



Reston-Herndon Area (VA) Branch

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

**President's Pen Janine Greenwood**

We celebrated Mother's Day in May, but we are approaching Mother's Equal Pay Day on June 4. AAUW's various Equal Pay Days mark when women symbolically catch up to men's average earnings from the previous year. Black Women's Equal Pay Day is not until June 4. These annual milestones remind us of the importance of AAUW in the continued fight for economic equity for women. If you have not already done so, I urge you to renew your membership at the link you received from Ilene Banker. If you cannot find the email, please let Ilene know [ilene.banker@gmail.com](mailto:ilene.banker@gmail.com). It just takes a minute and your continued membership is vital to ensure AAUW can remain a strong voice.

In this newsletter, you will find important information on both the June Primary election and the critical November election. Please read it carefully and above all VOTE!

In preparation for these elections, AAUW has engaged our Lobby Corps members who cannot visit Capitol Hill right now to help the organization prepare voter resources. Lobby Corps members (including several from our branch) are preparing voter guides rating the candidate on AAUW's critical priorities:

- Paycheck fairness
- Family leave
- Title IX
- College affordability
- Reproductive Rights
- Access to medical care
- Voting rights

We will soon have completed our third month of lockdown. Fortunately, our area is rich in virtual resources to keep is engaged:

- Our branch book group, Great Decisions, monthly meetings and new streaming group listed in this newsletter
- AAUW weekly webinars with engaging interviews and topics important to our organization <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/2020-convening/?emci=3890358c-a79a-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&emdi=0375761c-9d9b-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&ceid=946865>
- OLLI online courses in partnership with George Mason University <https://olli.gmu.edu/>
- Fairfax County online resources for Seniors <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/virtual-center-active-adults>

**Finally, please participate in our Branch Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 3 at 1 PM via Zoom.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84071307682?pwd=cUdVNTUzOHRTMHBUUXRQcTRRaC9Fdz09>

**We will be voting on Bylaw updates and discussing some changes in our NOVA scholarship approved by our Education Committee. I sent the agenda and meeting materials to you on Wednesday. "See" you then!**

# MEMBERS

## Membership News - Ilene Banker, Membership Vice President

During this trying time for us all, our R-H AAUW Branch has continued to provide engaging group Zoom meetings and has maintained continuity and collegiality during this challenging membership year. In the coming months, this affiliation with AAUW is a vital way to keep us all focused on the future of women and girls, as well as, helping us to connect to each other and to support one another during the next year.

I am asking that each one of you renew your membership if you have not already done so. I have included stats below indicating a robust renewal effort by our members ( 60%). We still have a way to go, so I will be again sending out online renewal notices.

### Reston-Herndon AAUW Membership Dues Summary

Member Count Summary: Active Member: 97

National: Life Member: 5      Paid: 56      Yet to Renew: 36

State:                              Paid: 58      Yet to Renew: 39      Dual Member: 2

## Stay Healthy and 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.



**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.



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

We are pleased to announce that VA Delegate Ken Plum, who represents the 36th District, will be our guest speaker at the next meeting on June 11, at 4:00 pm. He will give us a legislative update on the most recent General Assembly session with a focus on Voting, Education and Healthcare. This will be a teleconference on Zoom, and you will be forwarded an email with the link.



### **SPOTLIGHT ON by Marilyn Silvey**

Starting with this issue, we will be spotlighting long time members who have been influential in getting the Reston Herndon Branch on the map. Today we spotlight

#### **Marion Stillson - AAUW Local, State and National Leader**



A chance invitation to an AAUW meeting by a neighbor in 1974 changed Marion Stillson's life. "We had recently moved to Reston and had two small children. My neighbor Gail Osberg told me she was president of a group named American Association of University Women and asked if I would like to come to a board meeting at her house. I had never heard of a women's organization or been to a board meeting of any kind, so I went – and I liked it so much that I joined on the spot!" Marion found that the members had much in common. "We were all about the same age with university degrees and young children, and none of us worked outside the home. I especially enjoyed the book group – I had never heard of a book group before – and since then, for 46 years, I have read nearly every book the group has discussed, even when I was in law school."

Marion moved to the US in 1965 from her native England after marrying her American husband, Dick, whom she had met when he was an exchange student at Birmingham University. Shortly after they married, while driving across the country, they were in an automobile accident in Nebraska that left Marion paralyzed. After several months in hospitals, she joined Dick at Stanford University while he earned his PhD. They next lived in Ohio for three years, then Dick accepted a job at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and they moved to Reston.

AAUW offered an opportunity for Marion to work for a goal she had long believed in – equality of women – and after joining she immediately became active. She never let her wheelchair use prevent her from anything, including joining the AAUW Lobby Corps and going weekly to Capitol Hill. She served on the branch board and became branch president in 1981. After her children were in middle school, she went to Georgetown University Law School at night for four years and earned an LLD.

The 1980-90s were an intensely busy combination of employment, AAUW involvement and international travel. Professionally, Marion held a variety of legal positions that included working on cases dealing with equal opportunity situations, abortion rights and domestic violence and for eight years she worked in the office of the Architect of the Capitol. "In that job, I helped establish a mediation program to solve employment problems which was very successful."

At the same time, Marion held a series of AAUW positions including Virginia state president in 1994-96. Her goals included increasing diversity in the organization and strengthening branches throughout the state. "I was proud of establishing the most diverse state board ever –

we had black and white and older and younger women and some from different countries. It set a real example. I visited 17 of our state branches.”

After that, Marion was appointed to a variety of AAUW national committees -- public policy, bylaws, diversity awareness – and in 1998 she was elected national director of public policy. “I worked hard to include ‘disability’ in AAUW’s definition of inclusion, and then served as an AAUW Diversity Trainer. Throughout, I have been awed by the caliber of our members everywhere.”

Currently, Marion serves on the Virginia state board of the American Civil Liberties Union, which decides which cases for ACLU lawyers to adopt. She also writes a monthly list serve covering her experiences of 50+ years of being disabled – an ongoing project that branch member Mary Zane describes as “another phase of Marion’s life of advocacy that reflects her mission of inclusion.”

Marion has always been glad she accepted Gail’s invitation to AAUW. She has worked hard for the organization’s goals and seen national progress if not complete success in many areas that AAUW continues to work for, including ERA, pay equity, Title IX, health care and reproductive rights.

While she regrets the current decline in national AAUW membership, Marion says it is understandable, as nearly all college-educated women now have professional lives as well as families. “AAUW has remade itself several times – we can’t have remained an organization for over a century without changing – so I expect we will stay relevant. Perhaps it will swing back, and when women our daughters’ ages encounter discrimination, and realize that there are still things they need to change, I hope that they will join together to seek equality, for it’s not a level playing field yet.

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

Get Out The Vote will be an important focus for our Branch and Virginia AAUW this summer and fall. We will be working with our state organization and the League of Women Voters.

**Your participation in these elections is critical during these trying times.**

**AAUW supports vote by mail; on-line registration; early voting; no excuse absentee voting; and in-person voting with proper health precautions – anything to make voting easier and more accessible.**

Facilitating Virginia voters’ access to the polls was a particular focus of the recently concluded Virginia legislative session. As a result, Virginia’s state legislators passed, and Governor Northam signed a number of major legislative measures to expand voter access, measures that look especially prescient in light of the current health crisis. These measures will take effect July 1, 2020 (except where indicated) and include:

- (1) No-excuse absentee voting and no-excuse early voting 45 days prior to an election;
- (2) Elimination of the requirement for a picture ID at the polls;
- (3) Designating election day as a Virginia state holiday;

- (4) Implementing automatic voter registration for individuals accessing service at a DMV office or DMV website; and
- (5) Same day registration (not effective until Oct. 1, 2022).

Although no-excuse absentee voting is not in effect until July 1, 2020, you can vote absentee in the June primaries because of the COVID-19 situation by checking the "Disability/Illness" box on the application. If you are requesting an application for absentee voting in the June election, it will only require that you enter the last four digits of your social security number for privacy concerns

#### IMPORTANT DATES:

**Congressional Primary Elections in some districts: June 23, 2020**

**Request absentee ballot (if voting by mail) by: June 16, 2020.**

**November General Election: November 3, 2020**

**Early walk-in voting (no excuse): September 19, 2020 – October 31, 2020\***

**Deadline to register to vote: October 13, 2020**

**Deadline to request absentee ballot by mail: October 27, 2020**



**Please go to the Virginia website link for elections for more information on casting a ballot.**

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov>.

<https://www.eabsentee.org/g/vote2020/>

<https://www.vote411.org/>



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

In place of our normal afternoon and evening groups, we will have one meeting over the internet via Zoom. Look for emails about our next meeting via Zoom on June 24 at 2 pm. We will let you know if the regular meetings can resume in July.

Upcoming books:

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 Fowl

### Great Decisions - Judi Polizzotti, Co-Chair



**Due to our shelter in place order, our next meeting on June 17th will also be a Zoom meeting.** You will need a computer with a mic and camera to view the video and hear the audio. The topic will be Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. An evite will be forwarded to all members with the Zoom link. In May, we discussed Competition and Cooperation in the Red Sea Region. It was a complex topic with many rivalries and conflicts but we analyzed the information from various sources and had an interesting discussion. This fourth topic in the Foreign Policy Briefing Book is available through the website [fpa.org](http://fpa.org) or on your nook or kindle. I hope to see you then. Stay well



#### Zoom Tips and Reminders

All branch in-person meetings and activities are occurring on ZOOM. ZOOM is user friendly. Below are some tips/reminders on using ZOOM when you receive the email invitation to join a meeting or activity.

1. To join the video chat, click on the provided link and, when prompted, indicate that you want to join with computer audio. The meeting number and password are provided in the link. Type in when indicated to do so.
  2. You might be asked to download the free ZOOM software—please say yes (this is often the case the first time you log on with an I-phone or Android).
  3. If for some reason you are not able to join with video, you can dial into the call and experience it as if it were a conference call. We will be able to hear you so feel free to speak up (and mute when not speaking).
  4. The “controls” for your experience can generally be found by touching the screen or hovering your mouse around the outer edge—and they appear as a banner with options like mute through the image that looks like a microphone; similarly, the camera image turns video on/off (though video usually happens automatically).
  5. When a person speaks, there will be a yellow border around the speaker’s screen; please consider muting yourself if not speaking (but don’t forget to un-mute so we can hear you when you wish to speak).
  6. Please look for the option (around the edge of the screen) “Gallery View” so that you can see who’s joined the session; the other option is “Speaker View” where you will see your image and just the person who is speaking.
- We look for to seeing you at ZOOM meetings.



**RESULTS*****Results are in!***

Thank you to the 321 AAUW of Virginia members who voted in the recent **One Member One Vote State Election**; that is a voting rate of 29%, which definitely meets the 7% quorum we needed for the election.

Each candidate was elected with 99% or more of the vote. The AAUW of Virginia 2020-22 officers for the following positions are:

- Co-Presidents - Suzanne Rothwell and Leslie Tourigny
- Vice President for Communications - Patsy Quick
- Vice President for Program - Nadine James
- Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy - Susan Burk and Denise Murden

Additionally, both the proposed Bylaws Amendment and the proposed 2020-2022 Public Policy Priorities passed with 96% of the vote.

Congratulations and thank you to these members!!

**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      | dmeroaauw@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](http://www.AAUW.org)

**Branch Facebook Page:** *Reston-Herndon Branch of AAUW*