

Spring/Summer 2016



Greater Richmond (VA) Branch



Breaking through Barriers for Women and Girls • <http://richmond-va.aauw.net>

Dues are due!

If you have not already sent your dues to Connie Sorrell or paid them online or at the banquet, then now is the time to renew your membership if you joined prior to March 2016. We are looking forward to a fun, productive, and exciting new year.

Please make out a check for \$85 and mail it to:

Connie Sorrell
3100 Mount Hill Drive
Richmond, Va 23113-3924

If you have changes for address, phone number, or email address this year, please be sure Connie knows that.

President's Message

I cannot believe that we are already half way through the summer! Time has flown by! Those of you who were able to attend the Annual Spring Banquet were treated to a yummy buffet and a wonderful tour of the Gillette Gardens at Meadowbrook Country Club and a very humorous and inspiring talk by Karen MacLerner, author of *A Mother's Day Out*. We thank Connie Sorrell for making arrangements for us!

The Full Steam Ahead Conference was huge success. Thank you to all who helped in many ways! Please see the summary article in the newsletter.

Membership continues to grow! I just met with our newest member, Tracie Mooneyham, a recent graduate of Randolph Macon. Her enthusiasm and passion for making a difference in the lives of women and girls is

a difference is infectious! I know you will all be enjoying meeting and working with her. She has agreed to be our newsletter editor for this year. Yeah! Be looking for your Sept. newsletter the end of August.

The new board met last week and we are planning lots of good activities and programs. We look forward to you joining in when and where you can!

Have a safe and relaxing rest of the summer!

Carol Stephens

Upcoming

GRAAUW resumes its activities with our first meeting of the 2016-2017 year on Tues. Sept. 13th 7:30 pm.

Annual Wine Tasting Fund Raiser will be held Fri. Nov. 11th.

Contact Lesin Dippold, Carol Swartz, and Barb Strohman to offer your help with the Wine Tasting.

Voter Registration Training - Saturday July 30th

10:30 - 1:30 at Henrico Public Library in Glen Allen, 10501 Staples Mill Rd. 23060

Women's Equality Coalition Summit - Aug. 6th at VCU 9:00 - 3:30 pm

see article about this further in newsletter

Put these dates on your calendar now so they are saved and you do not schedule something else in their place!

Public Policy

Kathy Kelley, Chair

We hope to do several voter registrations this fall and will need lots of help. The training will be July 30th at the Glen Allen branch Library on Staple Mill Rd. Previously I sent a flyer that stated the time was 11:00 to 3:00 but it has been changed to 10:45 to 1:30.

If this time is not convenient for you there is an online training at:
<http://elections.virginia.gov/registration/registration-drives/training-video.html>

Even if you participated in training last year you must do it again. We may display some AAUW brochures but we must be nonpartisan. Please contact me or Carol Stephens if you have any questions or would like to volunteer. The state AAUW has a goal of 1000 registrations so we need to get busy before October 17th, the deadline to register.

Also, I still need to know if anyone is not receiving the AAUW Action Network or the AAUW Washington Update from National and would like it forwarded.

In-Person Voter Registration in the Richmond Area

The Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT) is conducting 8 in-person voter registration training sessions that are open to the public. The Code of Virginia requires individuals and groups obtaining 25 or more Virginia voter registration applications to receive training provided by ELECT.

The training provides valuable information regarding the responsibilities of voter registration drives and critical information to ensure voter registration drives are properly assisting voters in completing the registration process.

In addition to in-person training, interested individuals can complete the training online at www.elections.virginia.gov/training. Please contact Mr. Garry Ellis by telephone at (804) 864-8910 or email at Garry.Ellis@Elections.Virginia.Gov to register for in-person training or for questions.

See end of newsletter for training dates.

2016 Virginia Women's Equality Regional Summit



Bringing together activists and advocates from across the Commonwealth to discuss the barriers & policy solutions to advancing equality for Virginia women & families

Save the Date August 6th, Richmond, VA 9:30am
RSVP: <http://bit.ly/WECRichmond2016>

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RSVP - <http://bit.ly/WECRichmond2016>

Announcing the keynote speaker for the WEC Summit, Loretta Ross!

From our partners at Women's Equality Coalition, we are pleased to announce that Loretta J. Ross will be the Keynote for the Summit this year. Ms. Ross is an expert on women's issues, hate groups, racism and intolerance, human rights, and violence against women. Her work focuses on the intersectionality of social justice issues and how this affects social change and service delivery in all movements. She is also one of the co-founders of the SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective from 2005-2012, a network founded in 1997 of women of color and allied organizations that organize women of color in the reproductive justice movement. We are so excited to have such an influential woman address our members at the Summit and look forward to what is sure to be a thought provoking speech.

Read more about Loretta Ross here: <http://www.lorettaross.com/Biography.html>

A Message From State Presidents, Sandra Lawrence & Patricia Quick

This is a selection of the letter addressed to Governor McAuliffe sent out in mid July, calling attention to the shocking reporting discrepancy for Virginia's public schools in regards to sexual harassment:

"An American Association of University Women (AAUW) analysis of the recently released U.S. Department of Education's Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) for 2013–14 on harassment and bullying determined how commonly harassment is being reported in America's public schools. When the data are analyzed by Local Education Agency ("LEA") (public school district, charter school, or system of charter schools), we see that more than two-thirds (67 percent) of LEAs in the United States reported zero allegations of sexual harassment or bullying in 2013-14.

The state of Virginia reported "0" instances of harassment and bullying based on sex in 65 percent of LEAs for 2013-14. The high rate of zeros simply defies reality, and we believe it points to very real problems in LEAs reporting systems.

We know that sexual harassment is part of everyday life in middle and high schools. Awareness and action are the only ways we can improve school climate. Thus, it is crucial that officials report accurate data about what goes on at school. On behalf of all Virginia AAUW members, we urge that you review and correct this erroneous reporting of zero incidents of bullying based on sex and sexual harassment from the 65 percent of LEAs in Virginia."

Our state President's went on to inform the Governor that AAUW has done significant research into sexual harassment in public schools. There is a certain amount of understanding that there will be discrepancy in the reporting, because tracking occurrences is difficult and under-reporting is common. However, we should not see a variance to this degree. AAUW believes that schools owe it to their students to get these numbers right, and to respond appropriately to such reports.

A response has been requested from the Governors office in light of this information. No response has been received as of yet.

Book Group DeAnn Lineberry, Chair

Continuing a more than 35-year tradition, our Book Group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All GRAAUW members and their guests are welcome. Attend just one meeting whose book interests you OR join us on a regular basis.

Contact DeAnn Lineberry for more information and our schedule: deann.lineberry@yahoo.com or phone 233-5352. Here is what the Book Group has coming up:

August 18, 2016 – Summer Social

Time to Party! We always have a great time socializing together in August while trying new restaurants! We'll also plan our reading schedule for early 2017 while dining at Maldini's Ristorante Italiano, 4811 Forest Hill Avenue.
www.maldinisristoranteitaliano.com

Future Reading – September 15, 2016

Flight Behavior, by Barbara Kingsolver (2012, 464 pages).

Recommended by Lesin Dippold; Amazon's Best Book of November 2012. One of our group's favorite authors, I think it's safe to say ...

"Flight Behavior is a brilliant and suspenseful novel set in present day Appalachia; a breathtaking parable of catastrophe and denial that explores how the complexities we inevitably encounter in life lead us to believe in our particular chosen truths. Kingsolver's riveting story concerns a young wife and mother on a failing farm in rural Tennessee who experiences something she cannot explain, and how her discovery energizes various competing factions—religious leaders, climate scientists, environmentalists, politicians—trapping her in the center of the conflict and ultimately opening up her world."

Hostess: Catherine Luckey
Discussion Leader: Lesin Dippold



"In the more than 44 years since President Richard Nixon signed into law Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, girls and women have made great strides in education. Despite tremendous progress, however, inequality in education still exists.

Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) have introduced the Patsy T. Mink Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA) to tackle sex discrimination in all areas of education. Critically, GEEA supports the work of thousands of Title IX coordinators by providing annual training and competitive grants to K-12 schools, colleges, local educational agencies, and states to support their gender equity work. This bill will amplify the great work of AAUW members across the country to inform and resource Title IX coordinators in local communities.

By co-sponsoring this bill, your representatives will be standing up for the rights of all students to equal educational opportunity. When women cannot succeed, our country is limited in its ability to produce skilled workers for an increasingly competitive global marketplace. Now is the time to urge your Congress Member to co-sponsor GEEA, and stand up for Title IX!"

Use the link below to sign the petition and have our state Representatives take notice of this important piece of legislature.

<http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=coURTIemC8IFsQIgcixOOpxt%2BFCE4RMR>

Reminder: Submit Your Feedback by July 25, 2016

We urge you to take the time to reread the PPP, and share suggested changes, revisions, or additions. We also encourage you to talk to other AAUW members as you develop your recommendations. Please submit your comments using the link below by July 25, 2016. Alternatively, you may email your comments to advocacy@aauw.org by that deadline.

<http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=IUE0L0IK6fNB6W8kCXm6AQpP3mUDtMh5>

A Recommendation from Anne Sterling:

"CEDAW deserves specific mention in our public policy priority statement. The Convention to End All Forms of Discrimination Against Women has been ratified by all but a handful of nations. How embarrassing-- how outrageous-- that although President Jimmy Carter signed this treaty, still, over all these years, the Senate of the United States has failed to ratify this international treaty.

By signing onto this treaty, the U.S. would commit to conforming its laws to the standards set forth in the treaty-- and undergoing periodic evaluation of how well our nation is doing in this regard. CEDAW is the best single action we can hope for. . . to improve the lot of women and girls in America.

CEDAW has been mentioned in earlier PPP statements, and should go to the top of our list, this biennium. Like the Equal Rights Amendment, CEDAW has become "old news" to some of AAUW members who have worked for it-- and failed, so far. But far from constituting a reason to drop our crusade, the U.S. failure to ratify should inspire our determination to pressure the U.S. Senate to ratify.

Please consider this addition to the document!"

Full STEAM Ahead Conference a success!

The STEAM conference that GRAAUW offered in collaboration with Math Science Innovation Center and Della Signets, a recent VCU graduate, was readily embraced by middle school girls and their parents from all 4 counties in the Metro area. We are grateful to Richmond Public Schools for the use of MLK Middle School, AAUW-VA for their \$250 grant, Siggis yogurt, Copy Cat printers, and MaxxPotential for their support. Our major sponsor, Pepsico, not only gave us a grant of \$13,000 but also cases of water and sent the keynote speaker and a group of presenters for 2 of the workshop sessions from their NY office!

The Federal Reserve Bank sent 6 volunteers for the morning and two of our members were presenters, Alicia Aroche for Collaborative Design and Laurie Coulter for Agricultural Sciences. We even had two fathers of participants offer to stay the whole day and help as needed. This has truly been a community effort! Thank you to all of our members who volunteered to distribute registration brochures to Title I schools, stuff the book bags, register students, and supervise lunch as well as presentations and to Georgiana Ball who designed our pre and post surveys for the participants. The major thank you goes to Laura Wimmer who served as the coordinator throughout this year long undertaking!

Data byte!

- We had a total of 87 girls registered to attend the conference and 10 no shows.
- The bulk of the girls were 11, 12, and 13 with most being 12 years old.
- Of the students who completed what race/ethnicity they were we had 22 Caucasians, 22 African Americans, 9 Asian/Indians, and 5 Hispanics.
- We had 21 girls from Chesterfield, 9 from Hanover, 14 from Henrico, 22 from Richmond and 3 sisters from Hopewell City.
- A total of 38 different schools were represented with 2 home schoolers as well. A total of 26 girls or about 33% attended Title I schools.

The greatest testimony to the success of this conference is the endorsement by the girls themselves. When asked on the post conference survey if they would be interested in coming to a workshop like this next year, 48 of the 62 said greatly, 13 said somewhat, and only 1 said no.

Please see the following for a sample of their Additional Comments at the end of the survey:

- I LOVED this !!!! I could have gone ALL day!!!
- This is a very inspiring and educational experience for me and I would love to come back next year. I believe this will be very helpful for future generations.
- I love how you are conducting this for us girls!!! KEEP ROCKING!! (smiley face)
- I had so much fun here! I got taught so much and all of my job ideas changed to some of these awesome things! I can't wait to come back next year!

Carol Stephens



Dates for In-Person Registration

July 30, 2016 - 10:00am – 12:00pm
Glen Allen Library
10501 Staples Mill Rd.
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

July 30, 2016 - 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Caroline Community Center
17202 Richmond Turnpike
Milford, Virginia 22514

Aug. 13, 2016 - 9:00am – 11:00am
1214 West Graham Road
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Sept. 8, 2016 - 7:30pm – 9:00pm
J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
1651 E Parham Rd.
Richmond, Virginia 23228