



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 many of you know, I'm fascinated by stories of everyday life during World War II – how in addition to the tragedies of the war it often brought out the best in people. Women on the home front bravely and successfully took on challenging roles in government, factories and the military. Most of us can't do what our foremothers did to win this fight against a virus, but I was impressed by the words of Chicago physician, Dr. Emily Landon, on the importance of social isolation: "I know we'll get through this together and find a way back to the way we used to live. Public health and hospitals have been working hard for a long time and now it's your turn to do your part. A huge sacrifice to make but a sacrifice that can make thousands of differences, maybe even a difference in your family too."

So, keep calm and carry on – particularly washing your hands and social distancing!

Our AAUW activities have been seriously disrupted. We miss our programs, book groups and Great Decisions. We don't know when these activities can be resumed in person, but the good news is the branch now has a Zoom account to hold meetings online. We piloted our on-line capability with a Zoom Board of Directors meeting followed by a Book Group Zoom meeting and we are exploring other opportunities. It was good to get together even virtually. If you have other ideas on ways to connect, please let me know.

Many of us were looking forward to the Virginia State Conference this month. Some good news is that the Virginia Annual Business Meeting will be held using an online program that will enable everyone to participate from their homes. Details and registration link at the end of this newsletter. In the meantime, please save the date on your calendars: **April 18, beginning at 1:00 p.m.**

Several members participated in the webcast from AAUW National on March 24 in which Kim Churches and the other headquarters staff briefed us on how AAUW is forwarding its mission in these difficult times. Headquarters will be rolling on several webinars and on-line offerings including a special webinar on how we can help Get Out the Vote. It's important to stay connected with National right now because many current issues have a particular impact on women and girls who are already economically vulnerable. And something to look forward to - the new AAUW website will roll out in April!

Don't forget to renew your AAUW membership. On Sunday, March 22 I got an email to renew from AAUW, clicked on the link, entered my credit card number and my membership was renewed in less than 30 seconds. Look for that email and renew today!

Take care,
Janine

MEMBERS

Membership News - Ilene Banker, Membership Vice President

We are presently 95 members strong. Several new members are being processed, so we are growing even larger. This past year we recruited 16 new members, second highest number in the state, while our retention rate was 97%. Our success as a branch in recruitment and retention is credited to the entire Board of Directors. Our spunky group creates engaging programs and events that attract and maintain our ever curious and engaged membership.

Renewals for 2020-2021

Please plan to renew online. I sent out invoices to all members. Using a debit or credit card on this secured website is the optimal and easiest way to renew. However, if you prefer snail mail, please send your checks for \$89.00 made payable to AAUW and forward to:

Ruth Ruttenberg
1767 Wainright Drive
Reston, Virginia 20190.

Thank you all and please stay safe.

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 need 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.

In these unusual times, we want to make sure our members are well and have all these needs. To that end, the Board is considering a phone tree. If you would like to be included in this tree, please contact our President, Janine Greenwood at janinegrnwd@hotmail.com



Email: When sending emails to a large group of members, please list the emails for recipients in the "bcc" line. When responding to a group email, please make sure to reply only to the sender and **not** "reply all" unless the sender indicates differently. This would be greatly appreciated.



We Earned Our Second and Third Stars!!!

Our Branch has been honored with our second and third stars in the AAUW Five Star Program. Joining our first star for Communications, we have now received stars for Public Policy and Advancement.

The award letter from National reads: Thank you for your participation in the Five Star Recognition Program. After reviewing your submission, we are pleased to inform you that your branch received a star for Advancement. Thanks to branches like yours, AAUW remains one of the most recognized and well-respected names in the fight to advance gender equity for women and girls. Your generous contributions to Greatest Needs and unwavering commitment to the future of your branch are invaluable to AAUW's strength, relevance, and ability to carry out its mission into the future. We deeply appreciate the years of dedicated support and look forward to our continued partnership. Congratulations on your success in the Five Star Recognition Program!

Thanks to all our members who made these awards possible. Two more to go!



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

In place of our normal afternoon and evening book groups, for the month of April, again, we will have one meeting over the internet via Zoom. Our first Zoom meeting, where we discussed Code Girls, was a wonderful success. Please look for upcoming emails about our next meeting to be held on **April 29 at 1 pm via Zoom**. As Virginia is under a stay-at-home order until June, we will let you know the details of our May meeting as it draws closer.

Upcoming books:

April: ***Where the Crawdads Sing*** by Della Owens - Wednesday, April 29 at 1 PM by Zoom

May: ***Becoming*** by Michelle Obama

June: ***Olive Again*** by Elizabeth Strout

July: ***A Woman of No Importance*** by Sonia Purnell

August: ***Northanger Abbey*** by Jane Austen

September: ***Moment of Lift*** by Melinda Gates

October: ***Free Food for Millionaires*** by Min Jin Lee

December: ***A Well-Behaved Woman*** by Therese Ann Fowle

*Thank
you*



On a recent lovely Saturday morning, AAUW and NCNW members and friends met at Trail's Edge to hear Lottie Spurlock, Director of Equity for Loudoun County Public Schools, discuss D E & I (diversity, equity and inclusion). Ms. Spurlock inspired us to think about some hard issues while educating us about the concerns her county and other counties across the country are facing. We believe that everyone walked away with at least a keener awareness of the challenges faced by our children, grandchildren and citizens across the nation as we continue to tackle the problem of equity for all. Thank you to Ilene Banker, Diversity Outreach Coordination, who introduced us to Lottie.

We would like to thank The Hunters Woods at Trails Edge Retirement Community for hosting this March 7 meeting. Not only did they provide a beautiful, comfortable space for us, but they provided a lovely brunch as well.

For those of you who didn't attend or didn't have a chance to tour the building, this facility is a beautiful community that provides lovely apartments, wonderful food, many activities and a lifestyle that is beneficial as you find yourself or love ones needing a bit more help or just want day to day responsibilities of maintaining a home taken care of by someone else.

If you want additional information, contact Sherry Berk, Community Relations Director, at 703-429-1130 or sberk@integracare.com. The address is 2222 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA 888-902-4733.

Great Decisions - Judi Polizzotti, Co-Chair



April 15, 2020

Save the date, as we will hold a virtual **Great Decisions** discussion meeting using Zoom on April 15th at 7:00 PM. The topic will be "India and Pakistan," as it was not discussed in March. An Evite will be sent to all members with the details and the link to Zoom. Everyone is invited!



AAUW Reston-Herndon Branch Succession Plan

Looking ahead, the Board adopted the following succession plan. Please seriously consider getting involved in the leadership of our branch beginning in July, 2021.

To ensure succession of leadership in the branch the Board shall do the following:

1. No less than six months prior to the expiration of the current two-year terms of the Officers and Board, the Board shall:
 - a. Review term limits for current Board Members and Officers
 - b. Review current Board and Officer roster
 - c. Evaluate effectiveness of current assignments in terms of Branch long term plans and needs
 - d. Conduct Board Self-Evaluations
2. The Board shall then appoint a nominating committee under the leadership of the Membership Vice President to:
 - a. Determine the willingness of current Officers and Board members to continue in office;
 - b. Discuss additional members for possible leadership roles;
 - c. Reach out to all members, including those identified above, to encourage leadership participation;
 - d. Propose a slate of candidates in the form of a Leadership Succession Grid no less than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.
3. To ensure a smooth transition, the Vice President at Large shall generally be proposed as a candidate for the office of President.
4. The President shall meet with any retiring Board Members or Officers for an exit interview to discuss their Board experience.
5. It shall be the responsibility of a retiring Officer or Board member to meet with their successor within 30 days of the expiration of their term.
6. Any new Members not having previously served on the Board shall be assigned a Mentor from among the existing Members for their first year in office.



Our friends at BRAWS asked us to remind our members that periods don't stop in a pandemic - we need to ensure that all those in our community continue to have access to basic needs such as menstrual supplies and undergarments, even in this time of uncertainty and crisis. R-H AAUW has supported BRAWS in the past.

Many of us have are supporting a number of organizations providing food, medical supplies and other critical needs. If you wish to support BRAWS, you can do so by donating products, contributing financially or volunteering to drive products to shelters, food pantries, and partner agencies. <http://www.braws.org/>. In making this or other donations it's worthwhile to remember that sanitary supplies remain a critical need.



The 2020 AAUW of Virginia State Conference, scheduled for April 17-19 in Alexandria, has been **CANCELLED** due to concerns about the health and safety of our members in relation to the covid-19 virus. All registration fees will be refunded. For those who reserved rooms at the hotel, please cancel those reservations individually.

We will be holding our 2021 State Conference March 12-14, 2021, at the *Holiday Inn and Suites Alexandria* (same hotel we were scheduled to use in 2020).

AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

As a result of the ongoing concerns regarding COVID-19, the impact from travel restrictions and need for physical distancing, AAUW's *National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) 2020*, scheduled to take place May 27-30, 2020, at the University of Maryland, College Park, has been CANCELLED. This difficult decision is in response to the advice of health authorities and the World Health Organization (WHO) who have declared a global pandemic. The association looks forward to seeing everyone next year at *NCCWSL 2021*.

ABOUT NCCWSL (pronounced "nick-whistle"): This unique conference had its beginnings in 1983 when representatives from national gender equity organizations recognized the need for a leadership space dedicated to empowering collegiate women. Since AAUW took over the conference in 1987, NCCWSL has been transformed into an essential experience for any woman serious about creating a meaningful impact on her campus, mobilizing her community, and preparing for her personal and professional success after graduation. NCCWSL has been the place to become educated about today's most pressing issues, to expand and develop new leadership skills and to make lifelong **connections** with peers across the country.


Public Policy and Lobby Corps - Mary Zane and Judi Polizzotti Co-Chairs



Due to the current pandemic, Lobby Corps is postponed until the crisis is over. However, we can still contact our member of congress or VA delegate and advocate for equal pay and the Virginia Equal Pay Act, Paid Federal Employee Family Leave Act, equality in education through Title IX and the ERA. Use the Two Minute Activist available on the AAUW website aauw.org. or call your representative.

Our branch will work with our Reston VA delegate Ken Plumb to advocate for equal pay using AAUW Work Smart Salary Negotiation Training. (<https://www.salary.aauw.org>)

DONATION

 At our March board meeting the Board voted to donate a \$100 to the NOVA Foundation for their Student Aid Emergency Fund to support NOVA students through these difficult times.



AAUW-VA Voting Begins on April 26!

Because it has been several weeks now since you received the 2020 Voter Guide in the 2020 Winter/Spring Vision, we want to refresh your memory on the highlights of the upcoming election and voting process:

1. All AAUW of Virginia members as of April 1 are eligible to vote in the 2020 election.
2. We are voting on the following four officer positions for two-year terms beginning July 1, 2020: Co-Presidents, Vice President for Communications, Vice President for Program, and Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy, as well as on a proposed AAUW-VA bylaws amendment and the proposed AAUW-VA 2020-2022 Public Policy Priorities. The 2020 Voter Guide contains information on the candidates running, the bylaws amendment and public policy priorities, as well as on the voting process and timeline.
3. Even though candidates are running unopposed, it is critical that you vote because we need a quorum of seven percent of our membership voting in the election so that the newly elected state officers can take office on July 1, 2020.
4. Because we are voting online and a link to the online ballot will be emailed to your email address of record in the AAUW Member Services Database, please go to the Member Services Database by March 22 and make sure your email address is current. The 2020 Voter Guide contains information on updating your email address.
5. The online voting will open on April 26 and close on May 16 at 11:45 p.m. This is the second year we will be using software from 'ElectionBuddy,' an outside vendor, for the election so carefully monitor your incoming emails. We'll let you know when the link to the online ballot has been emailed so in case you do not receive it; you can check your email "Junk" or "Spam" files.
6. Any questions concerning the election can be directed to Leslie Tourigny (ltourigny@gmail.com) or Sandy Lawrence (sandyaauw@juno.com)

Thanks to the candidates who are running for the AAUW of Virginia state board, and thanks to all of our members for the extraordinary job they are doing. You've put us on the map!!



Branch Meetings/Events: "All in-person branch activities are cancelled through June 10 in accordance with Governor Northam's stay at home order. Book Group, Great Decisions and

the Board will continue to meet via Zoom and details will be sent when to participants so that they can log in. We will update you on the status of our Branch Annual Meeting when we have more information.”



Here is an opportunity to connect with AAUW members around the state:

Virtual AAUW-VA Annual Business Meeting to Be Held April 18, 1pm

Because of the cancellation of our 2020 state conference, we will be holding the required Annual Business Meeting on April 18 beginning at 1:00 p.m. It will be a virtual meeting using the Zoom remote conferencing program. We anticipate that the meeting will not last more than an hour and a half, and of course, it may be shorter, depending on how quickly we complete the required business. Also, we will be producing an online program book which we will distribute before the meeting. It will contain the agenda, all the reports submitted by branches, districts and state board officers, plus the very creative ads that many of the branches, state board, and members submitted. Thanks one and all! We are excited that we will may have a wider audience for the program book than we would have had during the conference.

Please register for the Annual Business Meeting using this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4eaba828a3f58-aauw>

As soon as all the arrangements are finalized for the Annual Business Meeting, we will be emailing information to those who have registered in advance, as well as to the branch presidents to pass on to other branch members.

In the meanwhile, please stay safe and be well.

Carol Stephens and Leslie Tourigny
AAUW-VA Co-Presidents

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*