



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

VIRGINIA



2004

Vision

Major
Changes
Planned at
Foundation
and LAF
See Page 4

Because Equity Is Still an Issue It Is Time to Renew Your Membership in AAUW

You are receiving this copy of the *Vision* because we want you back! You are either an active, current member or a former member who has not been active recently.

See what we are doing today—and join. As an AAUW member, you belong to a nationwide group of people who value education and equal rights, who are contributing to a more promising future for all women and girls, and who together provide a powerful voice for women and girls—a voice that cannot and will not be ignored. Since its first meeting in 1881, AAUW has been a catalyst for change. Today, with more than 100,000 members, 1,300 branches, and 500 college and university partners, AAUW contributes to a more promising future and uses its voice on critical issues affecting women and girls: education, civil rights, affirmative action, reproductive choice, sex discrimination, Title IX, health care, and hate crimes.

Before you say no, listen to what AAUW mem-

bers in Virginia have to say about AAUW.

“AAUW is a group of women willing to work on issues of gender equity in our community.”
Maria Spenser-Etienne, Roanoke Valley

“I believe in AAUW because it supports women and women’s issues. It is a network to help women support each other.”

Joan Jenkins, Hampton

“I have a daughter. I want her to be anything she wants to be. I want to work with a network of women and know if we empower our daughters they can impact the world positively. I want to make a difference.”

Linda Wells, McLean

Because equity is still an issue, renew your membership today. You can join AAUW as a member-at-large for \$41 for the year. This provides you with information at the national level. You can join AAUW as a member-at-large of AAUW of

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A Publication of
AAUW of Virginia
Vol. 79, No. 4

Congratulations!

New Officers Elected for 2004/06 Biennium

The following state board officers were elected at the 2004 AAUW of Virginia Convention.

President, Nancy D. Joyner, Springfield/Annandale

Vice President for Program, Amy Angelo, Winchester

Vice Presidents for Public Policy, (Federal) Marilyn Silvey, Reston-Herndon Area, and (State) Rebecca Bronson, Winchester

Vice President for Communications, Toni Lohman, Virginia Beach

**More
convention
news on
page 5**

AAUW of Virginia Elected Officers

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From the President

Wasn't convention wonderful? The speakers, the learning, the camaraderie, and the workshops all blended for a weekend that was worth the time away from home. My special thanks go to all the members of the convention committees who worked so hard to make this joint convention with Maryland and D.C. such a success. If you missed it this year, plan ahead to be there for next year. They just keep getting better!!!

In our home, we have a paper cut that reads:

*You never really leave a place you love,
Part of it you take with you,
And part of you, you leave behind.*

Being president of AAUW of Virginia for these two years has been a "place" that I have loved. This is what has made it so special and what I will take with me:

- Working with state board members who are dedicated to the mission and goals of AAUW and who never said "No" when asked to do one more thing;
- Having state board and branch leadership who were not afraid to step out and challenge the systems;
- Visiting the districts and the branches where I have had the opportunity to see the dedicated work that is being done by AAUW of Virginia members on behalf of women and girls;
- Meeting and working with many outstanding and talented women throughout the state whose intellect, skills, and creativity always have had me in awe;
- Developing my own leadership skills and exploring new boundaries;
- Experiencing opportunities that I might not have had otherwise, such as being a speaker at a state-wide press conference;

Theresa Merkel



- Participating in a national event, the March for Women's Lives, with an active and proud contingent from Virginia;
- Attending intellectually challenging and fun events and activities;
- And most of all, developing enduring friendships with so many of you.

So you can see, my being president was selfish because I have taken so much with me as I leave. It is my hope that I have left something behind that is substantial, but nothing more so than my passionate caring for all of you as colleagues, my dedication to the mission of AAUW, and a special memory space in my heart for these two years.

It has been my gift to represent all of the wonderful AAUW of Virginia members as your president of this state organization for two years. Shakespeare said it so well:

*I can not other
Answer make
But thanks,
And thanks
And ever thanks.*

In friendship and peace and always remember...

**BEHIND EVERY
SUCCESSFUL WOMAN
IS HERSELF**

Theresa

The POWER of AAUW

Springtime in AAUW brought state conventions throughout the South Atlantic Region. I was especially privileged to be a part of the excitement of the Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina conventions, and joined many friends in Florida for that state's celebration of its 75th anniversary.

As I traveled this spring, I saw first-hand, once again, the power of AAUW at work.

AAUW's power is reflected in its mission.

As members of this organization, we pledge to do everything in our power to create an atmosphere for change that will provide opportunities for the women and girls who come after us. We are pledging to never stop learning and to keep our minds and hearts open to new ideas, new ways to do things, and new ways to ensure that education is a part of everyone's life—female or male.

AAUW's power is reflected in its advocacy.

The rights of women and families have been of concern to AAUW members for more than 100 years. Much of AAUW's advocacy is done by members like you at the grassroots level—writing or talking to your legislators, speaking up at school board meetings, providing information on voting records, writing letters to the editor, or even marching on Washington as many of you did on April 25. With all these efforts and others, you are fighting for women and their families and for a political system that recognizes the power and the interests of women.

AAUW's power is reflected in its leadership.

I continue to be awed by the commitment and dedication of the leaders in our organization at all levels. There are so many, working so hard and so long—and accomplishing great things. Peoples' lives are packed full of obligations to family, work, and community. Finding time for one more thing to be done is hard, and finding people willing to serve as leaders is even

harder. I admire all of you who continue to work for AAUW despite the pressures that could pull you away from our work. I know that your caring spirit and desire to make a difference are often the only things that keep you going. Show your support to those who have stepped up to be your leaders. Let them know that their work and their efforts are valued and appreciated. And when you are asked to serve, be willing to join the team, too.

AAUW's power is reflected in its branches and states.

Whether working in coalition with other groups and organizations or simply as a branch or state, you are impacting the mission of AAUW as well. Programs like statewide legislative days, student leadership conferences, women-to-women summits, or technology or science camps for girls are just examples of projects and programs that states are using to carry AAUW's purpose and mission forward.

AAUW's power is reflected its resources.

It is amazing the amount and caliber of resources available to us as AAUW members. Lots of time and talent have gone into the preparation of materials to help us—whether as leaders or members. Training packets and toolkits for membership, Sister-to-Sister Summits, fundraising, programming, and a wealth of other topics are readily available and nearly always free.

AAUW's power is reflected in its giving.

One of the most awesome aspects about AAUW for me is the fact that not only do our members give inordinate amounts of time, talent, and energy to the work of AAUW, but they also give of themselves financially. States in the South Atlantic Region have a long tradition of strong support of the Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund and are often found in the top ten in per capita giving among all the states of AAUW.

For the Educational Foundation donation year 2003:

Florida ranked third and **Virginia** ninth in top states in total giving.

Georgia ranked second, **South Carolina** ranked seventh, and **Virginia** ranked tenth in top states in per capita giving.

McLean Area (VA) Branch ranked fourth and **Naples (FL)** ranked fifth in top branches in total giving.

Niceville-Valparaiso (FL) ranked sixth, **Roswell-Alpharetta (GA)** ranked seventh, and **Falls Church (VA)** ranked eighth in top branches in per capita giving.

The efforts we make for the Foundation or LAF far exceed the monetary value: the projects and work funded by our dollars are changing lives every day.

AAUW's power is reflected in its networking Opportunities.

I hope that you have never left an AAUW meeting—either in your branch, at a state meeting, regional conference, or Association convention, without making a new friend or learning more about the friends you have. The women I have met in my AAUW life have meant, and will continue to mean, a great deal to me. Never miss a chance to tap into the energy, talent and dedication of the many AAUW members you know or will meet—as well as the other women whose lives cross yours along the way.

And lastly, AAUW's power is reflected in its members.

All of this work could have never been accomplished without the talents, time, energy, expertise, and commitment of AAUW members everywhere. Working wherever we are able, as leaders or members, together we affect change in our communities, in our states, in our nation, and in our world.

Ours is a powerful organization with a powerful purpose filled with powerful people!

*Ann S. Terry,
South Atlantic Regional Director
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Educational Foundation and LAF EF Board Makes Major Changes

The information in this article is taken from a communication from AAUW Educational Foundation President Mary Ellen Smyth to AAUW state presidents.

The Educational Foundation board met on May 7-9, 2004 in what may well have been one of its most significant meetings in many years. Decisions were made that have broad-reaching effects across our entire organization. I want to review the major items here and explain briefly how and why those decisions were made.

Foundation Board Approves Motion to Pursue a Partial Merger with LAF Corporation

The Legal Advocacy Fund has been wrestling with the cross-corporate cost sharing budget implications for some time now. Last January, an open letter to members was issued detailing some of the major issues confronting LAF, as well as the board and staff's general plans for addressing them. After research, study, and consultation with appropriate professional services, it became apparent that, due primarily to the cost allocation charges for shared services, LAF was compelled to chart an entirely different course. To that end, the LAF board voted at their winter meeting to approach the Foundation with a proposal for a merged organizational structure. In preparation for considering this proposal, background information was provided to the Foundation board prior to its May meeting. Additionally, Greg Gollar, a representative of Grant Thornton, the firm that did the cost allocation study for all three corporations, was invited to make a presentation at the EF board meeting to explain a number of issues for us, as was LAF president, Michele Wetherald. Following a lengthy discussion, the board approved a motion to pursue a partial merger of the Legal Advocacy Fund corporation with the Educational Foundation, as a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC). Further, a Foundation board committee was appointed, chaired by Barbara O'Connor, to develop an operational agreement to implement this motion. The committee is hard at work, outlining operational steps and processes required for both corporations. The operational agreement will be presented in the near future to the LAF board for approval.

“Our contributions are down again this year so we must make the best of what we have.”

Please note several things here: the Foundation, rather than the Association, was approached by the Legal Advocacy Fund for this merger primarily because both are IRS 501(c)(3) corporate entities, which was the basis of the professional legal and accounting advice. Second, the LAF board unanimously approved this recommended strategy and approached the Foundation with the merger proposal.

Details of this merger action, including bylaws changes, structure

and operating plans, are being developed by the Foundation committee. However, the first step in pursuing this action requires filing an application with the IRS to get approval of this merger. At this stage, we do not know how long this application process will take, but we are hopeful that approval and final actions can be completed within the next six months.

Building Committee to Consider Headquarters Alternatives

Our headquarters at 1111 16th Street in Washington is owned by the Foundation, as was the one we occupied before that on Virginia Avenue. We purchased this current building for cash. It represents a large sum of equity. Due to financial shortfalls for all three corporations, the reduction of our work force and the parallel use of space, and because the board asked the staff to suggest ways of addressing our deficit budget, we addressed the idea of selling the building. To that end, we heard a presentation from Greg Lukar of the Staubach Company, a firm with whom we have worked in the past. Several alternatives were presented involving selling and either buying or leasing other space. A building committee was appointed, chaired by Coco Siewert, to continue working on this matter with the hope that we can reach a decision prior to the October board meeting.

Foundation Cuts Number of At-Large Directors

Following national trends in the not-for-profit and foundation arenas toward smaller, more efficient and effective boards and to help contain costs, the Foundation board had a series of discussions by electronic means and at their meeting last November 2003. The Bylaws Committee took suggestions from discussion groups at that meeting and proposed changes to our bylaws, which were approved this year at the annual meeting. Those changes call for a reduction in the number of at-large directors from twelve (12) to six (6), three of whom will be elected by the delegates at convention and three will be appointed by the board. All officer positions remain the same. Other internal board structure changes that do not require convention vote will be completed in the coming year.

Endowment Levels Increased for American and International Fellowships and Research & Projects

Eleanor Roosevelt Fellowships Put on Hold

Several significant changes were made in our programs that I know you'll all want to hear about. First, the fellowships award levels: the board voted to increase the amount needed to complete an American or International Fellowship from \$100,000 to \$200,000 and that the funds are raised in fifteen years as opposed to the current twenty. The last time any increase was made here was about 20 years ago. In order for us to remain competitive in seeking and funding the very best women scholars and maintain the high standards these awards have always held, it is necessary to increase our funding amounts and we must anticipate doing that shortly. Quite obviously, then, in order to make that increase, we need to raise the amount needed to produce that income.

Similarly, the board approved an increase for Research & Projects endowments from \$35,000 to \$75,000, and that those funds are raised in ten years as opposed to the current fifteen. We are hoping that branches and states will focus and concentrate their efforts. In

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all cases, please note that these new levels and time limits are NOT retroactive. *Any endowments and fellowships currently in process will not be affected by these changes, only those that are begun after July 1, 2004.*

Now, to the Eleanor Roosevelt Teacher Fellowships: For several years now, that program has not been self-sufficient. We have had to borrow from other sources, most notably our reserves, in order to sustain it. In addition, the number of applicants has not been at all what was originally conceived or hoped for, in spite of numerous changes, added publicizing, etc. Therefore, the board voted to put that program on hold for a year in order to assess it carefully and see how it might become a more viable program.

In addition, when cuts to the current 2004 budget were proposed, two of those had to do with the Teacher Fellows: to drop funding for those fellows selected in March 2004 and to cut the Teacher Institute they would have attended this coming July.

These are difficult times we are living through, as evidenced by national and world events, an economy that may be improving but whose improvements aren't reflected in our contributions, and a general uncertainty over what lies ahead. Our contributions are down again this year so we must make the best of what we have. Our obligation to each of our donors—members and others—is to be the best stewards possible of their dollars.

We must be fiscally responsible. So we have taken the steps outlined above. But I want to assure all of you that we on the board are optimistic about the future of this entire organization and most especially, our particular charge, the Foundation. We continue to do great work *because* we have such great partners in our members and our other constituencies and because our mission is compelling and relevant and most necessary.



WOMEN FLYING HIGH ACHIEVED GREAT SUCCESS

Our annual state convention held jointly with AAUW of Maryland brought out 122 registrants from Virginia, 55 from Maryland and one from the District of Columbia. The planning and implementation for this event started a year ago and came to fruition on April 30, May 1, and 2 at the Dulles Hyatt.

Friday Evening

Attendees were treated to a Friday evening discussion, led by Nancy Joyner, of Title IX and its history. She was followed by Georgia Bottoms (daughter of Springfield/Annandale Branch member Suzanne Bottoms) who talked about *Women in Sports: My Story* and told us what it was like to play college basketball at Indiana State University and then a year of professional ball in Europe. She is currently a physical therapist in Savannah and spends time working with wheelchair bound athletes.

Saturday

Following counterpart sessions at breakfast on Saturday morning our opening session began with a welcome from Catherine Hudgins, Fairfax County Supervisor representing the Hunter Mill District. Our opening keynote speaker was Mary Purcell, our convention Leader on Loan, who led us on a *Journey Towards Equity*. As past president of AAUW and IFUW Mary knows well what this journey has been like. At the Virginia morning business session much discussion was held about a resolution regarding the Patriot Act. After deleting one resolve and making some

wording changes, the resolution was passed and assigned to Marilyn Silvey, our new co-vice president for public policy (federal) and the Winchester Branch for follow up.

At our Saturday luncheon, the AAUW of Virginia Educator of the Year award was given to Carrie Strasberger who teaches at Williamsburg Middle School in Arlington. In addition, Eileen Kugler was awarded the AAUW of Virginia Education Advocate of the Year for her advocacy of diverse schools—cultural, social, and economic—which culminated in her book, *Debunking the Middle-Class Myth, Why Diverse schools are good for all kids*.

Our luncheon speaker, retired Air Force General Wilma Vaught, kept us keenly interested as she described the courage of women in the military who fought for their rights as far back as the American Revolution. Her chronology of stories gave us insight on how far military women have come and yet how much there is still to achieve. General Vaught was the power behind the establishment of the Women in the Military Memorial at Arlington Cemetery, garnered support from former and current women members of the military, and continues to oversee the memorial. She talked about the memorial, how it came to be, and urged all of us to pay a visit.

An afternoon break allowed convention attendees to spend time at Oatlands Plantation, Sully Plantation, Reston Town Center, or the Udvar-Hazy Center of the Air and Space Museum at Dulles.

Saturday Evening

Our cocktail hour and reception preceding the banquet featured piano music provided by Fairfax City and Springfield/Annandale branch member Dianne Blais. EF named honors awards for Virginia were given out by Myrna Brown, our state EF chair, and by Tracy Lantz, Maryland EF chair. The awards were followed by musical entertainment, *Fems and Gems*, from the Alliance Theatre Group of Chantilly. In readings and songs, *Fems and Gems* was an overview of events in the life stages of a woman: it was directed by Elaine Wilson and produced by Patricia Kallman.

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Springfield-Annandale Honors Student Leaders and New Members

It is May and a new branch calendar is underway. This past year has become a launching platform for more ideas and energies. Officers for 2004-2005 are installed this month, while programming co-vice presidents began meeting and event preparations last month. There is a wellspring of enthusiasm about what we will achieve this new year.

Last year began with initiating festivities for our fiftieth anniversary and an honorary life member salute to member Lois Pierce, Mrs. Thomas Pierce, for her fifty-year marker with AAUW. It was a year to focus on programming, membership, and change as a growth agent. The results are several new friends, renewed vitality for committees, and more new vistas.

Our long time commitment for awarding leadership and financial recognition to area high school students with an interest in gender equity continues; five student leaders with diverse backgrounds and perspectives joined us in April with their families for awards night. One mom became a member. A continued focus on diversity is increasingly strengthened through participation in a cultural forum, Kaleidoscope. It was gratifying to find our nominee for Education Advocate of the Year, Eileen Kugler, selected for recognition by AAUW of Virginia. During a champagne brunch in June, new members and their contributions will be honored at the Fort Myers Officers Club. And, fundraising dynamos are preparing for a new sass to our annual style show; this year's auction came to life with hand-painted birdhouses decorated by members and their family. We thank Lois Pierce for her dedication and service and welcome the spirit of our new friends.

Patsy J. Carr, President
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Winchester Is Active in Public Policy

Winchester Branch members have been active with public policy projects during the 2004 year. Branch chair Rebecca Bronson provided public policy updates at branch meetings, through the monthly newsletter, and e-mail concerning General Assembly actions. Members were provided names and addresses of legislators to contact. As part of branch participation in the Kids Voting Program, branch members staffed two precincts for the local elections in November. Members were also part of a candidates' forum prior to the election. The branch was represented at the Woman's Network Training Day in December and Lobby Day in Richmond in January. Work was begun in October on a resolution on the Patriot

Act to be presented at the AAUW of Virginia State Convention. Wording of this resolution was discussed and refined at the November, January, and February meetings as well as by telephone and e-mail consultations among branch members. Final branch approval was given in March. The AAUW of Virginia Convention held in May passed the resolution.

Tracy Fitzsimmons, dean at Shenandoah University and a speaker at the 2003 AAUW of Virginia convention, presented a program at our October meeting and was instrumental in the University's sponsorship of a University staff member as a branch member. The branch continues to work with Lord Fairfax Community College whose Tech Prep Consortium hosts and co-sponsors our annual math and science conference held each year in March. Dr. Esther Mabry from the Staunton-Waynesboro Branch, Eleanor Smalley, superintendent of Clarke County Schools, and Donna Hughes, children's librarian with the Handley Regional Library, were speakers at three branch meetings. The February meeting was held at the newly opened Our Health complex in Winchester where branch members were given a tour of the facilities.

The annual yard sale and raffles of birthday bags at meetings continue to be successful branch fundraisers. Named EF gifts honored Mary Lou Zickelfoose and Susannah Godlove, past presidents of the branch.

We have watched with pride the work of our own Theresa Merkel during her two years as president of AAUW of Virginia, as well as the service of state board members Amy Angelo, recording secretary, and Marsha Gochenour, Northwest District chair. Amy Angelo will serve as vice-president for program and Rebecca Bronson as co-vice president for public policy of AAUW of Virginia beginning in July 2004.

Joan Johnson, Co-President

Blacksburg Area Thinks Globally

For some 25 years, our Blacksburg Area Branch has annually held The Great Decisions Global Affairs Education Program, sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association (www.fpa.org). This year, the 2004 Great Decisions program, celebrating its 50th anniversary, included the annual briefing book and videotape set, Great Decisions TV, the National Opinion Ballot Report, discussion groups across the country, and the Great Decisions online newsletter.

Our branch discussion leader, Dee Pourchot, arranged eight weekly sessions at the Blacksburg Library for the 20-25 participants, which included branch members, local League of Women Voters members, and the general public. The briefing book contained eight chapters, each on a global topic. A videotape segment relating to each topic was viewed prior to each weekly discussion.

The last topic, “Public Diplomacy and U.S. Foreign Policy,” asked two questions: How can Americans become more engaged in global issues? And, how can the U.S. reach citizens in other countries? To offer insight into possible answers, our Blacksburg Area Branch was pleased to welcome Dr. Esther Galima Mabry, international relations chair of AAUW of Virginia, on Saturday, April 17.

Dr. Mabry’s expertise is with women and children’s health in Asia, especially in the Philippines and India. She worked in India for many years and then traveled between India and Philippines for the last several years before retirement. She spoke about community health and development as well as training and use of community health workers. She looks at health as an important aspect of total development and at health care as part of a comprehensive program to meet needs of communities. She believes that health programs should be part of a development program so that people, especially the poor and those in the margins of society, are treated with dignity and respect for who they are in their own community and culture. Her presentation topic was “Global Health: Renew Health for All.”

Her focus on women and children coincides with the mission of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) and the purpose of the AAUW-IFUW International Fellowships and Grants, which are open to IFUW members from other countries only and not to permanent residents and citizens of United States. Dr. Mabry encouraged us to support IFUW because “poor countries are falling behind in attaining their goals, so there is a call for governments in the developed countries to help provide resources to those countries needing more expertise and funding.” Her call to action is: We are connected with each other worldwide, so “think globally,” but “act locally.”

Connie Anderson, Co-President
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Arlington Celebrates 60 Years

The theme for our programs this year was *Educational issues of today will impact education tomorrow*. As part of this theme, the Arlington Branch held a half-day workshop, “Diversity — Now and Then.” The workshop opened with videotape describing Arlington County’s success at being the first school district to fight the state of Virginia’s resistance to public school integration mandated by the U.S. Supreme Court’s Brown vs. Board of Education decision. This was followed by the creation of small discussion groups with three sets of roving student groups and their sponsors moving between the groups. The student groups represented the diversity in Arlington County high schools today. One group of students was from the Lunch Bunch, the Arlington Branch’s program for at-risk female students. The second group was made up

of Latin American girls at Wakefield High School who belong to Sociedad de las Rosas (Society of the Roses). The final group was from the Columbia Heights West Team Photo Project where teenagers learn photographic and leadership skills from a team of adult teachers and volunteers that includes a professional photographer.

As the Cole Porter song (roughly) goes, “What a swell party this was,” our 60th Anniversary Celebration. Our guest of honor, Theresa Merkel, AAUW of Virginia president, added much to the event. Six past branch presidents, Gwen Dent, Winifred Hart, Ann Hershner, Martha Ann Miller, Kate Munteer, and Alice Sufit, shared wonderful memories with us. Kate Munteer shared the song “This One’s for the Girls.” We honored Marjorie Hobart and Frances Finta with our Named Gift awards for all they have given to the Arlington Branch.

One very special lady passed away in January, Elizabeth Campbell. Elizabeth was an honorary life member. She had been a member of AAUW for 77 years! In her own words from the Arlington Branch membership brochure: “AAUW has been my lifeline in making and keeping friends who share my belief in the singular importance of education. I remember with gratitude the escape it gave me when I came as a bride to the then undeveloped County of Arlington. One day each week my husband would deposit me at the AAUW Clubhouse in Washington, D.C. Years later I was privileged to join the just-established local chapter in Arlington. Here I have happily found my place.” Elizabeth Campbell had many accomplishments, including being the founder of educational TV, WETA.

Nancy H. Morgan, President
nhmcc[at]mindspring.com

Harrisonburg Celebrates 75th Year

The Harrisonburg Branch’s 75th Anniversary year has been another dynamic one for our branch. Program Co-Chairs Pam Brown and Jan Leach arranged for a stimulating calendar of events for us here in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley. Sister members from other branches are always invited to join us, and some did this past year!

Our opening brunch reception in September was held at the country home of Hospitality Chair Betty Salisbury. Members were encouraged to bring potential members as guests. Judy Stough, an instructor with the Lifelong Learning Institute at James Madison University, gave a well-received presentation on *A Walk Down Memory Lane, Part 2: Writing Your Memoirs*, with suggestions on how to record our life stories.

In October, we met at the Center for Behavioral Health at Rockingham Memorial Hospital for a presentation by one of
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their counselors, Darlene Hilton, LPC, on *Take a Deep Breath and Relax*, who offered hints and techniques on how to manage stress in our lives, reduce stress, and how to relax. In November, we were treated to an exclusive insider's tour of the Shenandoah Heritage and Folk Art Center's newly restored Cromer Trumbo House which had been furnished with the delightful personal belongings and period furniture from the estate of Mary Etter, a memorable and beloved teacher in Harrisonburg at the turn of the century and an activist in her own right.

At our Christmas gathering we took up a collection for a non-traditional international woman student to help with her expenses while she attends JMU this year. A tradition at this event is our popular 'gift basket' silent auction, a proven fundraiser for LAF. Members donate the items and Jan Leach very creatively puts together the gift baskets, each of which represents a particular 'theme.'

In January we enjoyed hearing Virginia native and author Virginia Beard Morton as she gave us a bird's-eye view of life in Culpeper during the Civil War through the eyes of characters in her new book, *Marching Through Culpeper*.

The last Saturday morning in February is reserved for our annual community service project, the "Middle School Girls' Science, Math, and Technology Career Fair," at James Madison University. Attendance this year went through the roof with over 200 participants! We offered a variety of presenters who are successful professional women in the community, as well as an array of interactive informal displays and demonstrations by students and faculty from James Madison University, Eastern Mennonite University, Bridgewater College, and Blue Ridge Community College.

For our annual spring brunch meeting in March, we met at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel to learn how Harrisonburg's local arts scene and some of its art galleries and arts organizations evolved from one of the woman who started it all, former branch president Crystal Theodore.

Our day trip in April took us on a personal tour of the historic Belle Grove Plantation, followed by lunch at the Wayside Inn in Middletown. We were happy to have AAUW VA President Theresa Merkel and Northwest District Representative Marsha Gochenour from Winchester join us for this event.

Our closing event of the season was our

Annual Education Awards and Potluck Dinner. Our speaker, Pat Hostetter Martin, director of Eastern Mennonite University's "Summer Peace Building Institute," shared information and insights about their annual international conference. She brought along a panel of five wonderful women activists, attendees at this year's institute, who spoke on how this opportunity will help them work for peace and the subsequent betterment of women and children in their respective home countries of Indonesia, Liberia, Iraq, and Iran. We were deeply touched and inspired by their stories.

Each year, we give Young Women Scholar Awards to the graduates who attain the top GPA at our four city and county high schools. We also donate a book to each school library in the name of the winner. Our scholarship winner is Crystal Myers, a mother and transfer student with a 4.0 GPA from our local community college, who is going on for a four-year degree.

By Rosemarie Palmer, Membership Co-Chair and Publicity Chair
[palmerrc\[at\]rica.net](mailto:palmerrc[at]rica.net)



Thank
You
Many Hands
Made a Very
Successful
Convention

AAUW of Virginia members are indebted to the following people who worked on the 2004 AAUW of Virginia Convention.

Convention Co-Chairs Carol Ward and Ercell Binns
Local Arrangements Chair Gail Osberg
Convention Treasurer Pauline Arya

Program Chair Nancy Joyner
Credentials Co-Chairs Nancy Richardson and Peggy Stotz
Logo Design, Connie Dillman
Convention Book, Theresa Merkel
Table Decorations, Trudi Arnold, Dianne Blais, and Karen Neville
Hospitality/Goodie Bags, Helen Cassidy, Louise Meade, Mary Ellen Mehler, and members of the Fairfax City and Mount Vernon Branches
Meals and Meeting Rooms, Marilyn Silvey and Fran Lovaas
Registration, Carol Ward, Pauline Arya, Suzanne Cook, Marion Stillson, Ollie Parrott, and Karin Formoso and Marilyn Moore and Kristin Moyer who helped with planning.

We are also indebted to **Turner Bridgforth (honorary Springfield/Annandale member)** for all of his work with the audio/visual equipment.

“Convention”

(Continued from page 5)

Sunday

Sunday morning began with the annual Eleanor Roosevelt Walk/Run/Sleep In followed by Rosemary Plum’s *Fit at Any Age* discussion.

Sunday morning featured four workshops:

Why, What and How for Women Interested in Appointment to State Boards and Commissions led by Delegate Viola Baskerville, Claire Guthrie Gastanaga from the Virginia Womens’ Federation, and AAUW of Virginia past president Neola Waller.

AAUW’S Global Outreach led by Mary Purcell, past President of AAUW and IFUW.

How to Get Started on Financial Planning presented by Peg Downey, a certified financial planner from Maryland.

Kids and the Internet: Beauty and the Beast presented by Jenn Gillins who is the educational liaison at Netsmartz, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

At our closing business session awards were given to branches, election results (highlighted elsewhere in this issue) were announced, and baskets to benefit LAF were raffled off. At the end of the session Laurie Coulter recited a poem, which used all of the Interstate Highways that criss-cross Virginia, to invite us to next April’s state convention in Richmond. We look forward to visiting “The Place” in Richmond next spring.

*Gail Osberg
Local Arrangements Chair,
AAUW of Virginia 2004 State Convention
trosberg[at]erols.com*

Convention Resolution Opposition to the Patriot Act

A statement of opposition to the USA Patriot Act was the only resolution introduced at the AAUW of Virginia state convention. It passed easily, but not without discussion.

The Patriot Act was passed by Congress 45 days after the 9/11 attacks, with virtually no debate. The law cuts back on the individual freedoms and rights of persons in the United States; for example, the FBI can now access private medical records, library records, and student records—without a warrant and without probable cause. A number of groups have filed court challenges to the Patriot Act, including the American Civil Liberties Union.

The AAUW resolution, introduced by the Winchester Branch, calls on AAUW of Virginia to encourage members to conduct a letter-writing campaign to urge Congress to do three things: actively oversee implementation of the Patriot Act, hold hearings to determine the extent of the surveillance on library and bookstore users, and amend the sections of the law that threaten the rights of free expression. In presenting the resolution at the convention, sponsors called the right of inquiry “a sacred thing” and a foundation of education.

Several speakers opposed the resolution, calling this issue “outside our mission,” and asking, “Which battles do we pick?”

When the vote was taken, the resolution passed 54 to 19; the number of abstentions was not recorded.

A similar resolution was passed at the AAUW national convention last year.

The first task of my new state office will be to implement several steps outlined in the resolution, including forwarding copies to the U.S. president, attorney-general, and members of Congress, and assisting branches to both educate their members and work with other organizations in opposing the Patriot Act.

I will welcome suggestions and assistance from anyone wishing to help carry out this mandate.

*Marilyn Silvey
Incoming Co-Vice President for Public Policy
(Federal)
MarilynSilvey[at]Comcast.net*

Virginia AAUW Branches Are All Gems!!

Virginia branches outdid themselves this year at our state convention for receipt of the AAUW of Virginia Recognition Awards. The applications sent to the state help the branch to compile information for the Association 21st Century recognition awards to be announced in June 2004.

There are four levels of awards: emerald, ruby, sapphire, and diamond (highest). Branches excelled in their programs, worked hard on membership retention and recruitment, created new projects, improved current programs, and continued to make progress in contributions to the Educational Foundation and to the Legal Advocacy Fund. Branches added a new dimension to their applications with bonus points for working on AAUW of Virginia’s focus on “Children at Risk.”

The branch recognition awards went to

RUBY

Norton-Wise

SAPPHIRE

Virginia Beach

Norfolk

Wytheville

Portsmouth Branches

DIAMOND

Arlington

Alexandria

Mount Vernon

McLean Area

Vienna Area

Springfield-Annandale

Roanoke Valley

Fairfax City

Blacksburg Area

Winchester

Bon Air Area

Reston-Herndon Area,

Hampton

Woodbridge

Smith Mountain

Congratulations to all our branches for a wonderful programming year. You are all GEMS!

Nancy D. Joyner, Vice President for Program

VA “Chicks in Charge” At Regional Conference

Woman Power was the theme of the joint South Atlantic and Southeast Central Regional Conference at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center in Atlanta, GA, June 11-13. It was quickly nicknamed “Chicks in Charge.” Eleven such “chicks” represented Virginia: Outgoing President Theresa Merkel (Winchester), President-elect Nancy Joyner (Springfield-Annandale), immediate past president Neola Waller (Virginia Beach), Nancy MacKenzie (Manassas), Judy Wright (Springfield-Annandale), Suzanne Cook (Reston), Joan Derenge, Kay Koehler and Jennie Sue Murdock (Roanoke Valley), Caroline Pickens (McLean Area), and Cary Roberts (Lynchburg).

Friday night’s highlight was a panel, *The Power of Women’s Words*, featuring women authors from the south, who had earlier autographed their books.

Saturday morning the “Chick in Charge” of AAUW, AAUW President Nancy Rustad, gave the keynote address. Then came *The Power of Leadership*, a panel moderated by former SAR Director Beth Farokhi that included Rustad, Georgia Legislature member Pat Gardner; Mary McElroy, associate athletic director, Georgia Tech; and Lynn Hagan, AAUW member and EF grant recipient now working for the Scientific Center in Kuwait. In the afternoon, the *Power of Achievement* celebrated a number of young women athletes from southern institutions, including Kelly Ann Berkemeier of JMU, Lindsay Cox of Ferrum College, and Jessica Morris of Virginia Tech.

The Power of Philanthropy brought messages from EF and LAF with an interesting presentation by EF Fellow Jenny Higgins and a moving account by LAF plaintiff Roberta Sonnino of her ongoing fight against discrimination. *The Power of Advocacy* brought Elaine Hughes, AAUW public policy chair, and committee member Betty Bayless to the stage.

Sunday morning’s Eleanor Roosevelt Walk-No Walk raised about \$800. The rest of the morning was devoted to a workshop on decision making lead by Rustad, Farokhi, and SAR Director Ann Terry, followed by a lively Town Hall discussion that included an informative presentation on LAF by LAF President Michelle Wetherald.

*Kay Koehler, Vice President
for Communications/Public Information*



AAUW VA members at the South Atlantic/Southeast Central Joint Regional Conference (from left, back row) Nancy MacKenzie, Judy Wright, Suzanne Cook, Neola Waller, Joan Derenge; (front row) Kay Koehler, AAUW of Virginia President-elect Nancy Joyner, AAUW of Virginia President Theresa Merkel, and Jennie Sue Murdock. Not pictured: Caroline Pickens, and Cary Roberts



“AAUW is a group of women willing to work on issues of gender equity in our community.” Maria Spenser-Etienne, Roanoke Valley

“Membership”

(Continued from page 1)

Virginia for \$49. This provides you with information from Association and information on issues of interest to members in Virginia. If you would like a local connection of dedicated, interesting, and enthusiastic women you can join the AAUW branch in your area. Dues would be \$49 plus the local branch dues.

All former members are welcomed back! Current members are encouraged to send their annual dues to their local membership vice president. Anyone interested in membership information for Association, AAUW of Virginia, or help locating the closest branch contact me at 5209 Grandin Road Ext. Roanoke, VA 24018-2235; or hrburch[at]aol.com.

HelenRuth Burch, Vice President for Membership and Branch Development

A Branch Project

Register New Voters

Want a branch project that helps the community, is easy to do, and should get AAUW some needed publicity? Hold a voter registration drive!

The right to vote may be a cornerstone of American freedom, but it's a right that many citizens ignore. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, only 67 percent of eligible Americans of voting age are actually registered. Although voter registration has become quite easy, with applications available at Department of Motor Vehicles offices and public libraries and on the Internet, many residents just don't take the few minutes of time and effort to find, sign and mail the form.

Branches that have conducted voter registration drives say they are easy to do—and definitely worth the effort. Taking voter registration forms to such locations as food stores, gyms, thrift shops, and malls—and being very visible about it—can result in people signing up. As a side benefit, a registration drive can also result in publicity for the sponsoring organization.

A good time to hold a voter registration drive is this September. By law, registration must be completed by October 4 for those who wish to vote in the November 2 general election.

For those who haven't held a voter registration drive before, here's a "voting registration for dummies" checklist for what to do.

Contact Relevant Government Office

Call your county Office of Voter Registration or the State Board of Elections. They will provide the application forms and signs, and in most counties they will help you plan and will train volunteers.

Co-sponsor With Another Organization

Consider asking another local women's organization to co-sponsor the drive with you. Possibilities are the League of Women Voters or National Council of Negro Women.

Decide on Time and Location Get Relevant Permissions

Decide on dates and times and a place to conduct the drive and get permission from the owner/agent. Good bets: on weekends near the front door of the local library or the most popular food stores, Starbucks, or thrift shops. Holding a drive at a local festival is generally good, and usually any vendor fee is waived. Try to hold the drive for more than one day, partly to be able to take a picture on the first day to give to the local newspaper, showing members of your branch registering voters—to publicize the next time(s).

Select a Coordinator

Select a member to coordinate the drive with the county Office of Voter Registration. The coordinator will need to arrange for the picking up of the application forms from the county office, to be responsible for relaying all information to other volunteers, and to work out a schedule of volunteers (probably working in pairs, in two-hour shifts.) When the drive ends, all completed registration forms collected during the drive should be returned to the county office by the next business day.

Take Physical and Informational Material to the Drive Itself

For the drive itself, take a card table, folding chairs, masking tape for signs, the registration forms, PLUS water to drink and sunscreen. Arrange with the relevant government office to pick up the forms and ask for other written materials so you can answer questions that may be asked, such as how a registered voter can report a change of name or address or can vote absentee. Spanish language materials may also be available. And take along a camera, to snap that picture to give to your local paper. Note: you cannot distribute AAUW membership materials at the same table as voter registration, but you can have anyone who asks about AAUW sign a list and you follow up with them later.

Good luck!

Marilyn Silvey,
*Incoming Co-Vice President
for Public Policy (Federal)*
MarilynSilvey[at]Comcast.net

EF Fundraiser Anyone?

As summer approaches, nothing sounds more inviting than a B & B along side tranquil Smith Mountain Lake. We're invited! Smith Mountain AAUW is offering accommodations to AAUW members nation wide at \$50 per night, one branch's innovative idea to raise money for the Educational Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund. Contact J. Gay Carpenter at [jgcarpen\[at\]ix.netcom.com](mailto:jgcarpen[at]ix.netcom.com).

As a strong supporter of the Educational Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund, I suggest branches in other areas of our state may want to consider using this idea as well. Besides continuing to enjoy our ties with each other, the idea provides a wonderful way to raise funds throughout the year. I'll begin by offering the same rate in Reston, but, alas, without the lake. Contact me, Myrna Brown at the location noted below.

Myrna Brown, EF Chair
Mrsmlbrown[at]cs.com

Important Dates:

Saturday and Sunday, July 24 and 25

Saturday: AAUW of Virginia Women's Leadership Conference at Piedmont Valley Community College

Sunday: State board meeting, place to be announced

AAUW Member HELPLINE:

800/326-2289

202/785-7777 (TDD number)

e-mail: helpline@mail.aauw.org

AAUW website:

<http://www.aauw.org>

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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Washington, DC 20038

Vision (ISSN 0897-2257) is published quarterly by the American Association of University Women in Virginia. Subscription paid at Dulles, VA 20101

Deadline dates for the Vision:

August 1, November 1, February 1, May 15

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