

Summer 2017



Breaking through Barriers for Women and Girls

• <http://www.richmond-va.aauw.net>

## President's Message

I just want to spend a few minutes saying what a busy and productive year this has been. Not only have we had excellent monthly Program meetings that are mission focused but we also have tried a few "Socials" at local restaurants after work during the week to try to introduce who we are to potential members in an informal setting. Our Wine Tasting was a tremendous success with our ability to offer 2 \$1000 scholarships to undergraduate students at local community colleges. Many of you contributed time and energy and yummy food as well as gift cards to the Great Expectation Students at J. Sargent Reynolds Community College for our December Holiday Potluck for the students. Our Spring Banquet was a wonderful opportunity for many of our long-time members to come out and enjoy the festivities and renew ties. Our speaker, Dr. Sandra Treadway, shared many interesting stories about Virginia women, both past and present.

None of these activities could be possible without the tireless energy of your Board and Committee Chairs. We owe a huge thank you to them all! We will miss Connie and Marian this next year at our monthly board meetings (bet they won't miss us!) and I am extremely appreciative for all their hours of service to us! We look forward to [Jane Newell](#) joining us now that she is retired and serving as our new Treasurer! We do also regretfully accept Kathy Kelley's resignation as Public Policy Chair. She has served tirelessly for a number of years now and I am so very grateful for all she has done! I am very hopeful that one of

you will be so moved by the imperative need to become involved in voter registration and education of the issues for our members and our legislators that **you will step forward and volunteer to serve as Public Policy Chair**. Kathy has volunteered to mentor anyone who is willing to serve. Please contact Kathy or me.

I look forward to attending the **Summer Leadership Conference in Salem, VA** during the last weekend of July. It looks to be a very informative session. I do hope some of you will join Kathy Kelley and I. It should also be a lot of fun! Wish me luck as I start my stint as State Secretary for AAUW-VA. I was overwhelmed by the demands of that position as I sat in on the State Board Meeting in April to preview what my job will entail. The State Board will be meeting before and after the Leadership Conference in July.

Now is the time to renew your membership if you have not already done so! Our new VP of Membership, [Tracie Mooneyham](#), will be contacting you soon, if you have not renewed yet! Have a fun and enjoyable rest of the summer!

We look forward to seeing you  
in September at  
our Kick Off Potluck on  
**Tues. Sept. 12th** at  
**St. Mathias Episcopal Church.**

[Carol Stephens](#)  
President GRAAUW

## Public Policy News

### Public Policy Update

We will be having voter registration again in the fall. Everyone who is registering must do the training again because our certification will be terminated on June 30. The easiest way to obtain this certification is by taking [on-line training](#).

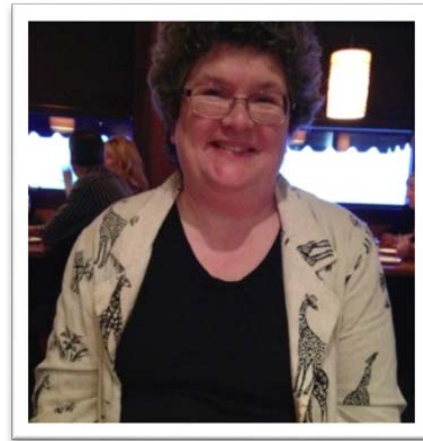
Please wait until after July 1<sup>st</sup> to check on the training places and schedule as it won't be available until then. Remember that if you are volunteering with someone who has the training you don't need to be trained but it helps. We will try to register voters at the Farmers Market in Forest Hill Park and at bus stops. If anyone has any other ideas please let me know. It is very important that we make sure our voices are heard. An easy way to do that is to sign up to be a two minute activist. Just go to [this page](#) and sign up. Direct phone calls and emails are best but this is an easy way to contract your legislators.

The latest from [OneVirginia2021](#) about gerrymandering: according to Arron Blake of the Washington Post the Supreme Court just made a major decision without actually issuing a decision.

Now the tough part – I did not plan to do Public Policy again next year so we need a volunteer to take over. I will be glad to assist but I need someone to set up voter registration, make phone calls and keep our membership informed. I do intend to go to the Women's Roundtable each Wednesday during the session and do the lobbying.

*Kathy Kelley*

## Membership News



### Getting to Know Our Members

*Nora Narum*

"In the process of writing up my career as I was retiring, I realized that I may well be the first woman to work in IT at Philip Morris who came there as a college graduate, directly entering in the programming world, rather than starting out as a data center computer operator.

During that long career, I worked mostly in the nitty-gritty of manufacturing, creating systems that operated machinery and counted and measured products being manufactured and shipped.

Late in my career I worked in more traditionally female areas of IT, including payroll, finance, and purchasing, but I'll always consider the manufacturing years as my best times."



## Renew Your Membership



### New Membership Form

#### Coming Soon!

If you have not renewed please contact me as soon as possible. I will be reviewing our [Membership Directory](#) and planning outreach/recruitment for the coming year during the month of July. If you have the time, I would invite you to review our [current membership form](#) and see how it could be improved. Feel free to send thoughts, concerns, or questions! Thanks in advance!

Renew your branch, VA & National memberships [online!](#)  
[Tracie Mooneyham](#)

## Events News

### STEAM Conference a Huge Success!

After many busy hours by Laura Wimmer, Lesin Dippold, Carol Stephens and Andrew Derer (the MathScience Innovation Center Liaison) we launched STEAM ON on Wednesday, June 21st at the MSIC. Approximately 50 girls attended this year, the majority of them rising 7th and 8th graders. They came from all 4 counties but the majority came from Henrico and Chesterfield. Again we had several students from private schools as well as home schoolers. We had a racially diverse group of girls with only 12 of them identifying as Caucasian!

Connie Sorrell's friend, Catherine McGhee, a civil engineer, who is the Director of Research of the Virginia Transportation Research Council, which is a division of VDOT, spoke about the many challenges of solving transportation issues far into the future.

## More Events News

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Connie Sorrell's friend, Catherine McGhee, a civil engineer, who is the Director of Research of the Virginia Transportation Research Council, which is a division of VDOT, spoke about the many challenges of solving transportation issues far into the future in the Keynote Address. Most all of the students gave her very high marks in their evaluation. We offered a variety of 50 minute workshops throughout the day, some of them were volunteers who returned again this year after presenting last year! One volunteer came from Capital One's office in NYC. Although science and math were the most popular classes that the girls took in school this year, and math was mentioned as the most challenging thing about STEAM subjects, we did not have any work-



## More Events News

shops that centered on math. I am hopeful that this next year with your help we will be able to attract some presenters in the math field. When asked who had encouraged them to pursue studies in STEAM subjects, the majority mentioned family members, but a number of students mentioned their teachers or their own strong desire and interest to pursue studies in STEAM. Very few students expected to be involved in other STEAM related activities/courses this summer, so I am very proud that we could offer this unique experience to so many girls. Most all of the girls (39) wanted to return next year to attend a similar workshop! The Challenger workshop led by NASA employees and Music and Science: Universal Languages led by our own Tonjia Phillips were the most popular workshops with What If Chemistry Were Beautiful and Relevant and Colorful Costume Jewelry running close behind.

We could not have had such smoothly run conference without the help of our volunteers from the Federal Reserve Bank and our members Carol Swartz, Suzanne Conrad, Kathy Kelley, Georgiana Ball, Connie Sorrell, and Barb Strohman. Thank you all!

Please be sure to check out our website and Facebook page for many pictures from the conference!

*Carol Stephens*



## More Events News



### AAUW National Convention

I am happy to report that this year's national convention in DC was one of the best convention's I have attended. There were about 850 folks in attendance and all ran very smoothly. The breakout workshop sessions were very informative and well attended. I have lots to share with many of our officers. Lesin and I attended different workshops to be sure we covered as much territory as possible. We will be contacting you with info as time permits this summer.

The speakers were amazing! Judy Woodruff came to us right after her broadcast on Wed. night. She was very down to earth, showed her wry sense of humor, and shared many good stories about her career. Instead of a speech, she spoke briefly but the majority of the time she sat in a chair with the moderator and carried on a conversation. This was also to be the format for Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor at the Honoree Banquet on Fri. evening. However, she only sat for no more than 5 minutes and then continued 45 minutes of dialogue while moving around between the tables in the dining room and shook everyone's hand or gave them a hug. Lesin and I were both able  
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### AAUW National Convention cont.

to shake her hand and have her stop and speak next to us. It was amazing! Her Secret Service detail followed at a respectful distance but kept scanning the assembly for any suspicious movements. We were also inspired by Dr. Tererai Trent an AAUW International Fellow who is featured in “Half the Sky”, our book group book for July. The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award was presented to Laura Dunn, JD who has accomplished amazing things already in her young life in helping to bring justice to female victims of Sexual Violence.

We had a chance to hear from our new Executive Director, Kimberly Churches. I think we are going to continue to be in very capable hands. She had just been on the job for 3 weeks before the convention, so she was baptized by fire in her new job! I do hope that several of you will have a chance to attend our next national Convention. It will be held in 3 years, instead of 2, to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the Women’s Right to Vote! This will be a very special convention! Start saving your pennies now to be able to attend!

Carol Stephens

