



AAUW Portsmouth Branch Newsletter

AAUW Portsmouth
Branch

February 2010



District Meeting

The Southeast District meeting is scheduled for 11:00 am on Saturday, February 20, 2010 at the Sleep Inn at Lake Wright, 6280 Northampton Blvd. The Sleep Inn is just off interstate 64 at the intersection of Northampton Blvd. and Wesleyan Drive. The cost is \$20 per person; lunch will be a Chicken Caesar salad and includes coffee, tea and dessert. We will pay at the door, but please contact Kathy Batkin at kbatkin@verizon.net or 484-7449 by February 15 if you plan to attend, so she can provide a count for our branch.

The meeting will include a panel discussion of the challenges and advantages of working in a traditionally male environment. If you work in such an environment, please contact district representative Kathy Kelly at bookie002@yahoo.com or call her at 804-916-2324-work or 804-330-5588-home.

The district meeting is 'right in our backyard' this month. It is a great chance to meet nearby AAUW members, share information, and keep up to date. This is our monthly meeting, so let's have a great turnout from the Portsmouth Branch.

Editor's Message

I hope everyone is staying warm and dry in all this snow. As always, if you find factual errors in the newsletter, please let me know so I can correct them. If you find typos or grammatical errors please be forgiving. :) I look forward to seeing everyone at the district meeting on February 20.
Jacque Dessino, Newsletter Editor

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Public Policy

Gender Gap in Higher Education Continues

A new study by the American Council on Education (ACE) reports that the gender gap in higher education continues, with women outnumbering men on college campuses 57 to 43 percent since 2003. The data show that the problem is not across the board and may be solved by focusing on certain populations. For example, numbers of "traditional students," who go to college straight out of high school, are split evenly; whereas, men are not as likely to go to college at a later time.

While AAUW celebrates the fact that women have made remarkable strides in education during the past four decades, these gains have yet to translate into a push of women who work in science, technology, engineering and math fields nor full equity in pay-even for college-educated women who work full time. AAUW research shows that just one year out of college, women working full time already earn less than their male colleagues, even when they work in the same field.

AAUW Reports

The Obama Administration's First Year: A Progress Report on AAUW Priority Issues, available at www.aauw.org, and the Congressional Voting Record for the first session of the 111th Congress, available at www.aauwaction.org, outline the AAUW priority issues that became law in 2009.

Fundraising: Post 'EF'

Are you confused about what AAUW programs our fundraising activities support now that the Educational Foundation is gone? AAUW now uses the 'AAUW Funds' as the umbrella term for all of the charitable arms of the organization. The AAUW of VA web page has a link to description of all the AAUW funds and a flowchart at: <http://www.aauwofva.org/education.htm>.

February Fund Spotlight:

The **Public Policy Fund** supports advocacy for public policies and laws that are fair to women. Public policy programs include:

Government Relations: Our professional lobbyists advocate on Capitol Hill and in the White House, ensuring that our voices are heard in the halls of Congress and at the tables of power when decisions that affect women and girls are made.

Civic Engagement, which helps women act as their own advocates by providing members with the information and tools to build robust woman-to-woman voter registration and turnout drives in their communities.

Field Organizing, which engages individuals and branches in public policy advocacy through Impact Grants, Action Network, the Two-Minute Activist program, and Washington Update.

**Board Members****Book Group**

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Public Policy

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**Celebrate
International Women's Day****Half the Sky**

On March 4, 2010, at 7:30 pm, CARE will present *Half the Sky* in movie theaters nationwide. Inspired by the best-selling book, *Half the Sky* will celebrate International Women's Day with musical performances, celebrity commentary, and the world premiere of a new short film.

Half the Sky is inspired by *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, written by Pulitzer Prize winning journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, which follows the stories of extraordinary women around the world struggling under dire circumstances.

"Woineshet" is a film about a poor Ethiopian girl who ultimately triumphs over sexual violence and discrimination. As a teenager from a small village in Ethiopia, Woineshet and her family bravely fought against brutal local traditions of rape and forced marriage. The co-directorial debut of Marisa Tomei and Lisa Leone, "Woineshet" is an adaptation of this brave and inspirational true story.

Half the Sky is the perfect way for AAUW branches and members across the country to celebrate International Women's Day and stand in solidarity with women and girls all over the world.

Half the Sky will be shown locally at the Regal MacArthur Center theaters and at the AMC Lynnhaven theaters. Tickets are \$12.50. For more information and to watch the trailer, go to http://www.ncm.com/Fathom/OriginalPrograms/event/Half_The_Sky.aspx

**AAUW of Virginia 2010 Convention
April 23-25**

April seems like a long way away, but it's very important to make your hotel reservation for the state convention now! The hotel has 314 rooms, all suites, including 14 panoramic end rooms with wide lovely views for a fee of \$125 per night plus tax. Of the other 300, 36 are furnished with two double beds, and the remaining have a single king bed. Our convention rate for these rooms is \$75 per night plus tax (\$81.75).

Note: The cut off date for hotel reservations is Friday, April 2, 2010. Any reservations requested after 4/2 will be at the prevailing hotel rate, if available. When you register, you will have to give a credit card number, but your card will not be charged until you register at the hotel. Check in time is 3 p.m. If you have to cancel, just call the hotel 24 hours before check-in and cancel without penalty or cost. From time to time, hotels do offer discounts for AAA and other programs. If these rates are slightly under the terrific hotel convention rate we have been offered, they assume that you are not benefiting from convention specials. No room credit will be given to Convention if you book your hotel room outside of the special rate given to the convention.

To reserve your room, go to the Hyatt Fair Lakes home page www.fairlakes.hyatt.com. Find Rooms and Rates in the left hand column and enter your check-in and check-out dates and the special convention group/corporate # G-AAUW. Then click Check Availability; this link takes you to the registration page. Or call 1-800-233-1234 to book.



AAUW Bloggers Participate in Work-Life Blog Carnival

AAUW advocates for policies that support workers and their needs. Work-life balance issues affect not just women but everyone. To raise awareness of these issues, AAUW is participating in Fem2.0's Work-Life Blog Carnival on February 6–13. This week of blogging will be devoted to changing the way we talk about work-life balance to be more inclusive and enact change. To learn more and join us, visit the AAUW Dialog blog at <http://blog-aauw.org/>

Chapter Leaders Playground — New Leadership Partner

The [Chapter Leaders Playground](#) is an online community for volunteer leaders from across organizations. Your AAUW membership gives you access to more than 40 30-minute leadership webinars a year to help you achieve even greater success as a state or branch leader. AAUW has officially launched a partnership with Cynthia D'Amour, author of *The Lazy Leader's Guide to Outrageous Results*, who specializes in helping associations get members involved. Cynthia and the Chapter Leaders Playground are valuable resources to help you grow your branches and be more successful as leaders. [Join today](http://listsrv.aauw.org/t/38758/531126/258/0/17/) at <http://listsrv.aauw.org/t/38758/531126/258/0/17/>

Participate in National Study

AAUW is partnering with AARP on a campaign to educate women ages 45 to 65 about their long-term health care options and assist them with decision making. Its goals are to increase awareness and understanding among women of the definition and scope of long-term care, motivate women to assess their own and their family's long-term care needs and options, and empower women to take action and create a plan.

AAUW's Role: AAUW is recruiting our members to help assess and improve the effectiveness of the materials and resources that AARP has developed for this campaign, including a website with tools and resources for women to use to assist them with their long-term health care planning.

Participation: As the largest of three organizations partnering with AARP in this campaign, we need to involve a minimum of 250 AAUW member volunteers, from at least five geographic areas, to participate in four sessions of one to two hours each, conducted by a facilitator (an AAUW member trained by AARP), either via webinar or in a local meeting. In addition, area facilitators will be available off-line for consultation and will facilitate community engagement. This opportunity to participate in a project that will empower women to plan for their long-term health care is open to all AAUW members ages 45-64. Do not miss this chance to help protect yourself, your family, and millions of women in the future.

Project Details: Participation requires members to commit to engagement in four webinars or live meetings. (Materials will be downloadable and printable, so that those facing Internet access challenges will be able to participate solely by phone.)

Meeting #1 (2 hours) — Participants will take a baseline survey to determine their understanding of and preparedness for long-term health care planning. Participants will then be introduced to the first section of the tool kit.

Meeting #2 (1 hour) — Participants will review the second section of the tool kit.

Meeting #3 (1 hour) — Participants will review the third section of the tool kit.

Meeting #4 (2 hours) — Participants will review the fourth section of the tool kit and conclude by retaking the baseline survey to assess changes in knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and readiness for personal long-term planning.

Throughout, participants will be provided opportunities to express opinions that could help to improve the communication modalities, such as suggesting alternative language and additional resources, recommending additions and deletions, and so on. Your participation will be instrumental in making this campaign an effective tool to help women make important long-term care choices to protect their futures.

Next Steps: If you think you might be interested in participating, Save the form to your PC, Mac or Linux computer. **DO NOT** change the name of this document. This form can **ONLY** be filled out using Adobe Acrobat Reader version 8 or 9. Complete the form and save it by using the "**SAVE**" option (File > Save.) E-mail the completed form back as an attachment to: aauw-partner@aauw.org. [note: I have sent the form with the newsletter.]d]

Thank you for your time and I hope to have the opportunity to work with you on this important project. If you require additional information, or have any questions, please contact Kemell Watson at 202/785-7742 or watsonk@aauw.org. Cordy Galligan Director of Corporate Relationships

Community Information

Second Tuesday Forum: The next Second Tuesday Forum will be held at **noon on February 9**, at the **Churchland Public Library**. The subject is "Portsmouth Community Library Reborn," Mae Brekenridge-Haywood from the African-American Historical Society of Virginia will be the guest speaker. As always, this forum is free and open to the public. Reservations are not needed to attend. For directions and more information, call the Portsmouth Public Library at 393-8973. T

The March forum will be held on **March 9** at the **Commodore Theatre**. The subject will be "The Non-inevitable Civil War," with guest speaker Dr. Daniel Margolies, Batten Professor of History, Virginia Wesleyan College.

Courthouse Galleries: Feb 1-21: Exhibit of art created by children touched with cancer. **Feb 13** from 1:30 until supplies run out: "All I Want for Valentine's Day is a Chocolate Factory: Chocolate Dipping and Tasting."



AAUW—Portsmouth Branch—Branch Meeting

Date: January 18, 2010

Location: Portsmouth Public Library

The speaker, Shannon Jones, was introduced by Sue Burton. Shannon is the outreach coordinator for the YWCA Response unit in Norfolk, VA. This organization assists victims of sexual assault with hot line availability and accompanying victims to their exams following an assault. She invited AAUW members to consider volunteering for the hot line, which can be done from one's home.

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Kathy Batkin, president.

Minutes: Approval of minutes as printed in newsletter

Reports:

Treasurer's report: The report was not available, but as of January 4, 2010 it was reported that the balance for the branch is \$1,641.08.

Corresponding secretary: Sarah Brown reported on the cards and letters sent to members since the last meeting.

Public Policy: Nancy Jones provided a handout of policy reports. She summarized the AAUW accomplishments, including the Lily Ledbetter fair pay act passage.

By-laws/Scrapbook: Wanda Russo asked that any announcements/articles etc. about the AAUW be sent to her.

EF/LAF: Mary Swain is holding the state EF position until June. She needs people who do calligraphy or have very nice handwriting to help her pen certificates for individual recognition.

She noted that EF/LAF contribution checks are to be made out to AAUW Funds. Members can send these contributions directly, or through her.

There will be a yard sale in May, and it is being discussed whether to keep the proceeds for the branch treasury, or to send them to EF/LAF.

New Business:

The next board meeting will be March 1 at the home of Joyce Saveika. The next branch meeting will be March 15, at 6pm at the Olde Town Coffee Shop. A light supper can be purchased for about \$10-12.

Volunteers are needed for the focus group study shaping national dialogue on long-term health care for women. See the newsletter for more information.

There were no volunteers for the nominating committee. Sarah Brown has agreed to continue as corresponding secretary. The positions of membership VP and treasurer are open.

Lobby Day is in Richmond on Wed., Jan 27. Nancy Jones plans to attend. All are welcome to attend.

The AAUW art contest information can be obtained at: www.aauwofva.org.

State officers are needed for the following positions: VP for Program, VP for Public Policy, and VP for Communications. Kathy Batkin has the job descriptions available for anyone who is interested.

Old Business:

The Norfolk Branch's effort to enroll student affiliates at ODU has not been successful so far; there has not been as much support from the Women's Center as hoped.

The branch has received a letter requesting a donation of \$50 to the TCC Educational Foundation. It was decided at the last Board meeting that any donation the branch might decide to make would go towards our own scholarship. Individual members may contribute to the TCC Educational Foundation and designate that it go to the Portsmouth AAUW Branch scholarship.

Signed,

Patricia Sova,
For Barbara Johnson, Recording Secretary

AAUW Portsmouth Branch Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Details
February 8	Book Group	7:00 pm	<i>Sag Harbor</i>
February 9	Second Tuesday Forum	Noon	Churchland Branch Library
February 20	District Meeting	11:00 am	Sleep Inn, Lake Wright, Norfolk
March 1	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Joyce Saveika's
March 8	Book Group	7:00 pm	<i>White Tiger</i>
March 9	Second Tuesday Forum	Noon	Commodore Theatre



AAUW Portsmouth Branch

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AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research

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.