



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

President's Message

Last newsletter I ended my remarks with "Together we can make a difference". This November women surely did make a difference, electing more women delegates to the General Assembly than ever before! Now, hopefully, those women, both Democrats and Republicans, can make a difference for women and families across Virginia as they cross party lines to level the playing field!

In addition to more women being elected, women also seem to have found their voice speaking up about their own sexual harassments and assaults. There have been surprising revelations. I wish that you could have heard our honoree at the AAUW National Convention. Her testimony was very powerful and she is working to make a difference for women who have endured sexual assault.

I am very proud of each way that each one of you works to make a difference. Whether it is writing a letter to your representative or to the paper, writing a check in support of causes that you support, standing up for what is right when in conversation with friends, working to support all of our GRAAUW efforts to make a difference or giving encouragement to others who are working to make a difference, we are a group of women who care and who put our money and our time toward providing better opportunities for women and girls.

With that in mind, I want to say a HUGE THANK YOU to Lesin Dippold, Carol Swartz, Jane Newell, and Katie Garnett for making our Wine Tasting the best ever! You can read the particulars about the event further in this newsletter, but we had a very high participation rate this year. Thank you to all of you who contributed your time, talents, food,

We will be able to have two full scholarships this year with money left over for a head start to next year's scholarship awards. Maybe we can give three scholarships next year!

There are many activities this month and in January to allow you to become involved! I look forward to your contributions to changing the climate for women and girls! Be sure to read through all of the newsletter to find out how you want to connect.

Also a huge THANK YOU to DeAnn Lineberry for agreeing to take over the newsletter for the time being! We are still in need of a publicity person as well as Membership VP. If you wish to serve in either capacity, please let me know. We are also forming our Nominations Committee for 2018. We will need to elect a President, Secretary, and VP of Program. If you are willing to serve on the Nominations Committee or to serve in one of these offices, please let me know!

Enjoy this Holiday Season and look forward to seeing you at the Great Expectations Potluck December 13th!

Carol Stephens
President GRAAUW

WEC Summit, December 9, 9:30 to 4:00 at the Doubletree Midlothian
<https://progressva.actionkit.com/donate/WEC-summit-2017/>



Fundraising Lesin Dippold

Wine Tasting Benefit

Over 100 guests and members enjoyed the evening socializing and tasting new wines and delectable edibles. The proceeds of this fundraiser will be divided between AAUW National Funds and scholarships for women pursuing college degrees in the metro Richmond area. This year our ticket sales and net proceeds increased by a third to garner approximately \$4,500! Kudos to our hard working members and generous supporters responsible for this huge success! A special thank you to Bob Kocher of Once Upon A Vine, Charlene Camroux of Monsieur Touton Selection, Ltd., and to Jeff Sulik for his musical contributions to the evening!

Scholarship Committee

Now that the Wine Tasting is wrapped up, it's time to turn our attention to awarding scholarships! A committee of at least five members is needed to tackle the following tasks:

- assist in editing the application form so that it can be posted on our website by January 2018.
- contact local community colleges and university financial aid offices to ensure that students are aware of the opportunity to apply by March 2018.
- individually review the submitted applications and meet as a committee to select two or more deserving women candidates in May 2018.

If you have questions or can help with any of these tasks, please contact Lesin Dippold, 519-1898 or lesindippold@comcast.net.

Day trips! New to GRAAUW: Let's rent a van or bus and let a professional do the driving while we explore a new adventure!

Over Thanksgiving, I enjoyed a terrific production of *Peter and the Starcatcher* at the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, whetting my appetite for a return visit! Lunch or dinner at one of Staunton's darling restaurants and a show at this amazing reproduction of The Globe Theater was a popular option when members were polled on their interests for outings. Other top vote getters were visits to the National Museum of African American History or the National Museum of Women in the Arts, both in Washington, DC. March and April 2018 were months for these trips.

This is an activity suggested by National AAUW as a fun way to raise funds. We would invite friends and family along and add a few dollars onto the cost for each person with the proceeds going to our fundraising account! A volunteer is needed to work with Lesin Dippold to organize these outings! Please contact Lesin, 519-1898 or lesindippold@comcast.net, to get the ball rolling!

Community Outreach

Laura Wimmer

GREAT EXPECTATIONS Program

Our December event for the Richmond Branch is providing a home cooked lunch and a small gift for the students enrolled in the Great Expectations program at Reynolds Community College. The date this year is **Wednesday December 13th from 12:30 to 4:30** and we need volunteer power of all kinds that day. Food, drink, paper products, \$10 gift cards as well as help for set up, serving, and clean-up. If you have not already signed up to contribute, **please contact Laura Wimmer ASAP so you can sign up for however many categories you can assist with this year.** *Special Note:* Georgiana made WONDERFUL homemade cookies for each student last year and would like some help with that project; if you have cookie baking skills and can lend a hand this year, please let us know. Thanks and I will be talking with you soon! Laura Wimmer
lwimmeraauw@aol.com or 804-496-6124 home or 387-5315 cell

STEAM event in partnership with the MSIC (Math Science Innovation Center)

Our next event is scheduled for June 2018!! One of our important GRAAUW branch Outreach activities is this day of workshops for middle school girls. We will need to start monthly meetings in January in order to get all the details attended to and could use your help. We need folks there the day of the event of course, but also to do the planning ahead of time. Volunteer opportunities include: website update & blast messages, online registration, soliciting workshop presenters, communicating with participants & their parents, coordinating transportation, marketing, evaluation and more. To volunteer, please respond to Laura at lwimmeraauw@aol.com or 804-496-6124.

AAUW Funds Synergy to Empower Women Louise Brierre

Actions speak louder than words and GRAAUW was outstandingly active this Fall. The 2017 Wine Tasting netted \$4,300. Half of it will go to national AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund. GRAAUW will award scholarships locally with the other half.

I'm new to AAUW, new to the Funds Chair position and new to the newsletter. So please bear with me as I share what I've learned about AAUW, GRAAUW and the FUNDS. As you know "funds" is another word for money, as in "I'm low on funds." This collective noun usually refers to a collection of money and in the case of organizations like AAUW and GRAAUW, or accounting, organizational programming, management, action, taxes and reporting it refers to a particular category or pot of money. The money it takes to "Empower Women" is hard to come by so AAUW focuses on particular aspects of women's lives: Advocacy on public policy; Education (pre-K to post-doc); Campus (make them safe and welcoming); Career and Workplace (doing more for working women); Leadership (widen the pipeline for women); and Economic Justice (work for living without economic barriers). These categories offer AAUW latitude to undertake programs to educate, empower and improve the lives of women and girls. So AAUW set up various "funds" to support targeted programs.

AAUW and GRAAUW are non-profit and tax exempt organizations. To preserve the "tax-deductible" status of contributions and monies raised, AAUW is extremely careful to focus on, identify and separate the activities and programs undertaken as charitable (tax-deductible) under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code. The LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND, the EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND, the ELEANOR ROOSEVELT FUND, the PUBLIC POLICY FUND, the LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS FUND are each umbrella funds that support research, data analysis, accurate informational reports, grants, networking, workshops, fellowships, tools and skill training, and advocacy on public policies and laws. Contributions by individuals and local branches to all these funds and their individual activities are tax deductible. Having specific pots facilitates budgeting and reporting

of contributions, expenditures and outcomes/ achievements for each fund.

To simplify the paperwork AAUW strongly encourages us, especially as individuals, to direct our gifts to the "grandmother" fund, aka, the AAUW FUND (#9110). Unrestricted gifts to the AAUW FUND allow your money to be used where it is needed most to eradicate persistent challenges and leverage new opportunities. All contributions to the AAUW FUND are used for tax-deductible programs. Only gifts to the AAUW Action Fund may be used for limited voter education, member activism, and Lobby Corps staff support activities. These are undertaken as social welfare activities under section 501(c)(4) of the IRS tax code with contributions that are NOT tax-deductible.

So why are we sending half of our Branch's hard earned money to the AAUW Educational Opportunity Fund? Here's a seriously shortened answer from Nancy Richardson, who has 36 years of experience in the McLean Branch, was twice branch president and was state president in the 1990s:

"Many members think scholarships and awards from the branch provide more locally visible community outreach, give the branch more control over use of the money earned, more local clout and influence.

"What we often don't recognize and build on are the opportunities and influence of the monies sent by all of the branches to national level AAUW. We are branches of AAUW, not independent clubs. We subscribe to AAUW's mission, goals, and efforts to empower women and girls. Without AAUW we'd simply be another gaggle of women, a small group with relatively small clout, and likely a group destined for the dust heap. Through its extensive network, trusted national reputation (especially on Capitol Hill), and multiple diverse efforts to support women and girls, AAUW gives us life, and a highly respected life at that."

"Bottom line ... let's continue to support the many talented women and girls who've come before our branches and wowed us with their determination and accomplishments, but let's recognize the true source of our widest reach and greatest success for women, AAUW."

Book Groups DeAnn Lineberry

Continuing a nearly 40-year tradition, our Book Groups meets on the third Thursday of each month. We have two groups: Daytime Book Group meeting **1 PM** and Evening Group meeting **7 PM**. Both groups will read the same books, enabling members to attend whichever time is more convenient month-to-month. *All GRAAUW members and their guests are welcome.* For more information, please contact DeAnn: deann.lineberry@yahoo.com; phone 233-5352.

Upcoming Schedule:

December 21, 7 p.m. – all members meet together for annual Christmas party. We'll follow our December tradition of sharing poetry we each enjoy. We'll also exchange gifts of books we have enjoyed individually through the year. RSVP TO DEANN

January 18 – *The Alchemist*, by Paulo Coelho, a 20th Century classic. Brazilian author (who says all his many works are about characters asking “What am I doing here?”) This novel has sold over 65 million copies in 56 languages; eight years on *New York Times* bestseller list. Link to CBS Sunday Morning feature Dec2016: <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-alchemy-of-author-paulo-coelho/> ; Wikipedia link: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Alchemist_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Alchemist_(novel))

Daytime Group will meet at our standing location, Ginter Park Library, 1200 Westbrook Avenue.

Evening Group location TBA

Sip N Dip

The first meeting of this newly formed group is meeting **Fri. Jan. 26th at Jane Newell's home at 7:00 pm**. Participants are asked to contribute \$8 toward the purchase of the

Public Policy Kathy Kelley

November 2nd marked [Latina Equal Pay Day](#), the symbolic day when Hispanic and Latina women's earnings “catch up” to non-Hispanic white men's earnings from the previous year. Yes, you read that right—

Latina women have to work until November 2, almost a full extra year, to make up the pay lost to the pay gap over the prior year. That's because Latinas are paid just [54 percent](#) of what non-Hispanic white men are paid.

Join the Richmond Area League of Women Voters for the pre-session legislative roundtable on Wednesday, December 6th at 9:00 AM at the *Virginia Credit Union* at 108 N. 8th St. to hear firsthand about the pressing issues that will come before state legislators. The day begins with coffee and pastries and then the Pre-Session Women's Round Table (free)until 1:00 pm. Lobby training will be offered after lunch at 2:00 pm.

Networking with activists and many advocacy groups is one of the top reasons given for attending. A full morning of five-minute power speeches from issue experts who have been on the front lines during General Assembly sessions will preview, predict, and prepare us for action in January. They have vastly diverse experiences in monitoring and influencing a wide range of legislation – governance, education, health care, juvenile justice, women's rights, voters' rights, election laws, open government, ethics, safety, environment and conservation, and more. Representatives from the Governor's Cabinet enlighten us on their priorities.

Sip N Dip (continued)

DVD. Please contact Jane if you are interested in being a part of this group and have not yet given her your \$8.

Each person will be bringing a favorite wine to share along with a paired appetizer. We will begin the Great Courses Wine Tasting DVD at that meeting to learn the process of tasting and basic information. We will sign up for the rest of the year for hostessing and learn what type of wine will be featured for the month of February.



GENDER EQUALITY - It's Time for Virginia to Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment

GRAAUW has joined the campaign for Virginia's approval of the Equal Rights Amendment. If 38 states approve the Amendment, it could be incorporated into the United States Constitution by operation of Article V, which states that a proposed amendment "shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states."

Alternatively, Congress itself may promulgate the Amendment upon approval by the 38th state.

We are close to that magic number of 38. Just last spring, Nevada became the 36th state to approve the Amendment. The Illinois legislature is debating ratification now. If we pull together, Virginia can be the 37th or even the magical 38th.

The Equal Rights Amendment says: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." As Ruth Bader Ginsburg (now Justice) stated in 1978, the Amendment "does not require similarity in result, parity or proportional representation. It simply prohibits the government from allocating rights, responsibilities or opportunities among individuals solely on the basis of sex."

Contrary to what most Americans believe, women and men do not enjoy equal rights

under our Constitution. It is currently constitutional for laws to discriminate on the basis of sex so long as they merely "further" an "important" governmental interest and are "substantially related" to achieving that interest. If the Equal Rights Amendment becomes part of our Constitution, laws based on sexual classification would be subject to the highest level of judicial review. The government would have to show that its action furthers a *compelling* governmental interest and is *narrowly tailored* to achieve that interest. With its ratification, the Equal Rights Amendment will guarantee equality and serve as a bulwark against government action based on stereotypes, prejudices, or misplaced paternalism.

Members of GRAAUW and other AAUW branches throughout the state are invited to join the campaign:

- ✓ Write your respective legislators to elicit support for the Amendment
- ✓ Attend the groundbreaking ceremony on Capital Square for the first phase of the Virginia Women's Monument on December 4, at 10:30 a.m.
- ✓ Visit <https://www.facebook.com/VAratifyERA/>

GRAAUW is also providing to legislators copies of AAUW's white paper, *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap*.

For more information, see AAUW's *Quick Facts About the Equal Rights Amendment*: <https://www.aauw.org/files/2014/08/ERA.pdf>.

submitted by **Trish Wallace** for GRAAUW group (Trish, Jane Newell, Maggie King, and Dulce Lawrence) meeting with a recently formed ERA coalition in VA.

FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 4 - Ground breaking for Women'S Monument at Capitol

Dec. 6 - LWV Pre Session of General Assembly Conference

Dec. 9 - Women's Equality Coalition Summit -- registration deadline Dec. 5th

Dec. 13 - Great Expectations Holiday Potluck 1:00 - 4:00
JS Reynolds Community College Parham Campus

Dec. 18 - Lunch Bunch.at The Jefferson Pat Geerdes hostess

Dec. 21 - Book Group Holiday gathering contact DeAnn Lineberry

Jan. 11 - Lunch Bunch - location TBA hostess Carol Stephens

Jan. 18 - Book Group - *The Alchemist*

Jan. 20 - GRAAUW Program meeting at Tuckahoe Library 10:30 a.m.
Gerry Rigged documentary and Legislative update

Jan. 22 - Start Smart Training 4:00 pm at University of Richmond Law School

Jan. 24 - LWV Capitol briefings start, every Wed. for 6 weeks 8:30 a.m
GRAAUW Bridge Group meets

Jan. 26 - Sip N Dip wine tasting meets at Jane Newell's home 7:00 pm

Feb. 6 - AAUW - VA Lobby Day at Capitol

Feb. 10 - Yoga at John Rolfe YMCA, 2244 John Rolfe Pkwy, Henrico, VA 23233

Yoga Class with whom? _____

Feb. 24 - SE District Meeting - TBA

April 20-22 - AAUW of Virginia State Conference, Portsmouth

May 9 - Annual Spring Banquet