



Who's Running in AAUW VA? See pages 9 & 11

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Convention A Joint Affair This Year

We are pleased and excited that AAUW of Virginia, AAUW of Maryland, and AAUW of the District of Columbia will be holding a joint spring convention at the Dulles Hyatt on April 30, May 1, and 2. Our theme, **"Flying High: Women Achieving Success,"** is particularly appropriate since we will be just across from Dulles International Airport and convention attendees will be able to tour the Smithsonian's new air and space museum annex, the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, at Dulles. Our weekend will give Virginia attendees a chance to meet and talk with AAUW members who live just across the Potomac River but whom we seldom see.

Registration opens Friday afternoon; come early and you may wish to bring a swimsuit for the indoor pool, or bring your golf putter to practice on the hotel's "guests only" putting green, or just relax at two beautifully landscaped outdoor sitting areas. In a change from prior years, we are offering a one day registration for those who cannot come for the entire weekend. Friday dinner is on your own, either in the hotel or at one of many nearby restaurants.

Friday evening activities feature Georgia Bottoms who will speak candidly about what it is like to be a female athlete at the high school, college, and professional level under Title IX. She will also talk about her work with wheelchair athletes and be ready to answer your questions. This will be followed by a reception for all who have registered for the entire convention.



Saturday morning will begin with a continental breakfast and counterpart sessions. We will have a Saturday morning AAUW of Virginia business session including election of new officers, followed by our traditional district meetings where we share branch ideas and successes. Together with Maryland and D.C. members, the Saturday luncheon will allow us to soar since our speaker will be retired U.S. Air Force General Wilma Vaught, who will brief us on women in the military today.

(Continued on page 8)

Guess Who Is Coming to Convention???

Shout it out! The Leader on Loan to AAUW of Virginia will be no other than Mary Purcell. Mary has held substantial positions in AAUW and the International Federation of University Women. Mary Purcell was president of AAUW and the AAUW Educational Foundation from 1981-1985. From 1989-1992, Mary was president of the International Federation of University Women. Currently, she is the IFUW representative on the Executive Committee (Global Forum) of the NGO

Committee of UNICEF. In addition to being our Leader on Loan, Mary Purcell has agreed to present two workshops on Sunday morning titled *AAUW's Global Outreach*. Being in her presence is always a joyful experience that inspires you for action. If you come for no other reason, come to convention to meet this grande dame of AAUW. Share the gift that AAUW of Virginia will have with her presence.

*Theresa Merkel
President AAUW VA*

AAUW of Virginia Elected Officers

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Northwest

From the President

Theresa Merkel

I attended a breakfast several weeks ago hosted by James Davis, the president of Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia. He had just returned from a lobby day scheduled for 500 private college presidents in Washington D.C. Unfortunately, the ricin scare happened and most of the college presidents returned home to e-mail activities for their lobbying. I listened carefully to what he was saying about children and education.

He said that it has been documented that for every dollar spent on a child for education, the return is tenfold. For every child who slips through the cracks, the financial and social costs are exorbitant. He stressed that we, as a society, need to be willing to raise and spend the financial resources necessary to provide quality and affordable education at all levels. To make that happen, each of us needs to be active in the community and constantly in contact with the legislators to let them know our expectations for children and education.

His comments resonated with me. Throughout this year, I have become even more educated about the needs of children in our society. Parallel to that, I have heard from so many of you for two years now that you want to refocus the state organization on education at all levels. Well!!! You have been heard by the AAUW of Virginia state board!!!!

Last July, at the president's conference at Piedmont Virginia Community College, a workshop was presented on *Children at Risk*. Wonderful things have started to happen since then.

- The AAUW of Virginia Board has adopted *Children at Risk* as the program theme for the year;
- Many branches have successfully developed

programs or have done outreach in the community along that theme;

- AAUW of Virginia has endorsed, in principle, the 2003–2004 Children's Agenda developed by Voices for Virginia's Children; and
- The state public policy vice presidents have worked very hard to provide the branches with information about the status of legislative issues that affect children.

It will soon be time to address new programming issues for the state and branches for the 2004–2005 year. I encourage each of you to become better educated about the needs of children at risk and how these needs are being addressed or not addressed by our legislators. An excellent resource for doing that is the website for Voices for Virginia's Children, www.vakids.org. Their categories are: School Readiness; School Success K-12; Health; Youth Development and Juvenile Justice; Empowering Families and Protecting Children; and Family Economic Self-Sufficiency. To that list, I would like to add the special needs of those children whose families are non-English dominate. These limited categories are only listed to initiate your thinking about the diversity of topics around which branch programs can be developed. I encourage you to read, research, discuss, and act on these needs for children, especially focusing on education.

Hillary Clinton brought into the American consciousness the wonderful African phrase,

"It takes a village to raise a child."

We are the village, these are all our children. Act now to make your voices heard in order to guarantee that in a few years, there will be no children at risk in our village!

From a villager on life's journey,
Theresa

South Atlantic Region

AAUW President Coming to Regional Conference

American Association of University Women President Nancy Rustad is among the leaders who will keynote the program and events of the South Atlantic and Southeast Central joint regional conference, June 11-13, 2004, in Atlanta, Georgia, at the new Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center.

The conference theme is **Woman Power** and programs will examine the purpose, power, and progress of women as leaders, advocates, philanthropists, and mentors.

President Rustad will join other women leaders in the arenas of politics, business, athletics, and international issues as a member of a panel on women as leaders. She will also provide a keynote address and participate in a workshop on leadership for AAUW members on Sunday morning.

The conference will kick off on Friday evening with a panel of women authors discussing the power of women's words along with an author book signing, for which women authors throughout the south are being invited to participate. If you or someone you know is a published author, we would like to extend an invitation to be a part of this event. Send contact information to me at ann-

sterry@yahoo.com or 4882 Stoneridge Road, Catawba, SC 29704, as soon as possible.

Universities and colleges in both regions are being invited to send their top female student athletes to be recognized with their peers in a special program. The student athletes will join in all of the conference activities, which will give AAUW members the chance to interact with the finest of our future.

Other women leaders either confirmed or invited to participate in the conference include Michelle Wetherald, AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund president; Jenny Higgins, AAUW Educational Foundation fellow and student at Emory University; authors Gail H. Evans of CNN, Jill Connor Brown, and Dr. Dorothy Shawhan; Dr. Lynn Hagan of Kuwait; Representative Kathy Ashe of Georgia; and Elaine Hughes and Betty Bayless of the AAUW Public Policy Committee.

Complete program information, schedule of activities, registration form, and hotel reservation information is available on the

Conference website: www.onedomain.com/aauw

conference website. Along with links to

websites of all the states in the regions, the website also has links to Atlanta attractions and cultural events in the event that you would like to make this a family vacation destination.

Please note that early-bird conference registration is due by May 10; you'll save \$25 by registering early. Registration is \$125 and includes all materials, Friday author event, Saturday breakfast, lunch, and all day breaks.

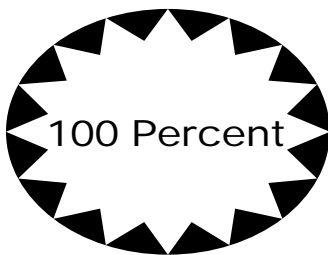
Also, room reservations must be made by May 12 in order to secure conference room rate. You cannot register online but can register by calling the hotel at 1 800/706-2899, Monday-Saturday, and requesting the American Association of University Women room rate. Do *not* ask for AAUW rate, as the rooms are not listed that way.

Watch for more information in upcoming issues of your state newsletter and bookmark the conference website so you can stay updated on program plans as they are confirmed. You can also feel free to contact me anytime for more information or questions.

Hope to see you in Atlanta in June!

*Ann S. Terry
South Atlantic Regional Director
[annsterry\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:annsterry[at]yahoo.com)*

VA Branches Support LAF in 2003



Thanks to the efforts of many, many people and the great vision of AAUW of Virginia President Theresa Merkel, all Virginia branches contributed to the Legal Advocacy Fund in 2003. This was no small effort and everyone who made it happen should take great pride in our collective accomplishment.

Many branches raised funds in creative ways and many donors were quite generous. A special thanks to Ercell Binns for once again auctioning a week at her Outer Banks beach home and giving the pro-

ceeds to LAF at the 2003 AAUW VA Convention.

All figures below are as of January 29, 2004 and reflect total contributions for 2003. Particularly noteworthy were McLean Area's total contribution of \$6,560 (a whopping \$47.88 per capita), Arlington at \$2,680 (\$15.23 per capita), Springfield-Annandale at \$1,597 (\$24.95 per capita) and Fairfax City at \$694.62 (\$12.86 per capita). Twenty-two branches had contributions at or above the recommended \$5 per capita. The state total for LAF contributions was \$17,951.82, which was 166 percent higher than Virginia total contributions for 2002, which were \$10,815.42. I know I speak for everyone at LAF when I say that we are truly grateful for your generosity and encourage you to keep up the good work.

*Sally Sledge
AAUW VA LAF Liaison
[ssledge\[at\]cnu.edu](mailto:ssledge[at]cnu.edu)*

EF Asks for Your Support

International Symposium Coming Next November

The American Association of University Women Educational Foundation will hold its third biennial international symposium: *International Perspectives: Women Leading Change in Public Health and Technology*, November 12–14, 2004. The Educational Foundation staff has asked the EF Board of Directors to prioritize and personally support the upcoming international symposium to be held in Washington D.C. Board members readily accepted the challenge, giving from their personal means and challenging others as well to support this worthy effort in the months leading up to the symposium.

Never before has it been so apparent that women can bring about critical social change. As proponents of such change, specifically to enhance education and equity for women and girls, we can feel confident simply by reviewing our own history as an organization and our personal histories as women that sponsoring such an event will advance the cause of women around the world.

The spirit of women's achievements has become contagious. Let's make it pandemic. Equity is still an issue and we're actively addressing it, and women everywhere are feeling the courage to do the same. Around the globe, women are experiencing an awakening. Even if it's just an inkling, women know they want and deserve something better for themselves, for their children, and ultimately for their societies.

Never before has the need for such change, been so grave. From 1990–1997, the child mortality rate in India was 42 percent for girls compared with 29.4 percent for boys. Less informed, sometimes victimized, in Africa more women than men are living with HIV/AIDS. Whole societies are crippled economically by the unjust treatment of women. We only need to scan the news to see the painful evidence that movement for change is overdue.

The focus of the 2004 symposium is timely because it includes an exploration of the interrelationship of health and technology and the critical role of education and literacy in those areas. Good health and access to quality health care are absolutely essential to women's abilities to participate in formal education programs, raise their families, teach their children, earn a sustaining income, and be vital contributing citizens. How better can we invest ourselves in the future?

Around the world, women are working to improve conditions for

**Expand your global connections, attend
the International Federation of University Women
Conference**

**Aug. 4-10, 2004
Perth, Western Australia**

all
just

Why did you join AAUW?

not
them-

Theresa Merkel—President, AAUW VA and
They member of the Winchester Branch
lead- "I joined AAUW because I have a daughter. AAUW's
socialmission will help make equity less of an issue in her
lifetime than in mine."

elves.
are
ing

change. As researchers studying resource management and developing new agricultural methods, as health professionals developing programs to improve rates for infant and maternal mortality, and as grassroots organizers teaching basic literacy and engaging women in the electoral process, women have used their education to address some of the most important issues facing the global society. Viewing ourselves as citizens of an increasingly interdependent world, we know women have a major role in shaping the future of our planet.

The third international symposium will market to increase the number of participants from the developing world and newly independent states. A strong mentoring component, cultural activities, focused networking for women researchers, and an emphasis on non-western perspectives will create an environment in which we can learn how and when to support the often pioneering efforts made by women in these regions, hopefully enriching and encouraging those whose task remains so formidable. In turn, our own lives are enriched and more purpose driven. The EF Board of Directors is asking members to financially support this symposium. How can we do otherwise? You may send a contribution designated for the international symposium directly to the Educational Foundation or give through your branch, which will receive EF credit either way. As an EF board member I am happy to answer your questions, please feel free to contact me. To learn more about the international symposium, its history, successes, and plans for the future, visit the website at the address noted below.

*Myrna Brown, AAUW VA Educational Foundation Chair
Member, Educational Foundation Board of Directors
Mrsmlbrown[at]cs.com*

**Symposium website:
www.aauw.org/ef/symposium.cfm**



Public Policy

March for Women's Lives

To demonstrate overwhelming majority support for a woman's right to choose safe, legal abortion, and birth control, the largest pro-choice majority in history will march on Washington on Sunday April 25, 2004.

For the first time ever this pro-choice march is a collaborative effort—six leading national women's rights groups have come together to organize this momentous event. The Black Women's Health Imperative, Feminist Majority, NARAL Pro-Choice America, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, National Organization for Women, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America are the principal organizers of the March for Women's Lives and have pooled efforts and resources to lay the groundwork. AAUW of Virginia along with Association and other progressive organizations have signed on as cosponsors—offering everything from member participation to help spreading the word and help defraying costs.

The march will begin at noon on the national mall, although participants may begin assembling on the mall, between the Smithsonian museums (between 3rd St. and 14th St.) as early as 10 a.m. After marching on Washington, a rally will be held from 1-4

p.m. on the National Mall. Special seating will be available for people with disabilities. The rally program will be signed for the hearing impaired. The route is wheelchair accessible and transportation will be provided for those who cannot negotiate the route.

AAUW branches across the state are encouraged to team up with organizations in their local area to arrange transportation and

Rosemary Plum—Co-VP for State/Federal Public Policy, AAUW VA and member of the Virginia Beach Branch

"Because I think it is very important to promote equity for women. That is the bottom line both in education and the workplace."

support attendance at the march. A good way to find out what's happening in your area is to go to www.meetup.com and click on the March to Save Women's Lives. Information on meetups in your area can be found here.

Let us know what your branch is doing. E-mail rplum@cox.net with your plans for the march.

Federal Lobby Day: May 20, 2004

Make plans now to attend lobby day on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. on May 20, 2004. All members of AAUW of Virginia are invited to lobby members of Congress with the AAUW Lobby Corps. We did this last year and had a wonderful experience working with seasoned lobbyists as we visited members of the Senate and their office staff to discuss AAUW positions on critical issues. After a full morning of lobbying, we had lunch together at a Union Station restaurant. As we get closer to the event, we'll send out more information on where we'll meet and at what time. If you're interested in attending, please let me know by using the contacts at the end of this article. If you've never been to Capitol Hill, make sure to attend this event. You will be paired with a lobby corps member and be given fact sheets and information to be left with the legislators that you visit.

Plan now to take a day off from work, arrange childcare, and meet us in Washington.

Congressional Update

(Information excerpts from ACTION ALERT Volume 24, Issue 1, January 2004)

The first session of the 108th Congress was marked by partisan rancor. Republicans and Democrats have had a difficult time finding compromise and passing meaningful, moderate legislation. Republicans and the Bush administration blamed Senate Democrats for being obstructionist and for abusing their right to filibuster legislation and judicial nominees. Democrats accused Republicans of steamrolling administration proposals through Congress, refusing to compromise on controversial legislation, and leaving the minority party out of important

conference negotiations.

AAUW will focus policy efforts during the second session of Congress on higher education, vocational education, disabilities education, welfare reform, pension legislation, contraceptive coverage, and hate crimes legislation. AAUW also will guard against further cuts to public education and continued threats to reproductive rights. In addition to other executive and judicial nominations, there remains the possibility that there could be a vacancy on the Supreme Court. Since this is a presidential election year, we can expect an even greater degree of bickering and stonewalling as legislative progress gives way to partisan rhetoric. AAUW members should use the election as an opportunity to get our issues included in the debate on national priorities.

Higher Education: Funding for programs authorized under the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1998 will expire this year. HEA provides funding for the federal government's major student aid programs, as well as other college and university-related programs and funding projects. The Senate has not made progress on HEA and action in the House has been slow. Rather than addressing all parts of HEA in one legislative proposal, the House has decided to break HEA into smaller parts and pass them individually. So far, the House has passed four bills related to HEA:

H.R. 438—the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act—provides loan forgiveness for certain K-12 teachers in low-income schools

H.R. 211—the Ready to Teach Act of 2003—focuses attention on recruiting and preparing highly qualified teachers as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

H.R. 3076—the Graduate Opportunities in Higher Education Act of 2003—focuses on reauthorizing funds for graduate education opportunities including certain scholarship programs and focuses priority on graduate assistance in areas where there is great national need.

H.R. 3077—the International Studies in Higher Education Act of 2003—provides funds for programs and scholarships dealing with international education.

AAUW's higher education priorities include

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Reston-Herndon Area

Mentoring Meets “Children At Risk” Needs

AAUW members in the Reston-Herndon Area Branch, with help from other women in the community (and daughters), have created a program to dedicate an hour each week to spending time with a child at Forest Edge Elementary School in Reston. In this second year of the program we have 11 girls from 3rd to 6th grade meeting with 12 mentors or mentor teams and three substitutes. Forest Edge has a very diverse population of children coming from immigrant and native families—some of which are struggling to succeed. Our group of girls was identified by the teachers at Forest Edge as needing extra attention for many reasons including ESL issues, delayed reading, lack of family academic support, or in need of some attention and affection.

Our program has been very successful. The school likes it so much that they have nominated us for a Fairfax County Volunteer Award for 2004, and they have contacted other groups to try to get mentoring started to support more students, especially boys. This recognition is very important to us, and it helps us realize that just a very little bit can make a difference. Who would predict that one hour each week would make a noticeable difference in a child's performance?

Each mentor develops her own relationship with the girl, taking the cue from the student if homework help, talking, or playing games will be of the most benefit. The girls always seem very happy to be there, and they are very disappointed when their mentor cannot be there for some reason. As a mentor, I can say that it is very satisfying to see the children respond so readily and to see how easy learning becomes when it's possible to provide one on one time.

*Elisabeth Pugh, Educational Equity Chair
e2nc[at]earthlink.net*

Bon Air Area

Combines Fun and Fundraising

The Bon Air Area Branch hosted our second annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser for EF and LAF in November. The fundraiser was a great success and our branch raised over \$1,100. Our wine tasting has proven to be a fundraiser that is great deal of fun and brings our branch together for an important project. Nancy Alwood was the EF/LAF chair that orchestrated the event and did a great job.

Our other main project this year is our continued efforts with the girls at the Eleventh House Jackson-Field Home. This home provides at-risk adolescent females, ages 9–18, with basic human services, counseling, and education in a caring residential environment. They also minister to the families of the girls to restore the family unit. Eleventh House, located in Richmond, serves girls to promote emotional healing and development while equipping students with basic life skills to help them become independent productive members of society.

We have plans to take the girls from Eleventh House to various work environments to expose them to potential places of employment they can consider once they graduate from high school. One of our trips with the girls will be to the *Richmond Times Dispatch* newspaper facility in Hanover Virginia to see how the newspapers are produced and compiled. Our second trip will be to the Dominion Virginia Power Call Center in Richmond to tour their facility where emergency calls come in from consumers and to see how employees are trained to handle such calls. We hope in the future to have at least two outings per year with the girls to various job sites around Richmond.

I am so proud to be president of the Bon Air Area Branch. We may not be a large branch (we are 25 strong!) but we seem to accomplish a great deal. The board and the branch have been supportive of our activities, projects, and programs throughout the year.

*Laurie Coulter, President
lfcoulter[at]yahoo.com*

Hampton

Membership Growth And Renewal

In 2003-2004, the program theme of the Hampton Branch has been “Renewal and Membership Growth.” At the orientation luncheon in September, despite the change of venue and poor attendance as a result of the storm Isabel, our membership was increased as one of the guests attending the luncheon joined the branch. Membership has increased from 29 to 35 this year, and there are at least three prospective members.

In November, we were honored with a visit by Nancy Joyner, AAUW of Virginia vice president for program. In keeping with our plans to “adopt” a school, Nancy shared her thoughts on “Children at Risk,” and encouraged our members to pursue the adoption of a local school. Also at the meeting, Maurice Mayo, principal of Moton Elementary School in Hampton, discussed specific ways branch members could assist at the school. In December, members celebrated the holiday cheer with senior residents of the Riverside Convalescent Center in Newport News. We distributed

gifts, mainly toiletries, to everyone present and served light refreshments. The program in January featured a lively and informative panel discussion on the "Impact of Affirmative Action in Virginia." The moderator of the panel was Mary Christian, former member of the Virginia General Assembly and a member of the Hampton Branch. Panel members were Charles Wynder, president of the local chapter of the NAACP and director of the Legal Services of Eastern Virginia, Incorporated, and William Thro, General Counsel for Christopher Newport University and an authority on race relations.

Our fundraising activity, the sale of pecans and walnuts, was more successful than last year's effort, so more money was contributed to the Educational Foundation. The Legal Advocacy Fund also benefited from an increased contribution from each of our members.

The goals of the Hampton Branch remain the same: re-instituting its "Bridges to Tomorrow," a mathematics and science program for middle and high school girls (in the planning stages); providing scholarships for women to attend a local community college (will be in effect in August 2004); and increasing its membership (five new members in 2002/2003, and six new members in 2003/2004).

Enid P. Housty, President
enph[at]aol.com

Roanoke Valley

Assists New Library

There have been many highlights in our branch during the past two years, but I share with you one that has had much meaning to me during my term as president. You see, I like to see things grow.

Until last year every county except one, Craig County, in the Commonwealth of Virginia had a public library. We had read in our newspaper that a Girl Scout in Craig County was working to get a library started and was collecting books. So our branch decided to present the Craig County project with a book grant from our annual book sale.

Several of our members put aside some very special books just for the new project in Craig County: a book club set of the complete works of Dickens, several classics in mint condition, a set of encyclopedias, and several reference books. One member donated a copy of the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*, newly revised. She is also a member of the Roanoke Valley Unit of Parliamentarians and had all the unit members sign the names in the donated copy of RONR, indicating their support for this growing project.

The media was contacted. On the day of the book grants, members of the Day family were there to receive books for the library. They were elated with the presentation of the targeted editions set-aside just for them, and they became

familiar with parliamentary procedure learning that there was actually a reference book about this topic. The media had two pictures, one featuring the Roanoke Valley Branch, plus an article in the *New Castle Record*. The family then spent some creative time making additional selections of books, with a strong emphasis on books for children and youth, for "their" library in Craig County.

The Roanoke Valley Branch was thrilled with this opportunity to be involved with the beginning of a new library right in our own back yard. Because of a young girl's love for reading and a desire to provide a community service for the highest award in Girl Scouting, an awareness beyond county lines of the lack of a public library, support of many groups, including our branch, Craig County recently received a state grant for \$125,000 in support for the library. A small building and shelves have been secured and a dream has become a reality. Surely we will have a field trip to see what has come to pass.

Our branch will continue our support again this year as we extend a book grant to the Friends of the Craig County Library along with grants to over twenty additional not-for-profit agencies and organizations in the Roanoke Valley.

Jennie Sue Murdock, President
jswfimurd[at]swva.net

Bedford County

Throws a Garden Party

Bedford County Branch has had a good year as far as activities and programs planned. Participation in these events has been down for the last couple of years. Although we have 27 members, we are fortunate to have 14 at a meeting.

We started out the year, or ended the last, with a garden party to raise money for our local scholarship offering. Members of the Smith Mountain Lake and the Roanoke Valley branches among other guests attended this biennial event.

In September we kicked off our new year with a membership tea. We had articles in the newspapers inviting new members and sent invitations to those retiring from the school system. It was a very nice affair.

In December we held a Christmas luncheon at a local restaurant. Borrowing an idea from another branch (which we read about in the *Vision*) attractively wrapped gifts were auctioned to raise money for the Educational Foundation. Members agreed that this was more fun than just making a contribution.

In April we will take a bag lunch to Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest and tour the facilities.

(Continued on page 8)

“Bedford County”

(Continued from page 7)

In May a scholarship luncheon will be held at the Peaks of Otter Lodge. We will invite our local scholarship recipient and her mother.

Programs have been well planned. We did allow one male into our midst, the Rev. Carl Douglas, who spoke on women in the Bible. The other programs have dealt with the purpose of AAUW, public education, and the hospice program. Coming programs will touch on how stress affects us (very appropriate don't you think?), and stocks and bonds.

Betsy Klein, President
b.klein[at]worldnet.att.net

Alexandria

**Hears About Title IX
 And Revisits the Civil War**

The Alexandria Branch has had a busy program year. Two of the highlights have been meetings featuring coach Marianne Stanley of the Washington Mystics and author Virginia Beard Morton. Coach Stanley discussed the defense of Title IX and the progress we have yet to make, not only to expand the opportunities for woman athletes but also to increase the number of women in coaching and administrative jobs in college athletics. In a joint meeting with our sister branch in Mt. Vernon, Virginia Morton discussed the rich Civil War history of the Culpepper area, captured in her novel *Marching Through Culpepper*.

In addition, to these programs our interest groups have been active. Our cultural group took an outing to the National Spy Museum in Washington, D.C. One of the more interesting activities our branch does is a monthly public access television show. We've had many interesting programs this year, including one with AAUW of Virginia Program Vice President Nancy Joyner, and three recent college graduates discussing ways to attract young women to join AAUW. The branch also has two book groups, a gourmet-out group, and a Francophile group.

We've continued to work in our community by serving meals at one of Alexandria's homeless shelters several times per year, collecting Christmas presents for the residents at Alexandria's Women's Shelter, and fundraising for our branch scholarship which goes to a local high school graduate. Last June, we awarded this scholarship to a young woman whose goal is to become a middle school math teacher.

Maria Borga, President
Maria.Borga[at]bea.gov



(Continued from page 1)

A block of free time on Saturday afternoon will allow you to visit the new Udvar-Hazy Center just a few miles away from the hotel. The center houses nearly one hundred aircraft including a French Concorde, the Enola Gay, the SR71-Blackbird, the space shuttle Enterprise, and many others. For non-museum goers other attractions nearby are the Reston Town Center, Sully Plantation, and Oatlands Plantation. Saturday evening begins with a reception and banquet. After the banquet, look forward to kicking back and enjoying some serious fun as the Alliance Theatre presents “Femme Gems” a musical comedy revue by and about women.

Sunday morning begins with the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Walk/Run/Swim/Sleep-In event followed by a continental breakfast. To stimulate your Sunday morning thinking there will be five workshops from which to choose:

- One led by Miss Virginia, Nancy Redd, who will speak on women and leadership;
- A second on “Children at Risk” featuring Jenn Gillins who is the education liaison for Netsmartz, a subsidiary of the Center for Missing and Exploited Children;
- A third led by former Association President Mary Purcell on “AAUW's Global Reach”;
- A fourth led by former AAUW of Virginia President Neola Waller on recruitment of women for state commissions and boards; and
- A fifth on “Financial Information We Need to Know.”

The Reston-Herndon Area, Vienna Area, McLean Area, Fairfax City, Springfield-Annandale, and Mount Vernon Northern Virginia branches and the D.C. and Maryland branches who are hosting our convention all welcome you for an exciting, stimulating, fun filled weekend.

By the time you read this you should have the convention brochure. The hotel rooms are well appointed and will be the same price for single, double, triple, or quad. There are only 50 of these double bed rooms, so register early with the hotel to obtain one.

Gail Osberg
AAUW VA Local Arrangements Chair
trosberg[at]erols.com

Nominating Committee Report VA Convention to Elect Five Officers

The AAUW of Virginia Nominating Committee is pleased to present the slate of candidates for officers for the biennium beginning July 1, 2004.

President

Nancy D. Joyner

Springfield-Annandale Branch

Nancy D. Joyner is a woman of vast AAUW experience at the International, Association, state and branch levels. Nancy was the executive vice president of both the American Association of University Women and the AAUW Educational Foundation. In those capacities, she traveled throughout the United States and abroad representing the Association's views on equitable treatment for women and men, for support of human rights agreements, and international cultural exchange. She was the international relations representative on the Association Board of Directors and served as the AAUW representative to the International Federation of University Women's council. She was a founding committee member of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund.

At the state level, Nancy has held numerous board positions over the years, including college/university relations chair and finance chair. She is currently serving as vice president for program. She also chaired the Capitol Hill Lobby Day.

Nancy was the president of the Tallahassee, FL Branch before coming to Virginia. As a member of the Springfield-Annandale Branch, she has served as the Educational Foundation chair, the Legal Advocacy Fund liaison, and the Metropolitan Advisory Mass Media (MAMM) representative.

Nancy received her bachelor's degree in sociology from Southeastern Louisiana University, her master's degree international affairs from Florida State University, and her doctoral degree in government and international relations from FSU. Her post doctoral research was done in higher education administration at the University of Virginia.

She is currently the Executive Director of

the Lutheran College Washington Consortium which consists of 13 Lutheran liberal arts colleges throughout the U.S.

Vice-President for Program

Amy Angelo

Winchester Branch

Amy Angelo has been a member of the Winchester Branch for six years where she has served as corresponding secretary, recording secretary, membership vice president, chair of the Math & Science Career Conference for Middle School Girls, and precinct captain for Kids Voting at the AAUW poll site. Amy is currently Winchester Branch co-vice president for programs, serves on the math & science career conference planning committee, and chairs the local scholarship committee.

When first appointed chair of the math & science conference planning committee in 2002, Amy played an integral role in the formation of a new partnership between the conference committee and Lord Fairfax Community College. Since that time, the conference has been held on campus with financial assistance for the conference being provided by LFCC Distance Learning Consortium.

On the state level, Amy currently serves as recording secretary on the AAUW of Virginia Board. She began her appointment in 2002 as interim secretary and was elected recording secretary during the April 2003 state convention.

For the past 10 years, Amy has taught students with exceptional needs in Winchester and Frederick County. She is seeking her National Board Teacher Certification as an Exceptional Needs Specialist through the U. S. Department of Education. Amy holds a bachelor's degree in psychology with certification in special education, and she recently earned her M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from George Mason University.

Vice President for Communications

Toni Lohman

Virginia Beach Branch

Toni Lohman is an active member of the Virginia Beach Branch where she has served as president elect, president, LAF chair, and as communications chair.

She is currently working as collection management librarian for the Virginia Beach

Department of Public Libraries, the library system where she has worked since 1984. Previously, she served as assistant director and library director at the Georgetown Township Library in Jenison, Michigan.

Toni graduated from Grand Valley State College in 1971 receiving a bachelor's degree in elementary education and from Western Michigan University in 1973 with a master's in library science.

In addition to her AAUW activities and work, she is a member of the United Methodist Women of the Lynnhaven United Methodist Church where she serves as program resources coordinator. Toni is a member of the Scottish Society of Tidewater. Her professional affiliations include the Virginia Library Association and the American Library Association.

Co-Vice President for Public Policy (Federal)

Marilyn Silvey

Reston-Hemdon Area Branch

Marilyn Silvey received her bachelor's degree in communications and journalism from Stanford and spent 31 years as an international broadcaster for the Voice of America. Recently retired, she is now pursuing her other community interests. She substitute teaches in the Fairfax County Adult English as a Second Language program. She is active in the United Christian Parish of Reston, chairing the Works Sunday project, an annual event involving 15 groups and 12 projects. In the past, she has served as a volunteer coordinator for the election campaign of Fairfax County Supervisor Cathy Hudgins.

Marilyn is an active member of the Capitol Hill Lobby Corps for Association and has served AAUW of Virginia on the state board as Northern District Representative and chair of the Interbranch Council. In the Reston-Herndon Area Branch, she was president and membership vice president. Currently, in addition to her Lobby Corps duties, she is mentoring students at Forest Edge Elementary School as part of a branch project. Before coming to Reston, Marilyn was an AAUW member in Bethesda-Chevy Chase, MD and Wayne, PA.

Co-Vice President for Public Policy (State)

Becki Bronson

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“Congressional Update”

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flexibility in and equitable access to college aid for nontraditional students (older, parenting, and/or financially independent students); devoting resources to guidance counselor training to encourage and prepare students for college, with an eye toward increasing retention rates; expanding loan forgiveness for teachers as a way to attract and retain qualified candidates; and better hate crime prevention and crime statistics collection activities on college campuses. Look for action in February on HEA to resume with a focus on the rising cost of tuition, institutional accountability, and making loan repayment easier on students.

Vocational Education: The Pathways Advancing Career Training Act (PACT-H.R. 3259) would provide funding to education and training programs to help the approximately 15 million displaced homemakers, single parents, and individuals pursuing nontraditional job training.

The PACT Act would also reduce sex segregation in the workforce by addressing gender tracking in career and technical training programs. There is a severe underrepresentation of women in high-skill, high-wage occupations—particularly the skilled trades. This fact not only contributes to the pay gap between men and women but also results in women working

Why did you join AAUW?

Ercell Binns—Convention Chair, AAUW VA, member of Springfield-Annandale Branch

“I joined after getting out of college. The town had an active branch. Then I moved and did not connect with a branch. After I retired a friend said I should be in AAUW. I joined and loved it because I met a group of people I would have not met. I treasure those relationships. I am also committed to EF and what we do for women.”

full time and still living below the poverty line.

AAUW strongly supports initiatives that increase access to education and training that empower women to become more economically self-sufficient and competitive in the 21st century workplace. If the PACT Act can continue to attract strong bipartisan support, it likely will be a key amendment to the Perkins grant program, a vocational education measure, which must be reauthorized.

Contact your members of Congress regarding these issues by using the Two Minute Activist on the AAUW website, <http://capwiz.com/aauw/home>. It’s an easy and efficient way to have your opinions heard by your elected officials.

Lobby Day Held in Richmond January 28

Mother Nature was not kind to us this year as she delivered a winter storm of snow and ice to the Northern Virginia and Richmond areas on our scheduled lobby day. Despite the severe weather conditions, Marian Seigla, Kathy Kelly, Mary Rau, Dottie Vye, Peggy Waterfield, and Rosemary Plum descended upon the state capitol to educate our legislators about the public policy priorities of AAUW of Virginia. After breakfast and a legislative update in the cafeteria, Marian, Dottie, and Kathy participated in the

League of Women Voter’s Roundtable while Rosemary, Mary, and Peggy represented AAUW of Virginia at the pro-choice lobby day presentation. After the respective meetings, everyone hustled around the General Assembly office building, lobbying legislators on education and reproductive rights issues.

While not introduced as a separate organization in the House and Senate this year, AAUW members stood proudly when introduced as a member of the pro-choice coalition in the House.

A big thank you to all who attended Lobby Day.

Kudos to Roanoke Val-

ley

I wanted to share an example of how branches can become involved in the legislative process. I received the following from Jennie Sue Murdock of the Roanoke Valley Branch.

“Just wanted to give you an idea of what our branch has been up to in reference to [the] legislature. On January 4, our branch had a Sunday afternoon social at the home of one of our members . . . to date, one of the most dynamic with lots of members and potential members. Anyway, when we were having announcements, promotion of program, etc. we got this input from the members—to notify our legislators of our public policy program. We asked that this be put in writing and then I put it on our agenda for our January 19 board meeting. Joan Derenge, our [public policy] chair, brought the motion and it was discussed and the consensus was that a letter be sent. So with Joan’s help we have sent a letter to the legislators representing our entire membership, which covers a wide geographic area, outlining our public policy program and the bills we support and oppose: Senators Bell, Edwards, Hawkins, Newman and Puckett; and Delegates Dudley, Fralin, Griffith, Keister, Putney and Ware.”

Thank you to the Roanoke Valley Branch for all of your efforts. They are appreciated.

*Rosemary Plum
AAUW VA Co-Vice President
for State and Federal Public Policy
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AAUW of Virginia Spring 2004 Calendar

March

1	Postmark Deadline for AAUW of VA Branch Recognition Applications to Joyner	Branch Presidents
3	<i>Vision</i> Mailed	Bacher
15	Board Reports for Convention Program Book Due to Merkel	VA Board
15	Convention Program Book Reports to Merkel	Branch Presidents
16	AAUW VA Convention Hotel Reservation deadline	Everyone
21	Delegate List to Convention Credentials Chair	Branch Presidents
24	Mail Proposed Bylaws Amendments and Resolutions to Branch Presidents	Merrow
26	Convention Registration Deadline	AAUW of VA Members
27	Central District Meeting	Central District Members

April

20	Postmark Deadline for 21 st Century State Recognition Program Application to Association	Branch Presidents
25	Pro-choice March on Washington	Everyone!
30	Spring Board Meeting in Dulles	AAUW of VA Board
April 30–May 2	AAUW of VA Convention in Dulles	Everyone!

May

10	Counterpart Mailing to President Merkel	AAUW of VA Board
15)	<i>Vision</i> Articles to Bacher: Board: Joyner, Burch, Ondo, Binns, Ward, Branches: Chesterfield, Newport News, Virginia Beach, Arlington, McLean Area, Springfield-Annandale, Harrisonburg, Blacksburg Area, Winchester, Districts: Central and Hampton	
15	Mailing to VA Board re Summer Board Meeting	Merkel
15	Mailing to Branch Presidents	Merkel
20	Capitol Hill Lobby Day, Washington, DC	AAUW of VA Members

June

1	Branch Officers Roster Due to Association and State President	Branch Presidents
11 – 13	SAR & Southeast Central Region Conference in Atlanta, GA	Everyone!
16	<i>Vision</i> Mailed	Bacher

August 4–10 IFUW 28th Triennial Conference, Perth Australia

Everyone!

“Nominations”

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Winchester Branch

Becki Bronson did line work for Virginia Power and was the first woman to “top out” as a groundman, or lineman’s assistant, in the Herndon, VA office. She then worked for the *Chronicle of the Horse*, the publication of record for much of the equestrian world, in Middleburg, where she covered national and international equestrian competitions. She returned to school and completed her bachelor’s degree in English and master’s in library science at State University of New York - Albany. She finds that her job as a professional librarian for the Handley Regional Library in Winchester meets her need for doing research and public service. She is a member of the Virginia Library Association Con-

tinuing Education Committee, the American Library Association, and Phi Beta Kappa.

Becki has served the Winchester Branch as vice president for public policy and vice president for programs. She remains an avid equestrian, with two horses.

Why did you join AAUW?

Ann Terry—South Atlantic Regional Director

“I joined because somebody asked me. I stayed because I believe in what we are doing. We are making a difference. I appreciate what we are doing and I enjoy the networking opportunities.”

AAUW Member HELPLINE:

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AAUW website:

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AAUW Congressional Action Line:

202/785-7786

VA AAUW Website:

<http://www.aauwofva.org>

VA Legislators Action Line:

800/889-0229

AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, life-long education, and positive societal change.

The AAUW Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.

AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

All mailing labels are prepared at AAUW headquarters. Please send changes or corrections directly to:

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