

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

Issue Highlights

New Officers	2
Named Honorees	2
Volunteer Thanks	3
Public Policy	4
Renew Dues	5
Interest Groups	6
Branch Contacts	8



May

11	Nonfiction Grp
17	Great Decisions
19	Morning Lit Grp

June

16	Morning Lit Grp
24	Brown Bag Books



Suzanne and Jean

From the Presidents

We hope that the first of May finds you all healthy and well-rested from the solitude of recent weeks. Some of us have read more books than ever before, while others have lovely gardens (or reorganized sock drawers) to show for their time at home. Kudos to our interest groups, whose members managed to stay in touch through Zoom meetings, emails, and telephone calls. Many of us learned some new technology as we planned grocery deliveries and visited with our distant families.

We regret that our March and April programs had to be canceled due to recommendations, and later orders, to avoid social contacts during the coronavirus pandemic. Our scheduled speakers were very gracious about offering to reschedule.

Thanks also for your cooperation in voting by mail to elect our new officers for 2020-2022, President – Laurie; Co-Vice Presidents for Programs – Aimee, Connie, and Georgia ; and Secretary – Carol. Their terms will begin on July 1.

As you probably know the Virginia AAUW State Conference was to be held in nearby Alexandria from April 17-19. It was held instead by Zoom videoconference on April 18. The board authorized Suzanne and me to represent our branch on the conference. We elected Sara Anderson and Sandra Lawrence to serve as Northern District Co-Representatives for the next two years.

Thanks and congratulations to Kristin, who agreed at the state conference to serve as the National Legacy Circle Team Liaison for Virginia.

Suzanne and I have greatly enjoyed serving as your Co-Presidents these last two years. Thank you for your support and encouragement! If you have comments or questions, please email us at ViennaAAUW@gmail.com.

Jean, Co-President

Elected and Honored Branch Members and Community Supporters

New Officers Elected for 2020-2022

On March 28, 2020, Vienna Area Branch members approved by majority vote these candidates for branch officers for the 2020-2022 term:

- President Laurie
- Program Co-VPs Georgia, Connie, and Aimee
- Secretary Carol



Congratulations and thank you to these members for agreeing to contribute their time and talents to AAUW and the branch. A special expression of appreciation goes to Aimee for agreeing to serve a second term as a Program Co-VP.

Suzanne, Co-President

AAUW Funds Named Honorees for 2019

For each \$500 donation to AAUW Funds, the branch may select an honoree to be recognized by AAUW of Virginia for service to the branch or community. Our members donated \$2813 in 2019 so can award five

honoree certificates. There are many deserving members, and it is always difficult to make a choice. Join me in congratulating the following honorees for 2019.

Aimee

As current program VP, organized successful AAUW mission-driven branch programs, obtained a Resolution in Support of Ratification of the ERA from the Vienna Town Council, arranged for co-sponsored programs with the Patrick Henry Library; and for prior service as nonfiction book group chair and as newsletter editor.

movie meetup group, led groups that enhance the connection of the branch with its members; and for prior service as garden group chair, as branch secretary, and as evening literature chair.

Marilyn

As current publicity chair, contributed to the success of branch programs since 2016 by faithfully issuing press releases to numbers of media outlets and posting flyers in Vienna businesses for each of our programs.

Deborah Smith-Cohen, Patrick Henry Library

For her support of AAUW, our branch, and the community by co-sponsoring library programs with us and for providing important logistical support that contributed to the success of our joint programs.

Susan

As current chair of the brown bag books and the

Laurie A. DiRocco, Mayor, Town of Vienna

For being instrumental in the Town Council's approval of a Resolution in Support of Ratification of the ERA and for her long-time contributions to Vienna as a community volunteer and as mayor.

Suzanne , Co-President

Thanks to our Volunteers



Our branch had a full year of activities that supported AAUW's mission and strategic plan.

We offer our grateful appreciation to the many volunteers who contributed their time and resources during 2019-2020. We have listed below the volunteers we are aware of, beyond our elected and appointed officers and interest group chairs named in our newsletter.

Please excuse any oversight if your name was not included—we nonetheless appreciate you!

- [Membership Committee](#)
- [Program Committee](#)
- [Friendly Foursome Hosts](#)
- [Nominating Committee](#)
- [AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corp](#)
- [Federal Lobby Day October 2019](#)
- [2019 Voter Registration](#)
- [AAUW Funds Fundraising Dinner](#)
- [ERA Legislative Lobbying in Richmond](#)
- Finally, a big “thank you” to the following: 1) Those who contributed refreshments and helped with setup and take-down for our program events; 2) those who hosted or were the discussion leaders for interest group gatherings; 3) all our members for contributing so generously to AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund and to Artemis House.

Suzanne and Jean Co-Presidents

THE AAUW PROGRAM

Branch Wins Three Stars from AAUW

Congratulations members! AAUW established a **Five Star Recognition Program** to reward branches for aligning their work with the AAUW strategic plan and other initiatives that foster the organization's mission. The program will run through June 2021. In this first year of the program, the Vienna Area Branch has earned three stars already.

- Advancement – for 90% retention of members in 2019-2020 and raising at least \$30 per member for AAUW Funds, with most going to the Greatest Need Fund; with thanks to Nadine, AAUW Funds Chair and to the Membership Committee.
- Communications and External Relations – for our excellent newsletter and website updates (including a link to WorkSmart Online) and publicity for our programs; with thanks to Newsletter/Website Editor and to Publicity Chair.
- Public Policy and Research – for the appointment of a Public Policy Chair, activities of the branch Lobby Corps, participation in State Lobby Day, and a sign-up event for members for the Action Network (Two-Minute Activist); with thanks to Public Policy/Lobby Corps Chair Mary and to other members.

Suzanne, Co-President

Successful Effort for AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps



Photo by woodleywonderworks via flickr as posted on AAUW

Issues important to AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls were included in the bipartisan Building Blocks of STEM Act.

Members of the **AAUW Capitol Hill**

Lobby Corps lobbied for the bill in April, 2019. After approval by the House and the Senate, the bill was signed into law on December 24, 2019.

AAUW's **Public Policy Priorities** support a strong

system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity. This includes the promotion of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education.

The new law directs the National Science Foundation to award research grants to young girls in STEM activities, thus encouraging participation of girls in pre-K and elementary classrooms in math and science.

According to AAUW CEO Kim Churches, "This is a major step forward toward our collective goal of breaking down barriers for women and girls in STEM."

Please contact Mary to learn how to join her and our three other members who participate in Lobby Corps.

Mary, Public Policy Chair

CHANGE IS INEVITABLE ... AND IT CAN BE GREAT

So many things have changed at AAUW recently. Have you seen the new website yet? Go online and browse a bit.

Another change will be how dues payments will be handled next year.

- Paying online is still the preferred way of taking care of payment for membership dues, BUT AAUW wants members to pay dues only in response to a personalized invoice that I will email you in May with the subject line "AAUW Membership Renewal."
- From that invoice, you will be able to click on a link to pay online, even if you have never created an account on AAUW.org.
- If you want to pay dues by check, send your check for the amount of the invoice to me made out to AAUW Vienna Area Branch.

This change will solve the confusion some members have had on how to handle payment for national, state, and branch dues on the website platform. It also automates a receipt for your payment, which will save time and money for staff and branch Finance Officers.

All you need to do is look for the emailed invoice in your inbox at the beginning of May. (If you have not received the invoice email with your invoice by the end of the second week of May, please call me.) Reminder: AAUW membership dues must be paid by July 1, the start of FY 2020-21.

Kathy, Finance Officer

Quick Takes



From Virginia's AAUW Funds Chair Caroline Pickens:

Virginia branches and members contributed just under \$86,500 to AAUW Funds in 2019. The Vienna Area Branch ranked in the top 10 of the state's 25 branches. Thank you!



Streaming Movie Discussion Group

The regularly scheduled movie meetup group is not meeting until further notice. However, we have another option – and a way to support a local independent movie theater.

A variety of films are available to stream to your TV, computer, or laptop on your own schedule for a nominal fee. Then those who saw a pre-selected film meet via Zoom to discuss it. For full details, please contact **Susan**.

Interest Groups



Please let your host know whether or not you will attend.

Morning Literature

Until social distancing ends, this group's meetings will be held on Zoom. The discussion leader will host the meeting.

Let's hope we can hold our regular July book selection meeting and lunch (July 21). If not, we'll figure something out. Stay safe, everyone!

May 19, 9:30 a.m.

Dianne will lead the discussion on *The Poisonwood Bible*, by Barbara Kingsolver.

Please let **Dianne** know if you plan to attend.

June 16, 9:30 a.m.

Julia will lead the discussion on *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens.

Please let **Julia** know if you plan to attend.

Chair

Brown Bag Books

June 24, TBD

Mary will lead the discussion of *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes, a love story of an unlikely group of women who defy society's norms to deliver library books to people in the mountains of Kentucky during the Great Depression. It is based on a real-life program launched by Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. At times funny, at others heartbreaking, this is a richly rewarding novel.

Next Date: September 30, 2020

Chair

Interest Groups (continued)

Great Decisions

May 17, Zoom Video Conference TBA

A link to join the conference will be sent to group members shortly before the meeting.

U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle

Combating illegal immigration has become a priority of the Trump administration. The Northern Triangle of Central America, made up of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, is a special target of the administration, which holds the nations responsible for the large flow of migrants from Latin America to the U.S. With funds from the U.S. cut, how can the Northern Triangle countries curtail migration? Jean will lead the discussion. The video for this topic can be viewed free at fpa.org.

Next Date: September 20, 2020

Chair

Nonfiction Book Group

May 11, 7 p.m.

We hope to set up a Zoom discussion group. If you are not on our regular group list, please contact Aimee to be included.

Sarah will lead the discussion of *Rage Becomes Her: The Power of Women's Anger* by Soraya Chemaly. This book is a discussion of women's frustration at the slow progress of change toward equal respect and opportunity in the US. This will be an especially interesting book to discuss with AAUW women.

Next Date: September 14, 2020

Chair

Movie Meetup

The group meets the fourth Tuesday of the month for a morning movie and lunch afterwards. Movie choice, time, and place will be provided by email a week to ten days in advance. Please email the chair to be included on the distribution list.

Next date: September 22, 2020

Chair

Branch Program Schedule, 2019-2020

September 7	10 a.m.	Open House
October 19	2 p.m.	Fearless Women: An Afternoon of Storytelling, with Kristin
November 21	7 p.m.	Family Friendly Legislation, with Briana Sewell
December 7	Noon	Holiday Luncheon with Mayor Laurie DiRicco
January 11	2 p.m.	Women Entrepreneurs: Creating a Sense of Community, with Jen Morrow
February 25	7:30 p.m.	Civil Rights in Alexandria, with Audrey Davis
March 12	CANCELED	Mobile Professionals: A Career in Architecture, with Carrie Sienicki
April 18	CANCELED	Women in the World: Peace and Security, with Cynthia Akuetteh
May 9	CANCELED	Potluck dinner, installation of officers



Vienna Area Branch Leaders, 2019-2020

AAUW Diversity Statement

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.