



Reston-Herndon Area (VA) Branch

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

President's Pen

As President of our wonderful and dynamic branch, I am delighted to welcome everyone back to an exciting new year of the Reston-Herndon Branch of AAUW. We have many exciting plans for fall and you won't want to miss anything. Some events include our welcome and recruitment of additional members on September 14 – details in the membership update and our first formal fall program with Rep. Karrie Delaney, State Delegate 67th District (Greenbriar-Oakton corridor) on October 15.

Dianne Mero has left me with big shoes to fill and I will do my best to fill them. She has graciously agreed to remain active in the leadership of our branch and I will also be relying on our membership and our Board to keep our branch on track. Dianne and I attended the AAUW Virginia Leadership Conference in Harrisonburg in late July. Here are a few updates from the conference:

- **Work Smart – It remains critically important for all members, whether still employed or not, to take the WorkSmart online training before the end of August.** Getting the numbers up will help build the required numbers for the Coca Cola grant. Other branches were very interested in our Work Smart leafleting campaign at the libraries and community centers and want to adopt it. We are asked to help National to identify resources for WorkSmart online sponsors and resources. Link here: <https://www.aauw.org/resource/community-resource-mapping-form/>
- **Membership –** Another statistic. Only 7.5% of AAUW members are under 60. Clearly this is a long-term problem for the organization.
- **National Financial Issue –** Suzanne Rothwell did a good presentation and summary of Kim Church's webinar on the financial challenges facing the National organization. This presentation and others are available here: <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/2019/07/30/summer-leadership-meeting-july-27-2019/>. We will keep you updated on happenings and changes at National throughout the fall.
- **Diversity –** Cyndi Shanahan of our branch is leading the AAUW VA diversity initiative. I was asked to speak on our Branch's diversity work. Kudos to Ilene Banker for her leadership in this area. Ilene has agreed to be our point of contact with Cyndi on the diversity initiative.
- **Public Policy –** The AAUW VA Public Policy action plan will focus on pay equity including a state ban of salary history as a basis for compensation. This will be the focus of the January 15, 2020, Virginia state lobby day. Work to ratify the ERA will continue. Branches are encouraged to reach out to local delegates, meet with them and send

letters of congratulations to newly elected delegates. Please see the update from our Public Policy team.

- Alexandria has begun a very exciting initiative on Human Trafficking including developing an app to help rescue victims. Our Executive Committee has already voted to support Alexandria's grant request to National for money to develop their app. We need someone in the branch with a passion for this problem to be our point of contact on Human Trafficking.
- Finally, National has developed an exciting program to recognize Five Star branches. We'll discuss this more at our Executive Committee and Board meetings and update the membership once we have more details and an action plan. See <https://www.aauw.org/resource/five-star-national-recognition-program/> for details.

The success of our branch depends on the active participation of our members. We support whatever level of participation your life allows, but encourage you to consider adding one more point of AAUW engagement to your calendar. Whether it is volunteering for the Education Working Group outlined in this newsletter's article, taking the Work Smart online training, being our point of contact for the Alexandria Human Trafficking initiative or just making a commitment to yourself to regularly attend meetings and events, your enthusiastic participation is always encouraged and welcomed!

Here's to a great 2019-2020 Branch year!!!

Janine Greenwood

MEMBERS

Membership News - Ilene Banker, Membership Vice President

We will hold our Fall Recruiting Event on Saturday, September 14, at 9:00 am to 11:00 am at Mon Ami Gabi Restaurant at Reston Town Center. Our branch will host a continental breakfast, providing pastries, muffins, tea and coffee. Members of our Leadership Team will be present to welcome your referrals and talk about our branch and future activities planned for the 2019-2020 membership year. The Branch will be offering a reduced fee of \$59.50 for anyone signing up while attending. Please spread the word to your friends and family to bring their checkbooks.

Over sixty percent of our membership has already renewed for the 2019-2020 membership year. Please send your annual dues of \$89.00 directly to Ruth Ruttenberg, 1767 Wainright Drive, Reston, Virginia 20190. Make checks payable to AAUW. I will also again send out invoices via e-mail. Please ignore if you have already paid your dues.

I would like to welcome the following new members to our Reston-Herndon AAUW Branch for the 2019-2020 membership year:

Barbara Burleson
Jayne Hobbs
Susan Bergman

Joyce Senger
Maryann O'Connor
Rachel Landis Neal



Fun Recruiting Event on July 13 at Chico's Reston Thank you to Carol Flicker, Mary Zane, Joyce Sanders, Fran Lovaas, Janine Greenwood and Roberta Sherman for being such great sports and fashionistas! Thanks to all members who came out to support this event! Our next Fashion/Recruiting event will be held mid January at the Chico's in Fairfax Corner. More info will follow.

Members Supporting Members

We often have requests to keep members apprised of serious illnesses/deaths in the family within our branch community. Your help is needed with this issue. Please provide the names, contact information (especially important if the individual not at home) and any additional information she permits when you become aware of those who are in need of our support due to personal circumstances. Please provide all information to our secretary, Alyse Goldman, at alysegoldman818@gmail.com. The branch members will be notified as soon as possible. Please support those individuals who are in need with cards, meals, visits, etc.



Retired Educator? Interested in an Education Committee?

Our branch has always been interested in education and has had many programs over the years that have helped our local schools. We had a wonderful mentoring program at Forest Edge ES for over 13 years, participated in the STEM programs both in Reston and when it moved to Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale and have given scholarships to students at our two High Schools - South Lakes and Herndon. Recently, we redirected that money to a female student at Northern Virginia Community College, Loudoun Campus who was majoring in one of the STEM areas. Right now should we consider a new direction? Continue giving scholarships to NOVA or go back to the high schools or even go into the elementary schools to support students who demonstrate qualities that reflect our goals? Should we restart a mentoring program? Should we partner with another branch for a STEM program? We are looking to form an Education Committee to discuss the direction of our Branch in supporting education. The committee is anything you want it to be and only needs to meet a couple of times to make a recommendation. Don't worry, you don't have to chair anything, but just be a part of this new dynamic committee. If you have any interest, please contact Janine Greenwood. janinegreenwood@hotmail.com

*Thank
you*

Thanks to all the members who generously contributed to the collection for BRAWS at our annual meeting. For our new members, this is our second year supporting BRAWS, a Vienna nonprofit which collects menstrual supplies and underwear for women in shelters. Our BRAWS friends also shared the good news that the Fairfax County School Board allocated \$200,000 to pilot a menstrual supply program in FCPS.

Here's their note of thanks to our Branch:

"Wow! You guys are rockstars! Thank you so much for collecting AGAIN for us! This means so much to BRAWS and the community we serve! Thank you, as well, for the cash donations! Have a great rest of the summer!

Best,

Holly Seibold (Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelter)



**From Our Book Group Facilitators
Aylse Goldman and Carla Heymsfeld**

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

August: Varina by Charles Frazier
 September: Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman
 October: Warlight by Michael Ondaatje
 December: Light on Snow by Anita Shreve

Before our Wednesday afternoon book group meetings, some of the members meet for lunch beforehand. If you would like to join us at Amphora Restaurant on Elden Street in Herndon on Wednesday, August 28, at 12:15, please RSVP to Roberta Sherman at shermanrs1@aol.com so that we can give the restaurant an accurate count.

In the next few months, we will be asking for suggestions for our book list for the coming year. Please start a list so that you can have your recommendations ready when we ask.

Cultural Arts - Carol Flicker and Roberta Sherman



Afternoon at Green Springs Park and Gardens

On Wednesday, August 14, 19 members were treated to a lovely afternoon at Green Springs Park and Gardens in Alexandria. Our presentation was entitled "The Real Housewives of Jamestown." We learned so much about these mail order brides - what possessed them to come to this foreign land, what benefits they reaped from their voyage and how they fared. After the talk, we were treated to an English Tea. The sandwiches, cakes, scones with cream and jam and tea were delicious. The summer intern, Jillian, gave us a history of the house that is situated on the property from its owners to the people who designed the house. We then could tour the house on our own. What a wonderful afternoon.





Great Decisions - Judi Polizzotti

We took the summer off to rest our minds - although, I don't know if it worked with everything going on in the world. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 18, at 11776 Stratford House Place, unit 501. Having it at my condo has worked well so we will continue to meet there. An evite will be sent to all members and all are welcome. We will complete the last three 2019 topics in December beginning with Cyber Conflict and Geopolitics in September. With all of the discussions on the rise of China and Russia and cyber espionage, it should be an interesting meeting. Please feel free to join us and partake in our discussion.



Our First Branch Meeting of the Year

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, October 15, for our first branch meeting of the year at 11:30. at Cafe Montmartre at Lake Anne. Karrie Delaney, VA Delegate 67th District, will present information about the upcoming legislative year and its challenges. She will also share it's like being an elected Mom with young children means in today's world. It should be interesting and informative. Bring friends and family whether Karrie is your delegate or not. We look forward to seeing all of you. Please feel free to stay for lunch after Karrie's presentation.



Public Policy - Mary Zane and Judi Polizzotti Co-Chairs

We are looking forward to a successful year full of actions to meet our goals and learning about the issues and challenges. The following are the items we will be focusing on:

- Pay Equity - On the state level, we will support the effort to ban salary history as a basis for compensation.
- Work Smart - Our first priority will be to have as many members as possible take the AAUW Work SmartOnline Training Program. This will help us get a grant from Coca Cola. Here's the link. <https://courses.aauw.org/learn/signin>
- Support Voting Outreach Efforts in this Off Year Election - All 40 Senate Seats and 100 seats in the House of Delegate are up for reelection in addition to some local offices. We will be supporting efforts to hold debates and get out the vote and voter guides.
- ERA - Even though last year's vote was disappointing, we will continue to support ratifying the ERA.
- OneVA2021 - Gerrymandering continues to be an important issue, especially as our elections proceed. We will continue to support efforts to end gerrymandering in VA prior to the next census.

- Lobby Corps -As described in an email from our previous Branch President Dianne Mero and current President Janine Greenwood, AAUW National is experiencing financial difficulties into the 2020 fiscal year and beyond which will affect the national organization. They will have an impact on our interactions with National. As a result, there were personnel reductions in the Public Policy Staff that effect Lobby Corps. We have met in June and July but not on a weekly basis when Congress is in session as before. Per Senior VP Public Policy and Research, Deborah Vagins, "Staff will be working with the Lobby Corps leadership and its working group to develop the schedule for the remainder of the calendar year, with the goal of visiting Congressional offices at least once a month when Congress is in session." This will be updated as soon as the schedule becomes available. The board emphasized that Lobby Corps will continue. Federal Lobby Day is now scheduled for October 17.



Branch Meetings/Events

August 22 at 10:30 Reston-Herndon Executive Committee Meeting, Lake Anne Coffee House. All are welcomed.

October 15 at 11:30 at Cafe Montmartre at Lake Anne - Karrie Delaney VA Delegate 67th District will present The Upcoming legislative year. It should be interesting and informative. We look forward to seeing all of you. Please feel free to stay for lunch after Kerrie's presentation.

October 18 - Board Meeting at the home of Judi Polizzotti's home - 11776 Stratford House Place, unit 50, Reston, VA. All are welcomed.

November 16 - Friendsgiving Luncheon - Red's Table - Our Speaker will be Julissa Otero, Assistant Secretary of Communications for the Smithsonian Institute. Look for evites and news blasts as the date nears for this fantastic event!

Although we do not have specific dates and times for the following events, the Program Chairs propose the following activities. Specifics will come as the dates near. Watch your future newsletters.

December - No Meeting

January/February - AAUW Update and Dessert TBA

Joint Meeting with NCCA and/or Giving Circle TBA

March - Cultural Arts Outing

April - Speaker Jim Dunphy - "Sisters in Song"

May - Cultural Arts Outing

June - Business Dinner/Pot Luck

**Other Meetings/Events Of Interest**

September 13-15 - McLean AAUW Used Book Sale at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The sale benefits scholarships for women. Hours are Friday, Sept. 13 9-7; Saturday, Sept. 14 10-6; Sunday, Sept. 15 12-4. Books, CDs, DVDs and records for adults and children are accepted. There is a special need for more books for children. For questions, call: 703-527-4206.

October 26 - Northern District Meeting, Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church. Program starts promptly at 1:15.

Please mark your calendars now to attend the Northern District's fall meeting. There will be several interesting and informative presentations you will not want to miss.

- Tremayne Parquet, the Director of Advancement at AAUW National Headquarters, will bring us up to date on some of the changes occurring recently.
- Leslie Tourigny, the Virginia Co-President, will discuss what's going on in the state, including the state conference which will be held in Northern Virginia in April, 2020.
- Cyndi Shanahan, the Virginia State Board representative for Diversity and Inclusion will talk about this new position and how the branches can contribute to this initiative.
- Representatives from the Alexandria branch will present the program they have been developing over the past year to deal with Human Trafficking issues, and what other local branches can do to support their efforts.
- Please bring announcements to share with all of us on your branch's upcoming programs and events!

April 17-19 - The 2020 AAUW VA Conference celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage will be held in Alexandria at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites. State is looking for Branch volunteers to help. Watch for updates and ways you can participate.

**Regularly Scheduled Groups**

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

Great Decisions – 3rd Wed (7 – 8:45 pm) An Evite will be sent each month.

Lobby Corps – Schedule will be forthcoming

Board of Directors 2018-19

President	Janine Greenwood	janinegrnwd@hotmail.com
Vice President	Vacant	
VP Finances	Ruth Ruttenberg	kennruth@comcast.net
VP Membership	Ilene Banker	ilene.banker@gmail.com
VP Program	Carol Flicker	carolflicker@verizon.net
	Roberta Sherman	shermanrs1@aol.com
Secretary	Alyse Goldman	alysegoldman818@gmail.com
Adopt-a-Spot	Fran Lovaas	franlovaas@comcast.net
Cultural Arts	Roberta Sherman	shermanrs1@aol.com
	Carol Flicker	carolflicker@gmail.com
Book Group	Carla Heymsfeld	heycarla@comcast.net
	Alyse Goldman	alysegoldman@icloud.com
Great Decisions	Judi Polizzotti	judipoli86@gmail.com
	Judy Skirbunt	judy.skirbunt@gmail.com
Newsletter	Roberta Sherman	shermanrs1@aol.com
NVCC Liaison	Janine Greenwood	janinegrnwd@hotmail.com
Public Policy	Judi Polizzotti	judipoli86@gmail.com
	Mary Zane	mpz_06@verizon.net
Ashby Ponds	Marilyn Silvey	marilynsilvey@comcast.com
Website	Dianne Mero	dmeroaaauw@yahoo.com

Northern District Co-Representatives: Kate MacLeod and Sara Anderson

State Board Liaison to Reston-Herndon Branch: Susan Burk Burksu@aol.com

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

Vision: *Equity for all.*

Values: *Nonpartisan, Fact-based, Integrity, Inclusion and Intersectionality*

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*