



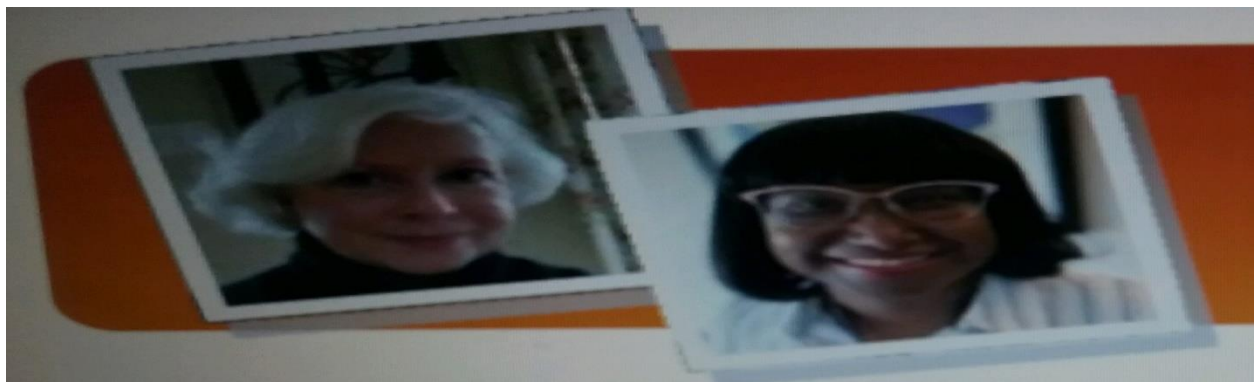
Hampton Branch



April 24, 2023

The holiday season has passed and we are now in a new year. Welcome 2023!

After being asked to assist with the preparations for the upcoming 2023 AAUW Virginia State Conference, the Hampton Branch, being small in number, made adjustments to upcoming programs to be able to focus on this new and exciting request. The one thing that did not change was the scheduled visit from our state president in January. On January 21, 2023, Lane Stone and Dr. Sarita Gregory, the state president and administrator, shared their vision with us for all branches in Virginia. They began by asking the questions: What's your why? Where do you want your branch (Hampton) to be? From these two questions, the branch began to look at itself, analyzing what it is we do, how we do it, and if it is working for us.



***LANE STONE AND SARITA MCCOY GREGORY
"FROM VISION TO REALITY: MISSION IMPOSSIBLE"***

Lane and Sarita began with the AAUW Mission Statement –*To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.* The branch members were asked to state which aspect of the mission are most important to us. After discussion and reviewing some of what has been done in the last three years, the branch members agreed that education was our focus. But, we also learned that advocacy is an area we would like to venture more into.

After stating some of what the branch has done, the workshop leaders asked “How does the Hampton Branch support the mission today.” That question was not as difficult to answer because members participate in the State meetings/zooms, and webinars/zooms from other branches and organizations that are relevant to what we do. It is through those avenues that branch ideas and feelings on issues are shared. Branch members financially support the national office by contributing to the Greater Needs Funds and the branch donates annually to the cause. Prior to COVID, the branch held STEM workshops for girls. Hopefully the branch will be able to resume the workshops next year if COVID is no longer at a pandemic level.

The question that caused us to pause was “What do your members care about most within the branch?” It was something that we had not given much thought since the focus of the branch was to do at least one thing each year that met the national objectives for AAUW. However, the desire to be able to do STEM programming was expressed.

The last question took everyone by surprise. It was, “Are there things that Hampton branch and the Newport News branch are doing today that you want to stop doing or change?” Two members from the Newport News branch were attending the workshop. Members from both branches were a little puzzled. The general consensus was that the branches seldom held activities or invited each other to participate. Now that the question has been asked, it was decided that an effort would be made to do more joint programming.



Workshop attendees
(Hampton, Newport News, and Virginia Beach branches)



Lane Stone (AAUW Virginia State President)
receiving gift from
Laura Greenfield (Hampton VP Membership)

When the workshop ended, everyone in attendance realized that we have much work to do.

February was a month of diversity programming. It began with a presentation by Dr. Carmina Sanchez, who is an architect and instructor at Hampton University, of the works of Frances del Valle a surrealist painter and woman activist. Dr. Sanchez discussed the artist use of color and the exploration of mixing shades and color palettes, her interest in the works of other surrealist artists from whom she gained inspiration, and the inclusion of her children and grandchildren in her paintings. Dr. Sanchez talked about the dramatic theme of the female warrior boldly depicted in several of del Valle’s works. The warrior represented the violence of humanity. Most of her work is invented people, not real people – composites of human and other earthly elements. For example, elements that can be found in her works are the use of the sphinx to represent woman, the human eye to represent seeing the world, the snake as mother earth, and the moon to represent light in dark spaces.

Del Valle, who is Puerto Rican, was a child of the depression who moved to New York with her parents at an early age. As an adult she became interested in art and the art culture there in New York. She married and returned to Puerto Rico with her own family. Del Valle also lived in Barcelona, Spain and Miami, Florida. Her works are in museums in those localities. Her first solo show outside of Puerto Rico was at the Eugenio Fernandez Granell Foundation Museum in Santiago De Compostela, Spain in 2017. She was not very recognized during her life but, as with true artist, her works has gained recognition since her death. There was an exhibit of her painting “Warrior and Sphinx” in the Metropolitan Museum in New York in 2021 shortly after she passed.



Warrior and Sphinx
by Frances del Valle

Frances del Valle’s works cannot be summed up in themes or images; but, she was very interested in women and the role of gender in all aspects of their lives. The presentation taught us that there is much to be learned from art and about its unique way of engaging our senses to see/be/engage in the world around us.



Frances del Valle
Surrealist Painter



Dr. Carmina Sanchez del Valle
Architect/Professor

Frances del Valle is the mother of our presenter, Dr. Carmina Sanchez.

Building on the challenge given us, *From Vision to Reality: Mission Impossible*, branch members participated in two webinars on accountability. The first one addressed an article by Piper Anderson entitled “Building A Culture of Accountability.” The accountability was for addressing the root cause of systemic and structural racism at work and in organizations. The point to be made was that without a culture of accountability, any effort to prevent racial harm or provide proper redress when it occurs will fall short of accomplishing repairing harm and deepen distrust and disconnect among staff (and branch members). Consequently, the failure to define structures of accountability before they are needed will undermine any progress toward cultivating an inclusive and equitable workplace (branch); and, the result will affect employee retention (branch retention), collegial relationships, and team performance. The webinar was held on February 3, 2023, and can be found on the AAUW website.

The second webinar on February 4, 2023 was led by Alicia Jones McCloud. She discussed micro-aggression, which is an act that makes someone feel marginalized whether intentional or not. It can be a statement, action, or incident that occurs that is discriminatory. The speaker emphasized that micro-aggression is best addressed through accountability, not punishment because with punishment there is no corrective action. The opportunity to learn from our mistakes is removed. Throughout the session, tips were given on ways to develop mutual accountability for our actions, ways to make people feel included when they attend meetings, and how to practice generative conflict (learn to disagree without being disagreeable). In closing, she said that the one minority person in your branch should not be asked to be the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion chair. Why? That person is your marginalized group. The webinar was held on February 4, 2023, and can be found on the AAUW website.

The last major activity for February was the virtual AAUW State Regional Meeting on February 25, 2023. Plans for the AAUW Virginia State Conference were discussed and a presentation on the Williamsburg Bray School was given by Dr. Maureen Elgersman Lee. The Bray School in Williamsburg, Virginia, was established in 1760 and remained open until 1774. The building itself is the oldest one in the United States dedicated to the education of free and enslaved children. It is currently being restored by the College of William and Mary.



Dr. Maureen Elgersman Lee
Bray School Lab Director



The Williamsburg Bray School
1760 - 1774

March was a very busy month. The Hampton Branch was participated in the planning for the Virginia State Conference. Branch members participated in weekly zoom planning meeting and actively solicited items for the gift bags for the conference. Letters requesting donations for the bags were mailed to merchants throughout the Virginia Peninsula, and follow-up in person visits were made. They proved to be the most effective. Donations from other branches, as well as personal finds and business associates of the State Board of Directors were directed to Hampton for the gift bags.

Throughout the months of February and March, branch members met to assemble the different items to be placed in the bags. Items ranged from personal protective equipment to sweet treats. Note pads and pens were also included.

The conference was held in Williamsburg, Virginia, on March 18, 2023. Eight branch members attended the conference and graciously received the many accolades for a job well done on insuring a gift that everyone found useful.



Hampton Branch members at the Willow Oaks Branch Library assembling AAUW State Conference Bags.



- [April 15, 2023](#), Hampton Branch Meeting, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., at Willow Oaks Library, Willow Oaks Village Square, 227 Fox Hill Road, Hampton, Virginia. The election of officers for 2023-2025 will be held.
- [May 20, 2023](#), Hampton Branch Meeting, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., at the Willow Oaks Library, Willow Oaks Village Square, 227 Fox Hill Road, Hampton, Virginia. Dr. Margaret Bristow will share with us what she learned during her recent travels about women in other cultures. Her topic will be: *Strong But Kind: Women in Leadership in Ghana, Tanzania, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji Islands and Angola*. Please feel free to bring a friend.
- [June 17, 2023](#), Annual branch fellowship meeting. This year it will be all about membership. The topic for the meeting is "Shaping Our Future Member." More on this will be discussed at the May branch meeting.

Carolyn Stewart
Co-Editor

Anjanette Sheppard Taylor
Co-Editor

MISSION: *To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.*

DIVERSITY STATEMENT: *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.*
