with a visit to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester where AAUW fellow **Kate Ritter** presented her research about links between DNA and declines in oyster beds in the Chesapeake Bay. After a tour of the pathology lab, the branch enjoyed lunch at a popular spot where some ordered oysters anyway!

The branch plans on working with the women's leadership group at Christopher Newport University to set up salary negotiation and other programs at the university, including a display of AAUW materials at their annual conference on issues about women and girls in March. The branch will close out the year with a tour of archives and art at Hampton University. The branch continues to partner with Delta Sigma Theta, concentrating at school registration times and during the weeks before voter registration deadlines.

*Carolyn C. Hughes  
President*

Although the covid-19 virus challenged program plans, the **Roanoke Valley Branch** has adjusted and continues to offer altered programs and support to its members. Before the onset of the virus, the branch was able to complete a one-day book sale in December and a three-day sale in February to support its scholarship fund. The branch also featured a program by the local NAACP branch about its area youth programs.



*Roanoke NAACP group/Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympic program*

Since March, the branch has been using Zoom technology for membership participation in the afternoon book group, the diversity group, and the end-of-year annual meeting during which six young women were presented with scholarships.

Looking ahead to next year's activities, the branch is optimistic that it will be able to offer new and interesting programs that support AAUW's mission, but they may just be in a new format!

During this challenging time, the Roanoke Valley Branch would like to send best wishes to sister branches for a safe summer and a productive new program year.

*Pat Hales/Cacky Wright*

**Smith Mountain Branch** members purchased 105 copies of the children's book, **Can I Join Your Club?** by **John Kelly and Steph Laberis**, and developed a school reading project. The objective is to make children more sensitive to and aware of bias and acceptance of all people. The initiative supports AAUW's public policy priority - Freedom from Violence and Fear of Violence. The branch received a mini-grant from AAUW-VA.

*(Continued on page 10)*

# Branches in Action

Books have been donated to classrooms in Franklin, Bedford, and Pittsylvania counties. Branch volunteers have read to approximately 750 second graders, receiving very positive feedback from teachers and students. The project will be restarted and completed in fall 2020 when schools reopen.

On May 16 the branch conducted its general meeting using Zoom, voting for three new executive board officers and meeting the winners of this year's scholarships. The branch is sending four girls to summer science camp. Finally, the branch is proud to announce it is 74 members strong!

*Susan McSarrow*

**Springfield-Annandale Branch** canceled its major fundraising luncheon, but the country club and the speaker both agreed to a September date, so the **Spring Fling** has become the **Fall Feast**. Also canceled was the annual presentation of the student inclusion awards to four high school juniors who are making a difference in their schools through inclusive and anti-bullying activities. This program is now planned for October if all goes well.

The board held a meeting via Zoom with another planned for July when more information will be available to help future planning. The officer slate was sent out and will be voted on in an online format. New officers will assume their positions on July 1 and be installed in the fall.

Branch members agreed that we have lived through many crises in our lives and will support each other to get through this one.

*Judy Baldwin  
Co-President*

**Vienna Area Branch** is pleased to have been honored by three stars in **AAUW's Five Star Program** for Advancement, Communications and External Relations, and Public Policy and Research. The branch congratulates founding member **Kristin Moyer**, who has agreed to serve as the National Legacy Circle Team liaison for Virginia. The branch held its annual meeting via email to elect officers for 2020-2022. Interest group chairs for Great Decisions, three book groups, and a movie group will continue to meet via Zoom and conference call. In various ways, members are continuing to remain in touch and be available to help one another. As my term as co-president ends, it has been a pleasure to serve with **Jean Feeney**

and the many dedicated members of the branch who continue to extend our reach into the Vienna community.

*Suzanne Rothwell  
Co-President*

Spring is generally a busy time for the **Virginia Beach Branch**. Unfortunately, all events had to be canceled due to the covid-19 virus. The branch was able to hold its board meeting by teleconference and successfully covered all the usual topics. During that teleconference, the board discussed how the branch could still hold a branch meeting in April. Member **Linda Love** had access to a Zoom account and agreed to arrange the meeting. Program Chair **Sally Daniel** arranged for the speaker to log onto Zoom and speak before the regular meeting. The meeting went well on Zoom and lasted for close to two hours. It is possible that a discussion will take place this summer about holding board meetings virtually using Zoom, partly because board members are scattered across the city and meetings are in the evening.

*Jeanette Olson  
President*

**Winchester Branch** did not meet in January due to concerns for the weather. The February speaker was **Dr. Yolanda Barbier Gibson**, who has served as vice president for student success at Shenandoah University since June 2019. Effective June 1, she expanded her role and became the university's vice president for student affairs. In her previous role, she helped connect students with services that will make them successful inside and outside the classroom and will help them land their first job. In her new position, **Dr. Gibson** oversees both student success and student life.

The annual Woman of the Year celebration in March, the branch meeting in April, and the annual meeting in May were canceled due to the coronavirus. The monthly book group and dinner group activities have also been canceled. Nominations had been made in January for branch elections and they were conducted via email in May.

Congratulations to **Marsha Gochenauer** for being reelected as branch treasurer and **Sherry Lloyd** for being reelected as branch membership vice president. The branch board is looking forward to resuming full activities as soon as restrictions are lifted.

*Mary Froelich  
President*

*(Continued on page 11)*

# Branches in Action

Winter weather didn't disrupt **Woodbridge Branch's** programs and meetings. At the annual January movie and discussion event members viewed



"Beyond Belief," about 9-11 widows who began a cause for healing that took them to Afghanistan to connect with widows experiencing terrorism there. The theme brought discussion segueing into local author, **Lorelei Brush**, who shared her experiences living and working with Muslim women in Pakistan. She read passages of her novel, *Uncovering*, about the extended family of a Muslim woman. In mid-

Lorelei Brush, PhD February, a few members went with her to see the powerful play, "A Thousand Splendid Suns," with a similar theme.

Weather affected the annual luncheon in the riverfront village of Occoquan. It was so warm that the annual chocolate walk brought thousands of people! Many members couldn't find parking and the shuttles were swamped—yet our quaint group had great discussion as those who found parking met new members and revisited with long-time members.



Branch members- Suzanne, Nancy, Eileen, Marlo, Irene, and Susan

Judging our regional science fair for the branch's 28<sup>th</sup> year became the only in-person fair to occur in the DC Metro area on March 7. The judging team selected seven projects of middle school girls for awards in multiple categories, including 1<sup>st</sup> place in computer science.

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual SUCCESS! STEAM Careers for Students in grades 5-12 has been postponed until later this year. Sponsors have pledged their support and most of the materials from AAUW and organizations have been delivered and ready for packet preparations.



1st place Awardee  
Chiara

*Susan Bardenhagen*  
VP Programs & Membership, Communications Chair

During this strange and difficult time, **Northern District** branches have risen to the challenge and found innovative ways to stay in touch and continue many of their programs. One of the activities which took place in a new and different way was the election of district reps for 2020 – 2022. Due to the cancellation of the state conference, where this election would have normally been conducted, branches were asked to vote via email. The first step was sending an email asking for nominations from branches by a specified deadline. Next, a request for voting, with biographies of the two candidates, was sent out. A majority of the branches submitted their votes in a timely manner with a unanimous vote in favor of electing **Sara Anderson** and **Sandy Lawrence** to be the district co-representatives. Thank you to **Sara** and **Sandy** for stepping up to this role.

It's hard to know what the situation will be in the fall, but hopefully things will be returning to some kind of normal, and a fall meeting will take place. Information will be forthcoming on this event as the time draws closer. Until then, stay safe.

*Kate MacLeod and Sara Anderson*  
Northern District Co-Representatives

The **Southwest District** will hold a fall meeting October 17 at 10:30 at The Waterfront Country Club, Moneta, VA. The speaker will be **Ms. Allison Barrett Carter**, who will speak about effective leadership and lawmaking. **Allison** is a director of The Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, which is part of UVA. Lunch will be served and more information will be forthcoming. Please mark your calendars.

The Bedford Branch has withdrawn from AAUW and re-organized, calling itself University Women of Bedford. This is unfortunate, and the members will be missed.

*DebraLee Hovey*  
Southwest District Representative

## Virginia Branches Earn Stars!

Congratulations to the following six branches for earning stars in the **AAUW Five Star Recognition Program**: **Alexandria (3), Reston-Herndon Area (4), Springfield-Annandale (2), Vienna Area (3), Virginia Beach (3), and Woodbridge (3)**! The program has been extended through June 2021, so you still have time to participate.

To earn stars, you simply need to visit <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>. At the bottom of the page, there is a button that says “apply now” (be sure you are already logged in to the site, as only branch officers are able to submit documentation for stars). Perhaps one of the quickest stars to earn is for communications & external relations – to earn that star you need to include an Economic Security Focus and Work Smart Online link on your website and social media presences. (Note: monthly posts are required for social media; Work Smart Online must be included on the website home page.) Other stars are also very achievable but require a few more actions to complete. If you have questions – please contact me!



Cheryl Spohnholtz  
VP for Membership  
703-309-8647  
[Sponzie80atgmail.com](mailto:Sponzie80atgmail.com)

## Names Honored 2019

- **Alexandria:** *Ginger Chamberlain (in memoriam)*
- **Arlington:** *Sara Anderson, Chioma Eni, Michele Milden, Susan Senn, Chris White*
- **Fairfax City:** *Book and Author Luncheon Committee*
- **Falls Church Area:** *Kathryn “Kitty” Richardson (in memoriam), Helen Wynn (in memoriam), Anne Baxter, Dianne Bodeen, Sarah John, John Traub, Bradley Loomis*
- **Greater Richmond:** *Sarah Hardin, Kathy Kelley, Dulce Lawrence, Adah Parashar, Lila Williams*
- **Hampton:** *Carolyn Stewart*
- **Harrisonburg:** *Pem Liskey, Harrisonburg Branch in Celebration of 90 Years*
- **Lynchburg:** *Caroline Crowe*
- **McLean Area:** *Betsy Schroeder, Diana Parsell, Caroline Pickens and 50th Anniversary Committee, Trianthe Dakolias, Tom and Nina McVeigh, Ellie Carle (in memoriam), Frieda Tatum (in memoriam), Anne Studner (in memoriam), Robert Clark (in memoriam), John Kelly (Washington Post), Michael Uribe (SunTrust Bank), McLean Copy, Steve Hibbard (Connection newspaper), Scott McCaffrey (Sun Gazette newspaper)*
- **Mt. Vernon:** *In Honor of the Suffragists*
- **Newport News:** *Carolyn Hughes, Marilyn Riddle, Ethel Woolfolk*
- **Portsmouth:** *Juliet Rickett Quicke (in memoriam)*
- **Reston-Herndon Area:** *Ilene Banker, Carol Flicker, Dianne Mero, Judith Polizzotti, Mary Zane, Roberta Sherman*
- **Roanoke Valley:** *Barbara Craig, Betty Black, Idella Glenn, HelenRuth Burch, Jennie Sue Murdock, Nancy Ocorr, Melody Blankenship, Marilyn Hubbard, Catherine Wright, Peggy Shifflett*
- **Smith Mountain:** *In memory of Quita Schweizer*
- **Springfield-Annandale:** *Ann Sauberman, Nancy O’Day, Nancy Joyner, Susan Burk*
- **Suffolk:** *Denise Murden, Nancy Warren*
- **Vienna Area:** *Aimee Martin, Marilyn Potter, Susan Voss, Deborah Smith-Cohen (Patrick Henry Library), Laurie DiRocco (Mayor of Vienna)*
- **Virginia Beach:** *Fran Adams, Linda Love, Renee Riddle (Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital), Our Lady of Perpetual Help*
- **Winchester:** *AAUW@Shenandoah University*
- **Woodbridge:** *Betty D. Covington, Lillian Orlich*

## New AAUW Website



On April 10 AAUW launched its new website in a webinar. Below you will find information about it in case you missed the webinar.

This is the first major update to the website in 12 years! The nature and use of the new website are based on research regarding current best practices. The webinar that launched on the new website is posted [HERE](#). (Scroll down from there, and look for **Take a Tour of Our New Online Home**.)

Below are some important points to know:

- The new website has the same address as the old. (<https://www.aauw.org/>)
- Not all aspects of the new site have been completed, so some clicks will take you to the old website, for now.
- The website has been streamlined from 15,000 pages to 250 pages as a result of a year-long analysis of the old site.
- It is ADA AA for members with visual disabilities. That means there is high contrast in color, which you will notice.
- **Membership** is found on the menu bar at the right top of the homepage. Membership is where you will find all information relevant to branches and members, such as resources and tools, the Five Star Program, benefits, etc.
- The **Member Services Database (MSD)** link is located under **Membership**. Currently the MSD links back to the old website. Nothing about MSD has changed yet. We will be notified in the fall (2020) when MSD has been revamped.
- There are three other main topics on a menu bar at the top of the homepage that provide information about AAUW: **Explore the Issues** (Strategies for Education, Workplace & Economic Equity, & Leadership) , **Get Empowered** (AAUW programs like NCCWSL and Work Smart), and **Take Action** (2-Minute Activist, Donate).
- To SEARCH, click on the magnifying glass icon, which is left of the DONATE box on every page of the website. Because everything has been streamlined, searching for something on this new site should be much easier than on the old site.
- To find recent webinars that are archived, go to **Membership > Initiatives**. Then scroll down to **2020 Vision: Marking a Momentous Year** and click on that. The webinars are all there.

*Patsy Quick  
VP for Communications  
Web Manager*



**Is your branch looking for a community service project that is exciting, impactful, and fits into the priorities of AAUW? If so, the anti-bias, inclusion project of Can I Join Your Club? is perfect.**

It is an undisputable fact that women struggle to attain their goals and dreams if they have not had supportive, nurturing childhood experiences where they are encouraged, challenged, and accepted for their individuality.

**Can I Join Your Club?** is a book about bias and inclusion. Targeting an age group of 6, 7, 8 or 9-year-olds and reading to them, then leaving the book behind for the teacher, is a way to have your AAUW branch visible and gives your membership that warm and fuzzy feeling from having made a difference. Just think - one community, six second grades, 150 children impacted.

I have worked with the publishing company to lower costs and have put together a guided reading lesson plan that is so simple and direct even the most novice of members feels successful. I would be happy to present the information to your branch, provide you with the information, or assist in any way possible.

We want ALL children to recognize bias, and we want ALL children to be empowered to reach for the stars. It is my hope that by providing this education, our girls will be empowered at an early age to advocate for their hopes and dreams.

*DebraLee Hovey  
Hovey.debralee@gmail.com*

## Legacy Circle News

The Legacy Circle is AAUW's recognition society for those who include AAUW in their estate plans to leave an enduring legacy to advance equity for women and girls into the future.

There is no minimum gift requirement to join the Legacy Circle, and the benefits are many. For example:

- Planned gifts afford you flexibility to provide for your family and support AAUW.
- Certain planned gifts may reduce estate or capital gains taxes.
- Planned gifts need not affect your cash flow during your lifetime.
- Certain types of planned gifts allow you to support AAUW while also providing income for the rest of your life — or a fixed income for a loved one.

The joy of knowing that your legacy gift will sustain AAUW's programs for years to come is the ultimate benefit!

To learn more, contact **Heather Miller** at [millerh@aauw.org](mailto:millerh@aauw.org) or 202.785.7766.

\*\*\*\*\*

After over a decade of service as the AAUW National Legacy Circle Team liaison for Virginia, Maryland, DC, West Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, **Neola Waller** (Virginia Beach Branch) is stepping down from this position. She was a tireless advocate for recruiting more members to the Legacy Circle. We appreciate all that she did.

Although **Neola** is leaving big shoes to fill, Virginia has found just the person to become the new AAUW National Legacy Circle Team liaison for Virginia, **Kristin Moyer**. **Kristin** has a long history of distinguished service to AAUW. She was the founding member of the Vienna Area Branch, has served as branch president, and as AAUW-VA state president from 1986-1988. Thanks, Kristin.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks to **Janine Greenwood** for her generosity. **Janine** has become the newest member—number 47-- of the Legacy Circle from Virginia. She is currently president of the Reston-Herndon Area Branch, a very successful branch that has already received four stars in the 5 Star National Recognition Program. **Janine** is also a member of AAUW's Lobby Corps.

*Leslie Tourigny  
Co-President*

## CREATIVE, UNIQUE, FUN FUNDRAISING IDEAS

- Invite everyone to a **virtual luncheon or dinner** with a cute invite, fun menu, and famous speaker (Marion Talbot, "How I founded AAUW in 1881" or Abigail Adams, "I Admonished My Husband to Remember the Ladies!"). Set a ticket price to attend the event, such as \$25 or two for \$40, and bring a guest.
- **In lieu of your usual fundraiser**, have members contribute what they think is the value of the hours they would have worked—or just contribute. "I am making a donation to express my appreciation for having nothing to buy, sell, or do except fill out this form."
- **Change It:** Challenge members to take a jar and collect change for a designated period of time. The one with the most collected wins a prize when the branch meets again.
- **Bottle Raffle:** Once branch meetings resume, have everyone bring a bottle of wine or olive oil - can be wrapped up or decorated. As a ticket is drawn, that person can select a bottle of wine or olive oil. Continue drawing until all bottles are chosen.
- **Trivia Tea:** St. Charles, MO, does an "AAUW Ladies Tea Time Trivia" on a Saturday afternoon. Sets of questions feature famous and infamous women, topics of interest to women, and categories relating to women. Branch

*(Continued on page 15)*

members bring the treats along with iced tea and coffee. Branch members and friends buy a ticket—and everyone has fun.

- **Basket Raffle:** Reston-Herndon Area Branch has perfected this with five theme baskets:
  - \* Gourmet Basket: wine, chocolates, jellies/jams, special crackers, special olives, boutique olive oil, and other creative non-perishable foods.
  - \* Entertainment Basket: movie tickets and local dining gift certificates.
  - \* Body & Soul Basket: specialty soaps, body lotions, spa/nail salon gift certificates.
  - \* Family Entertainment Basket: books and strategy games
  - \* Child's Activity/Library Basket: children's classics, Newbery and Caldecott winners, modern children's literature, and strategy games.

There is an organizer (or two) for each theme basket. Members pick a basket they would like to help fill or they can donate cash and the organizer will purchase items. Members and friends buy tickets, and the baskets are raffled at their November Friendsgiving Luncheon. Note: could also do fewer baskets than five.

- **Gift Bag:** Harrisonburg Branch does a gift bag sale or auction at their December holiday party. Everyone brings a bag with something in it of \$10 value, with the bag secured so you can't see inside it - can be a book, a plant, a holiday decoration, anything. Attendees either bid for bags or buy them. They make \$200 or more, and members have a fun time.
- **Go Nuts:** One of the easiest things to sell is nuts, especially pecans: widely used and can be frozen. Branches with successful nut sales recommend Georgia's Harrell Nut Company and Schermer's Specialty Pecans.

*Caroline Pickens  
AAUW Funds Chair*

## IT'S CELEBRATION TIME. COME ON!

It's celebration time. Come on! **The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, will turn 100 on August 26, 2020.** Even with the uncertainty created by the covid-19 pandemic, there may still be opportunities for us to celebrate this milestone.

AAUW has written that we have two anniversaries of women's votes to celebrate. **Besides the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, also important is the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which prohibited racial discrimination in voting.**

The National Women's History Alliance and the 2020 Women's Vote Centennial Initiative encourage us to extend the suffrage centennial through 2021. We can do as much as possible in 2020 and then use 2021 to make up for what we were not able to accomplish in 2020 and even create new tributes. Since the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year lasts until August 26, 2021, we are encouraged to extend centennial-related commemorations into 2021. In the last issue of *Vision*, I discussed that AAUW of Virginia has been invited to partner with William & Mary's Society of 1918 and march in the W&M homecoming parade on Friday, October 16, at 4:30 pm. The Society of 1918 was founded in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of W&M's admitting women to its student body

The Society of 1918 will begin decorating their float early in the afternoon October 16, and we are invited to help. The distance of the parade is about one mile, and we are asked to dress in period attire (let's go with black since it will be October - long skirts, long-sleeved blouses or jackets, big hats) and make and bring your own sash and sign.

At the time we went to press, this event has not been changed. Future planning is difficult these days. As I receive further information, I will pass it on. This certainly would be a fun way to celebrate breaking out of staying at home.

Let us embrace the spirit of the women we celebrate -- and adapt and persevere. Let us recognize the women's suffrage centennial despite the challenges and uncertainties we face.



*Neola Waller*

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- [aauw-va.aauw.net](http://aauw-va.aauw.net)

### Virginia General Assembly:

- [virginiageneralassembly.gov](http://virginiageneralassembly.gov)



# "The Times They Are A-Changin'" for the Summer Leadership Meeting



Bob Dylan was right. "The Times They Are A-Changin'."

The **2020 Summer Leadership Meeting** is changin' from an in-person meeting to a series of three virtual webinars using Zoom.

***Please save the dates of July 25, 26, and 27,  
from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm,  
for our virtual Summer Leadership Meeting.***

We are arranging for several interesting speakers to join us each day to present sessions on AAUW mission-based topics.

**As soon as all the pieces fall into place, we'll send out further information, including how to register to attend.**

*Leslie Tourigny  
Co-President*