



Reston-Herndon Area (VA) Branch

The AAUW Mission Statement: *AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.*

President's Pen

Dear Reston-Herndon Branch Members and Friends,

It's October and we are deep into the planning of our annual scholarship fundraiser – the **Friends Giving Luncheon**– to be held on December 8 (see article within the newsletter for more information.) There, not only will you have a great social event in a wonderful restaurant atmosphere with your fellow AAUW branch members, but additionally, you will have the opportunity to help fund the annual \$1,000 scholarship for our branch-supported *NOVA Scholar* through the fun, and always exciting, BASKET RAFFLES (5 this year!). In addition, as always at this event, we will be encouraging once-a-year donations – large or small – for the AAUW national programs. Whatever issues you believe are most important, from protecting the rights of those facing discrimination, to providing equal educational opportunities, to advocating on certain issues, you are encouraged to support your cause by donating to a specific program or the general AAUW Fund. The fund areas we are targeting this year are: Public Policy– advocating for policies and laws that are fair and advance equity for women and girls; Educational Opportunities –funding for fellowships and grants; Eleanor Roosevelt Fund – providing research on gender equity issues that are important to women in education and the workplace; Legal Advocacy – protecting the rights of women facing discrimination; and the AAUW Fund – a general fund for unrestricted use of gifts to be used when and where they are most needed for the 501 (c) 3 charitable programs. Contributions to this fund by branches and individual members are very important as they make up 70-75% of the total each year. I hope all of you will attend the luncheon to enjoy a wonderful event and show support for the work of our AAUW branch. In the meantime, we have a very busy schedule of mission-driven activities as well as social opportunities and I hope to see you at many of these events.

Best Wishes for a safe and healthy autumn,

Dianne



In each Newsletter we will put in a bit of AAUW history - see if you know the answer, you might even find the answer within the Newsletter. What year did VA pass the 19th amendment?



The mid-term elections are very important this year. Please get out and vote on November 6. If you need a ride, let us know and one will be provided for you!



2018-19 Reston-Herndon Branch Goals

The following 2018-19 goal areas were presented by the Executive Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at the first board meeting of the year held on September 9, 2018: Diversity and Inclusion; Program Offerings, Partnerships and Priorities; Recruitment and Membership; and 2018 Branch Survey. Please go to the branch website at reston-herndon-va.aauw.net for a complete description of each the four goals. Can you help to reach our goals in one of the areas? Contact Dianne at aauwreston@aauw.net or any Board member to discuss your involvement.



Report on our 2018 Member Survey Janine Greenwood, Vice President

Many thanks to all the members who participated in our survey. Thirty members responded a slightly greater than 30% response rate of active members who received the survey. Although this response rate is considered good for a membership survey, it is slightly disappointing after our 50% response rate last year.

Our newsletter and emails from our President are members' preferred choices of communication about branch happenings. Members noted a strong preference for meeting in the immediate Reston-Herndon area.

All of the core issues listed were ranked as important by our members but the weighted average of members prioritization was as follows:

1. Equal Pay
2. STEAM Education
3. Passing the ERA
4. Retirement Security for Women
5. Title XI Enforcement

A majority of members (57%) feel informed about the direction of National AAUW with 37% indicating somewhat and 7% indicating they do not feel informed.

The favorite programs last year were Friendsgiving Lunch with speaker and Annual Meeting Dinner with speaker.

There were many great program suggestions and some themes in future program interests:

Local/State politics

Aging issues – financial security, care giving, aging in place

Particular thanks for those of you who shared your memories of our Branch for our 50th Anniversary. These were forwarded to the organizers of our anniversary celebration.

Survey response information has been shared with the entire Board – particularly those who help create our wonderful schedule of programs and activities. Your input will help shape our branch. The Board plans to conduct a follow-up survey in 12 to 18 months to see how we are meeting your preferences and expectations. Again, thank you for participating!

MEMBERS

Membership News - Ilene Banker, Membership Vice President:

Our AAUW Reston-Herndon Branch is 94 members strong!

This new membership year we are happy to welcome nine new, fabulous AAUW members.

Beth Balmer

Mary Minter

Saulat Pervez

Gloria Rossbach

Naseema Sait

Joyce Schueftan

Ellice Stern

Barbara "Babs" Wellborn

Cheryl Finley

On Monday October 8, we held a "Meet and Greet" gathering hosted by Glory Days Restaurant. This was a great opportunity for new members to meet the Leadership Team in a smaller venue and discuss the many opportunities that are offered within our Branch. Thank you to all who attended. We do hope to see our newest members actively participating in our many activities!

Next recruiting event will be held at CHICO's in Fairfax Corner on October 27, 2018 between 11:00 and 2:00 PM. At **noon**, we will have an AAUW Members Fashion Show. Come cheer on our fabulous models AND please plan to bring a friend to join our great Branch. Your referral will only pay \$59.50 to join, so please encourage them to bring their checkbooks.

Come and shop and get additional discounts for attending. Raffles and refreshments will be available. We need everyone's help to continue to grow our Branch. If you can't make it between 11:00 am and 2:00 PM, Chico's will honor your discount all day.

Let's continue to be the number one Branch for membership growth and retention in Virginia.



Members Helping Members

Did you know that Reston-Herndon Branch keeps a small fund set aside for any member who wants to participate in an activity but cannot afford it? The Branch does not want any member to refrain from being active because of financial concerns. Members can contribute to the "Members Helping Members" fund at any time. Contact the Branch treasurer, Ruth Ruttenberg, to contribute or to seek help.

AAUW: In It for Life? Make It Official

Empower generations to come through your lifetime membership in AAUW! Join or upgrade your existing membership today and receive a letter of recognition, a certificate, and a lapel pin that you can wear proudly knowing that you've put your values into action. Lifetime membership in AAUW is a one-time, fully tax-deductible gift of \$980.

Legacy Circle Information

You can provide AAUW with funds by leaving a legacy. By remembering AAUW National in your estate plans you can help guarantee the continued important work that AAUW does. It is our pleasure to tell you that our member Nancy Thompson became the latest member of the Legacy Circle and received her Legacy Circle pin in 2017 from Marion Stillson, also a Legacy Circle Member. Check out aauw.org/resource/aauw-legacy-circle/ for more information.

Please Let Us Know

Please contact our branch secretary, Sharon Gilman, at sagilman@gmail.com, to let her know about member illnesses, hospitalizations, accidents, deaths, or deaths/illnesses in the family, so she may respond on behalf of the branch. As appropriate, and in line with the wishes of the member, Sharon may also notify the membership through an e-blast. Thank you.

Become Involved:

- Become an appointed member of the Board of Directors as the official AAUW Reston-Herndon *Branch Representative for the Loudoun area*.
- Support the celebration our Branch's 50th Anniversary on April 28, 2019, by joining the planning committee. Encourage your friends – you'll have fun looking back over the last 50 years – it's guaranteed! Contact Judi Orloff or Marion Stillson
- Join a committee to explore implementing a new STEM/STEAM program
- Help design and implement an outreach program to recruit younger working professional to our branch.

Contact: Dianne aauwreston@aauw.net



MARK YOUR CALENDAR
DECEMBER 8TH
ANNUAL FRIENDS GIVING LUNCHEON
11:30 a.m.
Mon Ami Gabi Restaurant at Reston Town Center
Featured Speaker: Professor Beverly Bennett-Roberts

Please remember that this is our Major Fundraiser of the year for our NVCC Scholarship. Bring your cash or checks for our raffle baskets which will include:

- Book Club AAUW Tote Bag filled with books,
- Spa including massage and manicure as well as comfort items,
- 2 Restaurant Baskets (or bags) of gift cards to Mon Ami Gabi, Glory Days and a Deluxe Tasting for Cooper's Hawk,
- Food and Drink Basket

We will also have a box for contributions to special National AAUW objectives. Please make your check for \$30.00 payable to Reston-Herndon AAUW and mail to Judy Skirbunt, 2211 Spinnaker Court, Reston, VA 20191 no later than Monday, November 26th. You will order from a special menu at the luncheon as we did last year.

AAUW Adopt A Spot - Fran Lovaas, Chair

An Adopt a Spot clean-up event is scheduled for Saturday, October 27th at 3:30. This trail clean up usually takes about an hour. We will meet again at the Uplands Pool area and clean the trail and the road from the pool to Wiehle Avenue along North Shore Drive. Bring your gardening gloves if you have them and bags, grabbers, water and some Farmers Market snacks will be provided. This is a fun casual walk and it should be a lovely fall day. Please let Fran if you will joining us and or if you have questions. You can contact her at franlovaas@comcast.net or 703-463-6554.



Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration - Marion Stillson and Judi Ornoff, Chairs

Our branch's 50th Anniversary Celebration will be a luncheon to held on Sunday, April 28, 2019. Details will be announced as plans are formalized, but we encourage you to put this date on your calendars now. You won't want to miss it! Watch the newsletter, e-blasts and the Home Page on our website (restonherndon-va.aauw.net) for updated information.

From Our Book Group Facilitators - Shirley Finkelstein and Alyse Goldman:

Below is a list of the books we will be reading in the next coming months:

October: *George and Lizzie* by Nancy Pearl - fiction- With pitch-perfect prose and compassion and humor to spare, *George and Lizzie* is an intimate story of new and past loves, the scars of childhood, and an imperfect marriage at its defining moments.

December: *A Column of Fire* by Ken Follett – historical fiction – In Elizabethan England Protestants and Catholics vie for power and royalty and commoners clash. The novel is set in Knightsbridge, the town depicted in *Pillars of the Earth* and its sequel.

Lobby Corp News - Mary Zane and Judi Polizzotti Co-Chairs

On September 27, Lobby Corp members met for a second time to ask Senators to stop the nomination process of Brett Kavanaugh and delay any votes. The vote WAS delayed, and we all know the outcome. It's important to note that AAUW opposed this nomination from the start, well before the sexual allegations became the riveting focus. AAUW reviewed the Judge's available record and has strong concerns that he would undermine positions central to AAUW's mission, including upending employment and labor rights, opposing reproductive rights and access to health care, entangling public education and religion and restricting voting rights. The atmosphere on Capitol Hill was electric. We encountered protesters in front of the Supreme Court at a silent protest and during a protest march from the Senate to the reflecting pool and back to the Supreme Court. On that day the turnout of the AAUW Lobby Corp was impressive and we were able to visit 96 Senate offices. October 4 brought Lobby Corp members to the House to address the pervasive pay gap.



While AAUW is a nonpartisan organization, there are certain issues that we support with our time and talent. When voting this fall, every AAUW member should know what these issues are and where the candidates stand. AAUW Public Policy Priorities:

- Civil Rights - AAUW advocates for equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society. Issues include Affirmative Action, Equal Rights Amendment, federal judicial nominations, hate crimes prevention, human trafficking, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues, and reproductive rights.
- Education - AAUW supports a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity. Education issues include career and technical education, common core standards, education and training in welfare/temporary assistance for needy families, higher education, no public funding for school vouchers, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, and sexual harassment and violence in school.
- Economic Security - AAUW advocates for all women to achieve economic self-sufficiency. Economic issues include affordable health care, pay equity, retirement security, Social Security privatization, and paid leave.
- Title IX - AAUW supports vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education. Title IX issues include equity in school athletics and sexual harassment and violence in school.

Text Alerts

AAUW has a mobile tool to enable you to be connected to the offices of members of Congress by telephone. Just text the word "AAUW" to phone number 21333.

Virginia's Opportunity to Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment

AAUW of Virginia announced at the Summer Leadership Meeting on July 28, in Harrisonburg, that there will be two main areas of focus for the state this year: Pay Equity and the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). ERA provides for "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex". It will create a permanent, uniform and national standard for eliminating sex discrimination by government at all levels and will ensure gender discrimination receives the same level of judicial review as discrimination based on race and religion. ERA was introduced in Congress in 1923 and every year thereafter. On the way to being ratified in the 70s, the movement was stymied, in part, in the 80s by traditionalist's organizations in Illinois literally delivering bread, jam, and apple pies to Illinois legislators. They used slogans like "Preserve us from Congressional jams, vote against the ERA sham." And, "I am for mom and apple pie." They had little girls parading with signs saying, "Don't draft me." In 1972, Congress finally passed the ERA and set a 7-year ratification deadline, later extended to 10 years.

By 1982, 35 states had ratified the ERA, just 3 states short of the 3/4 required. On March 22, 2017, Nevada became the 36th state. On May 30, 2018, Illinois became the 37th. Only one more state is needed to ratify; and, Virginia could be that state! Coalitions have formed, and the campaign is on. AAUW is in the middle of this push. Many Richmond legislators believe the votes for ratification are there if it gets out of committee. There will be much written and talked about the ERA from now until the General Assembly session convenes January 9.

Though the deadline for ratification is long past, the hope is that if 38 states now ratify the ERA it can again be considered. Even though women won the right to vote in 1920, when the Nineteenth Amendment became law, the Virginia General Assembly shamefully withheld ratification until 1952. Who will be the final state to ratify the ERA? Let's work to make sure it will be Virginia! "Certainly, the constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't." --Justice Scalia, 2010, UC Hastings College of Law.

Since August 26th, Women's Equality Day, a growing number of Op Eds and Letters To The Editors have been being published by newspapers around the state. A number of them have been written by AAUW of Virginia members. The VAratifyERA site where these commentaries -- along with letters to public officials have been archived is: <https://varatifyera.org/background/in-the-news/> . These are historical documents and have a wealth of information about the history of the ERA and why it is so important for it to be ratified in the 2019 Virginia legislative session and sent to Congress. Perhaps, you will be inspired to use the talking points you'll find in these publications for Op Eds and Letters to the Editor you may wish to write.

Ask your Delegate to sign on to ERA legislation HJ 577 and HJ579. Delegate Ken Plumb 36th District , Delegate Jennifer B. Boysko 86th District and Delegate Karrie Delaney 67 District are 2019 patrons. Between now and then, we will be raising ERA member awareness.

United States ranks 49th out of 144 countries in gender equity. Every constitution written since the end of WWII includes a provision that men and women are citizens of equal stature. Ours does not. After the 38th state ratifies the ERA it will be added to the Constitution either by the:

1. Judiciary branch: Article V does not provide for an amendment deadline and a fully ratified amendment has never been kept out of the Constitution.
2. Legislative branch: Because the deadline is not in the Amendment language itself, Congress can remove or extend the deadline, as it did once prior on October 20, 1978

Visit varatifyera.org for more information or visit whosmy.viriniageneralassembly.gov to determine your Virginia legislator.

In her remarks as she introduced the Equal Rights Amendment in Seneca Falls in 1923, **Alice Paul** sounded a call that has great poignancy and significance over nearly 100 years later: "If we keep on this way they will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the 1848 Convention without being much further advanced in equal rights than we are. . . If we had not concentrated on the Federal Amendment we should be working today for suffrage. . . We shall not be safe until the principle of equal rights is written into the framework of our government."

She also said, "I always feel... the movement is a sort of mosaic. Each of us puts in one little stone, and then you get a great mosaic at the end."

"I never doubted that equal rights was the right direction. Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality."



2018-19 Reston- Herndon Area Branch Calendar

December 8—*Special Event*: FriendsGiving Luncheon (and scholarship fundraiser) *Speaker*: Beverly Bennett-Roberts *Topic*: Social Justice *Time*: 11:30 – 3:00 p.m. *Location*: Mon Ami Gabi, Reston Town Center

January 10— *Speaker*: LindsaeyVajpeyi, Director of Education & Outreach, Memory Care Center *Topic*: Caring for an Elderly Person *Time*: Afternoon Meeting, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. *Location*: North County Govt Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Dr, Reston 20190

February 7—*Speaker*: Bryan Gibson, Acting Director of Equity and Employee Relations, Title IX Coordinator, Fairfax County Public Schools *Topic*: "Not Your Grandmother's Title IX" *Location*: North County Govt Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Dr, Reston 20190

Jan or Feb—*Potential Saturday morning meeting* co-sponsored by The Giving Circle of Hope, NCNW and AAUW Reston-Herndon

March 14— *Potential Joint Meeting with NCNW*, *Facilitator*: Beverly Bennett-Roberts, *Topic*: Social Justice *Time*: 7 p.m. *Location*: North County Govt Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Dr, Reston 20190

April 28—*Special Event*: 50th Anniversary Celebration *Time*: 12:00 noon *Location*: Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, McLean

NO MAY MEETING

June 13 – Annual Business Meeting/Elections – Potluck Dinner – *Location*: at the home of Marion Stillson

Other Meetings Of Interest:

- October 20 - Northern District Fall Meeting at the Burke Branch of the Fairfax County Library System. The meeting will begin at 1:30 and end at 4:30.
- November 17 - Senator Mark Warner's annual *Conference for Women* in Roanoke
- December 5 - League of Women Voters of Virginia Pre-Session Roundtable in Richmond
- January 15 - Article submissions to the AAUW VA State magazine, *Vision*, are due
- February 6 - AAUW Lobby Day and AAUW VA evening reception for all female delegates and senators in the General Assembly
- April 6 - The AAUW of Virginia State Conference will be held in Roanoke Valley at the Vinton War Memorial, Vinton, VA (hotel and conference center).



RBG the Film - Monday, November 19 at 10 am there will be a showing of "RBG," the CNN film about Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, at Ashby Ponds, Ashburn. This event is sponsored by AAUW. Following the 98-minute film, branch members may wish to join an AAUW table in the adjoining deli for a no-host lunch.

Directions: West on the toll road to #28, go north to Gloucester Parkway exit, curve over the road and go through three traffic lights, at the fourth turn right into Ashby Ponds. Once inside the gate (after explaining that you are meeting resident Marilyn Silvey at the Great Oak Clubhouse), turn right, go through one stop sign, watch for Great Oak Clubhouse on the left, park and come in. Allow 35 min. from Reston.

For more information, contact MarilynSilvey@comcast.net or 571-918-0317.

Regularly Scheduled Groups

Book Groups – 4th Wed (2:15 pm) at Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St, Herndon 20170
4th Thurs (7 pm) at Scrawl Book Store, 11911, Freedom Dr, Reston

Great Decisions – 3rd Wed (7 – 8:45 pm) at United Universalist Church of Reston, 1625 Wiehle Avenue, Reston Parking is available in the church lot. Enter the building using the left entrance. The meetings are held in the downstairs library (to the left) and there is an elevator that we may use. An 'evite' is generally sent to membership each month. All members are welcome to attend!

Lobby Corps – Every Thursday when Congress is in session - Metro to Capitol Hill (approx. 8 am – 12 pm)

Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting Schedule

Location: Upstairs Conference Room, Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St, Herndon

Time: 2:30 – 4:15pm

2 nd Quarterly Meeting: (2 nd Tuesday)	11/13/18
3 rd Quarterly Meeting: (1 st Tuesday)	03/05/19
4 th Quarterly Meeting: (1 st Tuesday)	06/04/19

Board of Directors 2018-19

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Ashby Ponds	Marilyn Silvey	marilynsilvey@comcast.com
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VP Membership - AAUW VA	Cyndi Shanahan	cyndi9817@gmail.com

Branch Website: <http://restonherndon-va.aauw.net> VA3035

AAUW VA Website: <http://aauw-va.aauw.net>

AAUW Website: www.AAUW.org

Branch Facebook Page: Reston-Herndon Branch of AAUW