



AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

VIRGINIA



Fall  
2005

# Vision

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## Health Reasons Force Frost to Resign; Wetherald Is Named Interim Director

Kathryn "Kathy" Frost, who was to assume the office of Executive Director on August 1, was forced for health reasons to resign before taking office. Her letter is extracted from an e-mail sent out by Barbara O'Connor, President, AAUW Educational Foundation, and Ruth Sweetser, President, AAUW: *This week I did the toughest thing I've ever done professionally.....I informed the AAUW and Education Foundation Presidents and the AAUW Senior Leadership Team that I would be unable to accept the position as your Executive Director.*

*You will never know how disappointed I am in this outcome. When I retired from the Army, I had not planned to work. That quickly changed. When I heard about the AAUW job, read your history, internalized your mission, and met your members on the search committee, I was convinced that not only was the Executive Director the job for me, but that this would be a marriage made in heaven. I was even more convinced after the convention. The AAUW senior leadership team reinforced this perception time and time again since my selection was announced, both in providing a wonderful welcome and also in demonstrating unique commitment, ability and professionalism.... not unlike the membership as a whole. I was*

(Continued on page 4)

## By-law Change Opens Membership To Associates and "Equivalent"

As amended at the 2005 AAUW National Convention in June and approved by the AAUW Board of Directors, July 31, 2005, the AAUW Bylaws now admit to membership "a graduate holding an associate or equivalent...degree from a qualified educational institution." The Bylaws define *qualified institutions* as "educational institutions that offer recognized associate, baccalaureate, or higher degrees and that have full regional or appropriate professional association approval."

The big question among a number of branches is "what is the equivalent of an associate degree." The following describes this term:

The equivalent of an associate degree is an academic degree or diploma awarded by a qualified institution such as a business college or a hospital, which may not be called "associate degree" but has the same academic requirements or greater. A qualified institution is one that has full regional or appropriate professional association approval. Examples of an equivalent degree are two- or three-year RN diplomas, usually based in a hospital or a community college, and business college/school associate degrees (usually an AAS in business-related fields). A certificate awarded by a business college normally does not qualify. For example, many business colleges offer either an associate degree (usually an AAS but some AA degrees) or a certificate in the same field (common examples are accounting and marketing). However, the course requirement for a certificate is not equal in academic credits to those required for the associate degree, and it is not the equivalent to two years of courses or the common 60 hours as the two-year standard. Furthermore, a certificate is not generally accepted by four-year colleges as equivalent to an associate degree for the purpose of transfer. Therefore, our conclusion is that "equivalent" is usually going to apply to the

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# From the President

## Carrying the Energy to Action

Feeling energized? Those of us who attended or volunteered for the Association convention in D.C. this June were energized by excellent workshops, a successful lobbying day and the sheer joy of seeing and being with old AAUW friends. But how does that energy carry over into our own branches? Program is the heart of AAUW. After a lapse of time for a focal program for all the branches across the country, AAUW has introduced a theme for all the branches to share. The theme combines education and equity with women's economic security. My favorite way to approach it is to use a simple formula: education and equity equals women's economic security.



As women, we are faced with greater problems and responsibilities than men. As members of AAUW, we are committed to challenging the status quo and enlightening ourselves and others to a changing world. I think back on my own mother's plight. My mother never finished high school. She cried when she had to leave school which she loved, but never complained because she supported her family during the depression. Mom worked incredibly hard with long hours, no benefits, and no time to be a real teenager. Had more equitable wages been possible, she might have had nutritious food, a few dollars for medical and dental care, a moment of free time to be a kid and a chance to continue her education. She neither had education, equity, nor economic security. My mother is the personification of all the women for whom I work in AAUW. Millions of women around the world still suffer the very same plight as my mother.

AAUW exists to provide educated women with an opportunity to join together to make positive societal change. We take the energy we derive from our gatherings and convert it to action for a greater society. You, as members of AAUW, carry the torch of action for the memory of my mother and women around the globe. May your branch programs for this year reflect a genuine passion for change and action to make the formula, education and equity equals women's economic security, a reality.

*Nancy D. Joyner, Ph.D.  
President  
AAUW of Virginia*

## Associate Degree Equivalent Defined

*(Continued from page 1)*

RN diploma and to associate degrees awarded by business colleges/schools. The latter are still going to be called "associate degrees." Please note degree or diploma from a qualified educational institution is required. In other words, a college dropout does not qualify for membership.

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Also, if a student receives an associate degree and continues as a student to a four year institute, they may become a full member or they may choose to continue their student membership.

If you have additional questions concerning the new membership requirement, send an email addressed to [MemberCriteria@aauw.org](mailto:MemberCriteria@aauw.org) or call the AAUW Helpline at 800/326-2289.

## South Atlantic Region

### Meet the New Director, Leslie Henderson



Before anything else, I want to let you know how thrilled I am to be your new regional director. My past two years on the Association board were both challenging and exciting, but it is with great pleasure that I return to the field. My focus this year will be three-pronged: communications, leadership, and, of course, programming. If we work toward open and effective communications; toward team building and relational leadership; and toward pro-active, mission-oriented programming, I have no doubt that we will see membership growth.

In the spirit of open communications, my first letter to you is chock-a-block full of information. I have tried to organize it as coherently as possible, given the amount of information it contains. Things are developing at warp speed in AAUW as we work to position ourselves as the recognized leader in today's women's movement.

#### GENERAL ASSOCIATION NEWS

Almost as soon as we met her at Convention, Kathy Frost, who was to begin as our Executive Director in August, had to decline the position due to health reasons. (See story on Page 1)

The outgoing Association Board adopted a new theme for AAUW: Education, Gateway to Women's Economic Security, and a new statement of strategic direction: To promote education and equity for all women and girls by positioning ourselves as the recognized leader, advocate, and resource on contemporary gender equity issues. In addition, the new Association Board adopted a promotional theme for the 2005-2007 biennium: Expanding a Legacy of Leadership, which promotes the theme of Women's Economic Security. The Board also adopted as the slogan for the 125th Association anniversary banner: **AAUW 125th Anniversary - A Legacy of Leadership.**

**Your Vision, Your Talent, Your Voice – Bring It!** was adopted as the theme for the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) to be held in June, 2006.

A pilot project for the new Mentor/Leader Program (formerly the Leader on Loan program) is in the works for Fiscal Year '06. The EdEqChange will continue under the new AAUW administration. Past issues are now available on the AAUW web site at: [http://www.aauw.org/member\\_center/leader\\_corner/EdEqChange/EdEqChange.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/leader_corner/EdEqChange/EdEqChange.cfm)

The 21st Century Recognition Program will continue, with state recognition coordinated by the regional directors and state recognition coordinated by the states.

#### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

It is thanks to your efforts and the hard work of Christy Jones, AAUW Director for Membership, and her team, that we have seen membership growth in FY 05, the first time in too many years. AAUW is about to launch a new campaign called Member Get a Member. Piloted this fall, the official program will go into effect early next year. In the meantime, remember: we can grow AAUW one member at a time! In the same vein, the Shape the Future Campaign continues.. The major change is that each member who joins at a Shape the Future event will pay one half of national dues -- you don't need to have two members joining together to get that perk. Also, for every two new members who join at the event, the branch will earn one free membership, up to three maximum per fiscal year.. See [http://www.aauw.org/member\\_center/membership\\_growth/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/membership_growth/index.cfm).

#### PROGRAMMING

Programming to coordinate with our *Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security* is already in the development phase. The Communications Task Force (CTF) is developing a best practices data base which will include many programs we hope to glean from states and branches. I am co-chairing CTF with Ashley Carr, AAUW's Director for Communication.

I have also been appointed to the Leadership Orientation and Development Committee. There are positions available on the Association Program Development Committee, Public Policy Committee, College/University Committee, and the Bylaws Committee. If you are interested in applying for any of these positions, please let me know.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not address communications, especially as co-chair of the CTF. I encourage all branch members with questions, problems, or feedback to first contact their state counterparts or their state president. Your state officers will be able to solve problems and get questions answered much more quickly, since they have their go-to contacts on the boards and in Washington. This means that your AAUW board members and staff aren't fielding requests from 1300 branches, but instead only 50 states, which is much more efficient and cost-effective. Of course, I am available at any time to trouble-shoot or answer questions at [FLAAUW@aol.com](mailto:FLAAUW@aol.com).

As I said at the state leaders breakfast in June, we are a lean, mean, equity machine, and proud of it.

—Leslie Henderson

## Virginia Women Among **Teal** Participants in Convention Lobby Day

Virginia AAUW members were part of the “teal blue sea” that flooded Capitol Hill the last afternoon of the national convention. Along with Mary Lou Melley (McLean) and Becki Bronson (Winchester), I met our chartered buses when they stopped near the Senate office buildings, giving directions to wave after wave of women (and a few men) as they headed for their appointments. Everywhere I looked, I saw teal bags and t-shirts, AAUW members making known AAUW’s positions on Social Security and higher education: We believe Social Security should not be privatized at this time, and that the Higher Education Act should be changed to give more help to today’s women, many of whom are part-time students.

The Herculean effort for the small Association staff, – making appointments with staff members of 98 senators and nearly 300 House members, paid off. We Virginians had appointments in the offices of both Senators George Allen and John Warner, and Congressmen Tom Davis, Bob Goodlatte, Jim Moran and Frank Wolf. Becki Bronson was part of the delegations that met, separately, with two aides for Senator Allen and one for Senator Warner. The aides were noncommittal regarding privatization of Social Security, but, on higher education, we were told that the two senators are co-sponsoring a bill to forgive up to \$10,000 in student loans for undergraduate students going into math and science fields. (In the 108th Congress, Senator Allen had a 25% AAUW voting record, and Senator Warner 62%. The delegation thanked Senator Warner for his role in the recent pact to use the filibuster on judicial nominees only under “extraordinary circumstances.” With Nancy McGovern (Arlington) and Joyce Eagles (Woodbridge), I met with Congressman Moran. His AAUW voting record was 100% when he voted - but 88% in supporting all votes on our key areas: pro-choice, child tax credit, international family planning, judicial nominations of Prior and Holmes, media ownership, violence against women, and hate crime prevention.

When our AAUW Lobby Corps members gather each Thursday while Congress is in session, we have perhaps 20 women. To walk across Capitol Hill and see teal blue everywhere as like-minded women pounded the marble corridors trying for a better deal for women in our country, was great! I wish it could happen more often. But phone calls, e-mails and letters are important, too, and must continue as part of our lobbying efforts. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi told the convention participants, “No organization has done more for a longer period of time than AAUW to open doors that had been barred shut, to smash through the glass ceilings and marble ceilings that still exist in far too many places.”

**Marilyn Silvey**

Co-vice president State/Federal Public Policy

### Why Are They Members of AAUW?

All of the Virginia members at the AAUW Convention have their reasons. Here are a couple of them:



**Suzanne Cook**, left, a Life Member from the Reston-Herndon Branch, says, “In 1975 I moved to Reston and didn’t know anyone. I had little kids and wanted to meet people. I am still a member because I love the people and because I joined the Lobby Corps, which has been an educational experience for me.”

**Kristin Moyer**, right, Vienna Area Branch Life Member, and past Virginia State President, says, “I joined AAUW because my mother said, ‘Why don’t you find an AAUW branch? Those women are doing interesting things.’ I have stayed a member because it is true.”

So, Moms, are you recruiting YOUR daughters? Are you inviting your neighbors with little kids who need to meet interesting people?

*HelenRuth Burch*

*Co-Vice President, Membership and Branch Development*



### Frost Resignation

*(Continued from page 1)*

*excited and energized that I would be associated with such a group who believed like I did and aggressively worked to improve the future for women and girls. I can only say I am so very sorry I won't be joining you. What you do really matters, and I wanted to be a part of it. I would never have applied for the position if I had thought this outcome was a possibility. Looking back, though, I am glad I did because I have found in all of you an example that demonstrates every day, that if good women work together, women in general will be better off. If after my treatment I can ever help AAUW in any way, I hope you will call on me. I look forward to remaining an active branch member and contributing somehow to a glorious organization and mission.*

*I wish you all a productive retreat and a successful year ahead. Thank you for your commitment to making AAUW stronger and the future for women brighter....Kathy Frost*

In a second email dated July 28, 2005, Barbara O'Connor and Ruth Sweetser announced that Michele Warholic Wetherald has been appointed Interim Executive Director of AAUW, effective August 8, 2005. Michele is a past president of AAUW’s Legal Advocacy Fund. She has served on two previous search teams for AAUW executive leaders.

A new search committee will be formed and will work with Association Strategies in the search for an Executive Director. Association Strategies is the firm that AAUW has been working with in the search for a new Executive Director.

## Convention Visions

Virginia was well represented at the D.C. Convention. Top row: President Joyner blows kisses to the TV camera; Esther Mabry, International Relations Chair, Past State President Kristin Moyer and Martha Trunk, Falls Church delegate; Past State President Peggy Stotz and former Vision Editor Pam Bacher;; middle row, Another past president, Marion Stillson, and Bea Malone from Reston-Herndon Branch at the workshop Bea led; VA Lobbyist Rosemary Plum and Richmond Branch's Dottie Vye; Woodbridge delegate Susan Fairey; bottom row, Nancy MacKenzie from Greater Manassas, Suzanne Cook, Reston-Herndon, and Past Virginia President Vera Willis enjoying the sunshine, Association Bylaws Chair Caroline Pickens thinking about those membership changes, and delegates Jennie Sue Murdock, Roanoke Valley, and Janice Woodard, Blacksburg Area, studying the issues.



### Thank You, VA Convention Volunteers

When you get a group of energized, dedicated, and professional women together, it is a WIN-WIN situation. That is what happened at this year's AAUW National Convention in Washington, DC.

The convention's success was mostly due to our wonderful volunteers. The hardest working group was the Local Arrangements Committee. On behalf of my Co-Chair, Karen Richardson and myself, I would like to publicly thank all the members of the LAC for their dedication to AAUW, their persistence in getting the job done "right," and for the long hours that they put into their assignments.

Thank-you to the following sub-committee co-chairs on the LAC:

Volunteers: Terry Sayler (MD), Joanne Malkin (VA)

Hospitality/Information Desk: Ruth Bennett (VA), Vera Willis (VA)

Floor Procedures: Dian Belanger (MD), Theresa Merkel (VA)

Elections: Carol Ward (VA), Eileen Menton (MD)

On-site Registration: Anne Martin (DC), Enid Housty (VA)

And the many volunteers who facilitated workshops.

It has been a pleasure working with AAUW of Virginia.

**Jo Ann Rich,**  
2005 AAUW Convention LAC Co-Chair

### Department of Corrections

In the Summer *Vision*, the Charlottesville EF named honorees were listed incorrectly. They are Catherine Cox and Roberta Cook..

### Recognized as "Pioneers"

at the 2005 State Convention in Glen Allen for making a difference for women everywhere, were:

**Virgie M. Binford**, Richmond Area Branch – for her community services, and work in the Richmond Public Schools System for 37 years

**Ethel Born**, Roanoke Valley Branch – for her work in the fields of peacemaking, human rights and education

**Elaine Byrd**, Staunton-Waynesboro Branch – Fifty-year honor branch member, lobbyist, and activist for the Virginia Alzheimer's Association and Related Disorders Commission

**Laurie Coulter**, Bon Air Area Branch – for her perseverance in the field of agronomy in spite sexism and harassment

**Nancy Larrick**, Winchester Branch – for her devotion to education and children at risk, her books on reading and education, and for founding the Winchester Branch

**Mary Pat Liggio**, Virginia Beach Branch – founder and director of the multi-campus Women's Center at Tidewater Community College

**Joann Miller**, Alexandria Branch – community leadership, including the creation of the Alexandria Commission on Women; and for her efforts on behalf of substance abuse programs, mental health, aging, and emergency response

**Leah Porzel**, Falls Church Branch – recognized as a long-time activist in AAUW and community health issues

**Mary Gough Rose**, Falls Church Area Branch – founder of the Friends of the Thomas Jefferson Library, and organizer of the Falls Church Area AAUW Book Sale

**Grace D. Stephenson**, Fairfax City Branch – for her development of Rent-a-Teen, and other civic activities.

**Marion Stillson**, Reston-Herndon Branch – for breaking barriers for the disabled.

**Maggie Walker**, Bon Air Area Branch – whose accomplishments are recognized in the book *Pennies to Heaven* "The Story of Maggie Lena Walker"

## Bon Air Points With Pride To Past, Looks Ahead...

Bon Air Area Branch was very busy last year. Recognized at the Convention in Richmond for our work with teenagers at risk, programs, fund raising and increasing membership. Laurie Coulter was honored for "Breaking Barriers" in a male dominated profession. We have worked with the Richmond Branch this past year, joining for two programs and on the local arrangements and credentials for the 2005 State Convention. Some of us also attended Lobby Day here in Richmond, which was held in conjunction with Pro-Choice Lobby Day. In July we met at the Virginia Museum for a tour led by one of our members followed by lunch.

Fundraising will continue this year with another of our popular Wine Tasting Parties. We will again work with the Eleventh House, a group home for teenage girls who are not able to live with their families.

Our September meeting will be a panel discussion on violence against women. In October the Bon Air area branch has invited Rebecca Bronson and Marilyn Silvey, Virginia Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy to join Laurie Coulter to explain how the public policies are determined and how our members can become more involved.

**Kathy Kelly**

330-5588, [bookie002@yahoo.com](mailto:bookie002@yahoo.com)

## Staunton-Waynesboro Researches Children at Risk

The second year of unification of the Staunton and Waynesboro branches went well. We now know one another better and have acquired greater awareness and knowledge about "Children at Risk." The September meeting described the seriousness of mental health problems in children and alerted us to the state's inadequate response through funding and personnel availability.

In October at the Northwest Regional luncheon in Harrisonburg, special ed teacher from a local junior high, Kathy Stevens, outlined the problems and potential of meeting the multiple needs of children who come to school already "behind the eight ball" due to family or cultural/social circumstances. At our branch meeting the following week we viewed the "Iron-Jawed Women," a recently filmed documentary depicting 1917 suffragettes in Washington, D.C. Though conducting their activities peacefully, demonstrators were imprisoned in Virginia's Occoquan Workhouse where they were beaten, force fed and chained to cell bars.

Stephany Morgan, Staunton-Augusta Social Services Child Protective Services supervisor (ret.), in January described the agency's functions and state laws. Changes have evolved over the past fifty years in CPS objectives.

## Winchester, An All-American City

Winchester was chosen an All-American City in 2005 and one of our first meetings for the 2005-2006 year will feature the city manager speaking about the All-American Cities program. A number of our programs and projects in 2004-2005 fit activities in the city which were used for the entry in the competition.

The woman who serves as executive director for the Winchester Habitat For Humanity spoke to a meeting about a proposed Woman's Build in the city with all construction and related work done by women. Another speaker was Beth Kellas, recently appointed judge for the Winchester Family Court. Representatives of the Shelter for Abused Women and Concern Hotline also spoke at branch meetings.

Branch members participated in Kids Vote, Earth Day activities, and donated games, books and supplies for after school programs for students in grades 3, 4 and 5 that is a joint project of a city school and a church. Jackie Ruff, a past president and current recording secretary of the Winchester Branch, is principal of the school.

Planning has already begun for the 2006 AAUW of Virginia State Convention that will be hosted by the Harrisonburg and Winchester Branches and held in Winchester at Shenandoah University. Past state president, Theresa Merkel, and past Northwest District chair, Marsha Gochenour, will serve as co-chairs for our branch.

**Joan Johnson, President**

540-667-5222, [jlemonjohnson@adelphia.net](mailto:jlemonjohnson@adelphia.net)

Branch members in February saw demonstrations of a model art curriculum for school children that are now available in the Staunton/Augusta County. The Children's Art Network, a body of volunteers, has developed classes that integrate history, multicultural study and hands-on art and offers to take them into the schools at a nominal fee.

In March the branch assisted the local Girl Scouts Council in a Saturday program open to all girls on Healthy Eating Choices. The younger girls were impressed with the calorie and fat figures shown by charts and visual aids but the older girls were truly appalled at the charts on nutritional contents.

In the coming year the S/W branch will select and implement several community projects to benefit some of the children at risk we heard about this year.

**Esther Mabry, President**

540/943-5682 [egalm62@ntelos.net](mailto:egalm62@ntelos.net)



Plan for some "Foolin Around" and "Falling to Pieces" along with a lot of "Sweet Dreams" when you visit Patsy Cline's hometown of Winchester in April 21-22, 2006, for the 81st annual AAUW of Virginia State Convention.

## Lynchburg, 95 Busy Members

The third oldest branch in the state, Lynchburg has 95 members participating activities including monthly meetings that featured talks by local women who have succeeded in a traditionally male career: an Associate Minister of St. Paul's Church, the retired director of the Lynchburg Health Department, the Vice Mayor of the city of Lynchburg, and the President of Randolph-Macon Woman's College.

Our 46th Annual Used Book Sale, in October was our largest to date; with 45 branch members taking part. Proceeds go to scholarships for two local students, often women returning to college, and to state and national EF grants. Other events were our December Holiday Tea; with the YWCA and Lynchburg Public Library of the "Great Decisions" series, a tour of Poplar Forest, and a tour of the Lynchburg Glass Company, which makes of church stained-glass windows in the centuries-old manner.

Our 2004-2005 President and Membership Vice President attended the Virginia Convention in April, and our incoming President, the national convention in Washington, D.C. in June. In 2005-2006 year, we plan a panel of experts to discuss Social Security, Pensions, Title IX, and Women's Health Care, our Used Book Sale in October, Holiday Tea in December and the Great Decisions lectures in February and March of 2006. Members will continue to participate in our two book discussion groups and our Branch's bridge group, which raises money for EF. We will host the Southwest District meeting on Saturday, October 22, in Forest. Dr. Paula Youra of Lynchburg College will speak on Women's Rights

**Cary Turner Roberts, President**  
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### Branch Visibility!

Do you need T-shirts or tote bags that promote your Branch? How about fridge magnets to pass out at community events? Maybe personalized gifts for EF honorees? Even holiday ornaments that can be personalized, or an adorable Branch bear...all are available at AAUW of Virginia's Online Shop: <http://www.cafepress.com/vabranch>.



If you want Branch specific merchandise, please email [aaumva@cox.net](mailto:aaumva@cox.net) or call 540-989-7599 for more information. AAUW of Virginia items may be found at <http://www.cafepress.com/aaumofva>

**EF benefits from every purchase!**

## McLean in Action

September is the month that finds the McLean Branch of the AAUW in fast and furious action. It is the month of the annual Used Book Sale, the only fundraiser we have all year. The Branch is very fortunate that the SunTrust Bank in Vienna provides space to collect books from May through July. This summer most members have assisted one way or another to collect, sort and price books. A significant percentage of the gross receipts of the sale are made on books that are of interest to collectors and that have been priced by our "eagle-eyed pricing team." The sale is held on September 16, 17 and 18 in the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean.

McLean Branch has a number of special interest groups that are very active throughout the year. A morning and evening discussion group uses the Great Decisions guide for topics; another group selects other topics of current concern. A Morning Literature Group meets monthly to discuss a book chosen ahead of time by the group. In September the group will discuss Ghost Wars by Steve Coll. Last April the group hosted a luncheon at which Geraldine Brooks spoke about her writing life and most particularly about her newest novel March. There is also an English conversation group that meets with women in the diplomatic community in the area. We look forward to another active season.

**Bettie F. Clark, Co-President**  
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## Newport News Tries New Format

Newport News Branch board members decided to try a different format for meetings this year with only 2 business meetings planned. Our other meetings will feature trips to museums or other events rather than trying to secure speakers for our small group.

We are pursuing one new project. Last year we had a program by former branch member Roberta Frazier on the Open World Leadership Exchange program that she had led for her branch in Maryland. We are looking into sponsoring a visit by a small group of foreign women (usually 5 plus 2 interpreters) from a less-developed country to our area under this national program. The visits focus on opportunities and support services available to women and children that can be used as models back in their home country. Applications to sponsor the visits are due in the spring, and the visits take place the following summer.

We continue our collection of donations for Transitions (battered women and children) shelter at each meeting. This has been a rewarding project in addition to EF and LAF. A member volunteered to collect the items we bring to each meeting and take them to the shelter.

**Dana J. Dunham, President**  
575-868-4102 [edunham@erols.com](mailto:edunham@erols.com)



# Indian Women, AAUWs Share Many of the Same Concerns

By Theresa M. Merkel

Past President, AAUW of Virginia

Thanks to the networking of Mary Purcell, past president of AAUW and International Federation of University Women (1989 – 1992), and Chitra Ghosh, past president of IFUW (1992 – 1995), I had the delightful opportunity to meet with the University Women's Association of Calcutta, India, during my three-week trip to that country in February 2005. It was so enriching to dialog directly with women from another country about issues that concern all of us including the wellness of women and children, our local and national university organizations and the status of IFUW. In the individual and group discussions I was amazed at the similarity of concerns and issues.

Chitra Ghosh, former president of IFUW, and past AAUW of Virginia President Theresa Merkel in Calcutta in February.

The members of the University Women's Association of Calcutta are addressing the same organizational problems that are prominent at our local, state and Association levels. The most serious problems are how to attract younger members; how to retain current members; how to stop the decline in membership

and how to encourage leadership. They are still struggling to find the answers to these dilemmas as are we. In addition, they raised serious concerns about the viability of IFUW if AAUW withdraws its financial support. Like so many of us, they see IFUW as the common advocacy non-profit organization for university women all over the world and especially at the UN. I expressed my strong support for IFUW, as well as that of many other AAUW of VA members, which I felt confident in doing because of my discussions with so many of you. It was reassuring to them to know that the support for IFUW and for women on the international level is still positive and strong with many university women in the U.S.

There was absolute consistency in the feelings of the members of the University Women's Association of Calcutta about the policies of the current US federal government. There is also congruency between the University Women's Association of Calcutta and the public policy focus of the Association about legislation concerning choice, funding of programs for children at risk and single parents and educational opportunities for the disadvantaged. They also see our federal government's international policy decisions as a threat to world peace, a detriment to the wellness of women and children world-wide and generally just not being helpful to third world countries. It was no surprise to me that these women are much better educated about what is going on both nationally and internationally with U.S. policy than we, as Americans, are knowledgeable about the same with India or any other country.

There is a wonderful and unanticipated bond between the members of the University Women's Association of Calcutta and the members of AAUW of Virginia. Their local organization is focused on helping children at risk, which AAUW of VA adopted as our state program last year. These women wanted to know what types of activities the branches were engaged in with children at risk. Fortunately, I was able to share the great diversity of program activity that was going on throughout the state and in the branches.

When I asked them what we could do to help them with their programs, their answers were swift. They need children's clothing and educational materials with which to work. This could become a branch project to send children's items to the University Women's Association of Calcutta. The cost of shipping can be reduced by shipping Fed Ex ground, although you could investigate other ways of expediting this. If any branch is interested in this as a project, please email me for UWAC president's address as to where these materials can be sent: tmerkelaauw@earthlink.net

"What is true of the individual will be tomorrow true of the whole nation if individuals will but refuse to lose heart and hope.

Gandhi, 1927

With deep gratitude, I accepted a gift from the members of the University Women's Association of Calcutta. In return, I offered some AAUW items as a token of my appreciation for this wonderful gathering. But what I was most pleased to present to the president, Krishna Banerjee, and Chitra Ghosh were two of the black canvas bags from the 2004 state convention with the convention logo of *Women Achieving Success*. That logo symbolizes what the sisterhood of these two great nations and others can accomplish if we stay united. And their great leader, Gandhi, instructs us as to what we need to do personally to accomplish this (see box).

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# AAUW of Virginia 2005/2006 Calendar

## OCTOBER 2005

- 15 E-mail Re Fall Board Meeting,  
Nov 19-20, Richmond *Joyner*
- 15 Mailing of Applications for EoY and EAoY *Burger*
- 15 Northern District Meeting, Arlington Central Library
- 31 Call for State Bylaws and Resolutions (due Jan 15)
- 31 Call for Nominations (due Jan 15) *Nominating Chair*

## NOVEMBER 2005

- 1 *Vision* Articles to Morgan:  
*Angelo, Burch, Wimmer, Silvey, Bronson  
Alexandria, Arlington, Bedford County,  
Blacksburg Area, Greater Manassas  
Hampton, Reston-Herndon, Richmond,  
Virginia Beach, Districts: Central, Northwest.*
- 1 E-mail Reminder About Board Meeting Nov 19-\20  
*Joyner*
- 8-13 Interim Board/Officer Reports and  
Counterpart Mailing to State President  
*VA Board / Committees*
- 19-20 Fall Board Meeting, Winchester *VA Board*
- 29 *Vision* Mailed

## DECEMBER 2005

- TBA State Legislative Training for Lobby Day,  
Richmond *Silvey, Bronson*
- 15 EF Funds and Reports Due to EF Chair (Derrick)  
*Branch EF Chairs*  
LAF Funds and Reports Due to LAF Chair (Crowder)  
*Branch LAF Chair*  
(EF & LAF Fiscal Year is Jan. 1, 2005, to Dec. 31, 2005)

## JANUARY 2006

- 15 Nominations Due to Nominating Committee Chair  
*Branch Leaders / Members*
- 15 Bylaw Amendments and Resolutions Due
- TBA State Lobby Day, Richmond  
*Silvey, Bronson, AAUW of VA Members*
- 31 Educator of the Year/Education Advocate of the Year  
Nominations to Educational Equity Chair (Burger)  
*Branch Leaders*

## FEBRUARY 2006

- 1 *Vision* Articles to Morgan  
*Angelo, Burch, Wimmer, Silvey, Bronson, Crowder,  
Burger, Nominating Chair; Branches: Chesterfield,  
Charlottesville, Falls Church, NOVA Online, Ports-  
mouth, Roanoke Valley, Woodbridge,  
District: Northern*  
Dues/Membership Verification Forms E-Mailed to  
Branch Treasurers (w/copies to Membership VPs)  
*Ondo / Burch / Wimmer*
- 1 E-mail to Counterparts (w/copy to State Pres)  
*VA Board*

## FEBRUARY 2006

- 13 Call for Branch Reports for Convention Program Book  
*Joyner*
- 20 Dues/Membership Confirmation to Ondo  
*Branch Presidents*
- 20 Branch Voting Strength Mailing to Branch Presidents  
*Ondo*
- 25-26 Tentative Board Meeting (online or location)  
*VA Board*

## MARCH 2006

- 1 Announce Slate of Nominees to Branch Presidents  
*Nominating Chair*
- 3 *Vision* Mailed
- 14 Board Reports for Convention Program Book Due  
to Convention Planner *VA Board*
- 14 Convention Program POINTS OF PRIDE Due to  
State President—*Branch Presidents*
- 20 Delegate List to Convention Credentials Chair  
*Branch Presidents*
- 25 Convention Registration Deadline  
*AAUW of VA Members*

## APRIL 2006

- 20 Spring Board Meeting, Winchester *VA Board*
- 21-22 AAUW OF VA CONVENTION, Winchester  
*EVERYONE !*

## MAY 2006

- 10 E-mail to Counterparts (w/copy to State Pres)  
*VA Board*
- 15 E-mail Re Summer Board Meeting *Joyner*
- 16 *Vision* Articles to Morgan  
*Ondo, Angelo, Burch, Wimmer;  
Branches: Fairfax City, Fredericksburg, Harrisonburg,  
Mt. Vernon, Norfolk, Smith Mountain, Suffolk, District:  
Southwest.*

## JUNE 2006

- 1 Branch Officers Roster due to Association, State President  
*Branch Presidents*
- 16 *Vision* Mailed
- 30 Year-end Financial Statement *Ondo*

## JULY 2006

- 1 Branch Dues Reports Due to Association, State Treasurer  
*Branch Treasurers*
- 15 State Leaders Meeting, AAUW of Virginia  
VA Board / Branch Presidents

## AUGUST 2006

- Vision* Articles to Morgan State Officers, Branches: Bon Air  
Area, Lynchburg, McLean Area, Newport News, Spring-  
field/Annandale, Staunton/Waynesboro, Winchester,  
Wytheville, District: Hampton Roads