



Hampton Branch



October 20, 2023

Welcome back! Hopefully everyone is recharged and ready for another year of fine programming. The 2023-24 program year has much to offer, and the Hampton Branch board has been busy. Laura Greenfield, our vice president for Membership, who holds the same position for the state, attended Virginia AAUW State Board in July. Other board members were busy listening to webinars and participating in zoom meetings. The July 25, 2023, public policy zoom, included Alex Blockers, leader if the Virginia Fund Our Schools(FOS) coalition. He provided an overview of the coalition’s work to achieve “full and fair funding” of Virginia’s K-12 public schools. Because of a glitch, the zoom was not recorded. Anyone wishing to have more information about the Fund Our Schools Coalition by emailing Mr. Blocker at alexblocker@justice4all.org.

The branch board met in August. Ms. Greenfield shared information from the state board meeting and Dr. Tonya Brown share plans for the Spring 2024 STEM workshop. An outline of programs and activities, to include participation in Reclaim Our Vote campaign was developed. Dr, Margaret Bristow presented her ideas for activities related to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging. After an active discussion about all of the ideas, Dr. Brown and Dr. Bristow agreed to apply for State mini-grants to help fund the STEM workshop and a speaker for a zoom program with senior girls at Phoebus High School.

August was a very productive month, but it also brought brought challenges and sorrow. Justine “Tina” Robertson is adjusting to a health challenge and is no longer able to attend meetings. Please use the address in our branch directory if you wish to send her a card. Lona Ross, our longest continuous branch member, passed quietly. Both ladies were active and will truly be missed. On a positive note, Dr. Sarita McCoy Gregory, after a serious illness, reports that she is better, and, she is actively participating with both our branch and the state board again. Let’s all wish Sarita continued good health.

A date was set at the September branch meeting for members to gather and write post cards for the Reclaim Our Vote postcard writing campaign. A goal was set to complete 250 postcards by October 10, 2023.

Fundraising was discussed. It was agreed that the branch would once again sell Double Good popcorn and Georgia pecans in November and December. Double Good popcorn will be sold November 2-6, 2023. A refresher on how to use the Double Good app, and assistance with installing the app on your telephone, will be provided. An e-mail with the date, time, and place for that popcorn refresher will be sent out the last week of October.

Orders for pecans will be accepted through November 15, 2023. They can be picked up beginning November 21, 2023.



September ended on a positive note with branch members attending the Virginia Women's Conference at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. The conference was sponsored by Sen. Mark Warner, Old Dominion University, and a host of other Virginia businesses and organizations that support women and girls. The American Association of University Women (AAUW) also had a presence at the conference. Tiffany Sanchez, AAUW national Women's Vice President of Programs and Fellowships, presented a workshop entitled, *AAUW Work Smart: Salary Negotiation*. Also, the Virginia Chapter of the AAUW was asked to provide a table at the conference displaying a variety of literature to inform the public about what AAUW is and ways it seeks to help and support women and girls. The table was staffed by members of the Hampton and Virginia Beach branches.



IN MEMORIAM



Lona Newman Ross

Lona Ross joined the Hampton Branch of the American Association of University Women in 1965. She was devoted to the branch and accepted leadership positions in many areas. She was a branch president, secretary, parliamentarian, and treasurer. In the last few years with us, she served as the branch finance officer and secretary. Having been close friends with Joan Aaron, a previous member who was an accountant, Lona learned the ends and outs of insuring that all finances were impeccably maintained. Throughout the years, Lona graciously opened her lovely home for new member meet and greets and our annual June branch luncheon.

During COVID, Lona did not stop. She participated in all branch meetings and webinars. She also participated in the State AAUW Conference that was zoomed, as well as other national webinars.

Lona was very outgoing, cheerful and always willing to be an active member of the Hampton Branch. But there was one occasion when she humbled us by choosing to share a very personal side of herself -- she invited branch members to share a very special 70th birthday when she was bat mitzvah at her synagogue. Lona said that it was something she always wanted as a young girl and was now able to fulfill her life-long dream.

On August 19, 2023, Lona passed. Her light will continue to shine through her daughters, Caryn and Lauren, and granddaughters, Claire, Liza, and Sivan. Her legacy lives on in all the AAUW branch members and state and national friends she met and encouraged through the years, and her gift to the AAUW Legacy Circle.



- **October 21, 2023**, AAUW Southeast District Meeting, Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital, Health Education Center, 1060 First Colonial Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454
- **November 2 – 6, 2023**, Double Good Popcorn sales
- **November 2 – 15, 2023**, Pecan orders are taken
- **November 18, 2023**, Hampton Branch Meeting, Willow Oaks Library, 227 Fox Hill Road, Hampton, Virginia.
- **December, 2023**, Hampton Branch Holiday Celebration, Date, Time, and Place, to be determined.

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.*

<https://aauw-va.aauw.net/branches/hampton/>