



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



AAUW VA holds reception for record number of females elected to General Assembly

Invitations were sent to all 38 female representatives -- 28 delegates and 10 senators -- to a breakfast open house reception on January 8 just before the Session opened. We were pleased to see the new delegates and aides having a chance to meet before the Session began and to be able to present the AAUW legislative priorities to them. A number of state board members, including our State Co Presidents Sandy Lawrence and Patsy Quick, drove many miles to attend, as did Kate Neilson, the AAUW State Policy Manager, from our national headquarters in DC. Several of our GRAAUW members were also able to attend. Connie Sorrell donated two beautiful flower arrangements to create a festive atmosphere. To our surprise, Del. Cheryl Turpin from Virginia Beach area told us her mother had been a long time AAUW member and she had recruited a number of members in the schools she taught in. Del Debra Rodman is interested in joining AAUW, and maybe even GRAAUW, as she is a professor at Randolph Macon. A huge thanks goes out to Del. Betsy Carr for securing a wonderful location for the event, the Commonwealth Strategy Group, right across the street from St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Be sure to look at the pictures of the event posted on our website and Facebook page!

ERA makes headway in VA!

Many of you were able to attend the showing of Equal Means Equal documentary at the Byrd Theater on Jan. 16.! Momentum is building! View the billboard on I 95, wear your ERA buttons proudly. There are even lawn signs for purchase. To learn more visit <https://www.facebook.com/VAratifyERA/>

GRAAUW Artists Submit Entries!

Jane Newell and Flo Tromater have submitted entries to the annual AAUW Art Contest. See article later in newsletter and be sure to go online to vote for their entries!

AAUW Lobby Day Feb. 7th

Be sure to sign up by Jan. 25 with Carol Stephens. She must turn in names to AAUW VA Public Policy Chair by then! Cost of buffet lunch at Hotel Berkeley will be \$20 and reservation must be made by Jan. 25 as well.

GENTLE YOGA CLASS - FEB. 10TH GRAAUW PROGRAM 11:00 - 12:15 JOHN ROLFE YMCA

11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Business meeting begins promptly at 11 a.m., with Gentle Yoga class following from 11:30 am to 12:15 pm. This class is a beginning level chair yoga class. Wear comfortable clothes.

Class fee - \$1 per member. Limit 25 in class so RSVP to Georgiana Ball at balloeg@gmail.com

John Rolfe YMCA, 2244 John Rolfe Pkwy, Henrico, VA 23233

Public Policy Report

It is our busy time at Capital Square! We had a nice reception for female legislators on January 8. The National Public Policy Chair and our state co-presidents attended.

The General Assembly's 60-day session began on January 10. We are now very busy attending the League of Women Voters Roundtable every Wednesday and then contacting various legislative members and/or their staff. Call Kathy Kelley or Carol Stephens if you have any questions. Of particular attention this year are ERA ratification, equal pay and redistricting.

TransparencyVirginia met Jan. 16 to discuss the House adopting Rule 18c that requires recorded votes on all measures. Many in both parties are claiming some credit for this change, proud that they had something to do with it. Lesin Dippold attended, as we have supported this group in the past.

Equal pay, reproductive rights, healthcare access and paid family leave are just some of the policies that will be debated this year. Progress Virginia – the Women's Equity Coalition – is sponsoring *Women's Lobby Day* on January 22, featuring a rally, meetings with representatives, and a chance to tour the Governor's Mansion. Kathy Kelley, Dulce Lawrence and Barb Strohman plan to attend.

Then **February 7 is AAUW State Lobby Day.** AAUW members will be coming from across the state and there will be a lunch afterward at the Berkeley Hotel. Some of our members will be hosting out of town attendees.

Please be sure to sign up for AAUW 2 minute activist. Instructions are on the AAUW web site.

AAUW Funds Report

The most important aspect of fund raising is deciding what will be done with the proceeds. Thanks to the increasingly popular Wine Tasting event, GRAAUW is now taking applications for two local scholarships of \$1,000.00 each. The application form is on our Website. Please share it with your contacts. Scholarship Committee members are notifying the financial aid offices of local community colleges and universities to be sure students are aware of this opportunity. Applications must be submitted by March 30.

Another \$2,400.00 will go to the AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund (#4336). This umbrella fund supports: grants and fellowships for scholars, researchers and professionals both in the U.S. and abroad, the weeklong Tech Trek camps for rising eighth-grade girls, the Fellows Alumnae Network, and the Undergraduate Scholarship Clearinghouse. This is where we see that small amounts from across the nation do have long term benefits to empower women and girls around the world.

Looking ahead, GRAAUW is filling a basket with items that will be coveted by "Strong Women." Our basket of goodies will be raffled at the State AAUW Conference in Portsmouth this April. Proceeds will support the Legal Advocacy Fund in confronting discrimination, harassment and retribution against women. We need items that provide reinforcement, courage, support, comfort, patience and joy...as we all need to be "Strong Women" Contact Louise Brierre about your contribution by March 9. Or bring it to a meeting.

President's Letter

What a cold ushering in of the New Year, 2018! We hope we have a much warmer reception to our legislative issues in the General Assembly this year! I want to thank all of you who contacted your State Senators Dunnavant and Sturtevant on SB 202 and SB 419. Within two hours I received notice from nine of you that you had contacted them; four for Senator Dunnavant and five for Senator Sturtevant! We are consistently told by legislators that if they hear from at least three folks on one issue, that makes them pay attention. I hope you will all continue to respond as we send out messages for contacting your legislators. We can make a difference!

This is going to be a very busy Spring with lots of ways for you to be involved! You will see many of those opportunities throughout the newsletter. I want to encourage you to attend the State Convention in Portsmouth April 20-22. We can car pool together and share rooms to share expenses. Please let me know if you plan to attend so we can coordinate our efforts!

I am very happy to announce that just in the month of January so far, we have had four new members! Welcome to Heather Jennings, Rebecca Lawson, Liz Holland, and Adah Parashar! Please be sure to welcome them when you see them! AAUW VA has also had an increase in membership statewide even with the closing of the Norton-Wise branch! Women have become energized to protect the rights that we have fought so hard to gain and to push forward! And I'll bet we are the only branch in the state that can boast about having three male members! Go GRAAUW!

This is a very important several months for our branch, as we fill the **positions of leadership that are changing hands!** I hope that you will seriously consider stepping forward to offer your skills and talents! In addition to filling the following elected offices (none of the present officers

will be continuing) of President, Vice President for Programs, and secretary (all two-year terms), plus Vice President for Membership (one-year term), Lesin Dippold is making plans to move away from the area, so we will need folks to step up to serve as Co-Chairs of the Wine Tasting Fund Raiser as well as Chair of the Scholarship Committee. DeAnn is pinch-hitting for us for the newsletter in Tracie Mooneyham's absence, but we are looking for someone to take over the newsletter or at least work with her on this important task. We are very grateful that Connie Sorrell has agreed to join the STEAM planning group to relieve Lesin of those duties. I am in need of someone to take my place on the STEAM committee to coordinate the student communications and registrations, as I am hoping to be elected as Co-President of AAUW VA with Leslie Tourigny at the State Convention and must scale back my GRAAUW involvement. In addition, we need a Publicity Chair and will need a Public Policy Chair, as Kathy Kelley has reluctantly been serving in that position again this year in the absence of any volunteers. Members of the Nominating Committee will be seeking folks for the elected positions, but all chairperson positions are appointed. Please let me know if you are willing to serve in any of those positions! If we call you, we hope you will seriously consider saying yes! We have a lot of talented individuals in our branch, please step forward!

Our January program meeting on Saturday, January 20 was well attended and very informative! Thank you to Georgiana and Anne Sterling as well as Kathy Kelley, Jane Newell, and Trish Wallace. Thank you to Connie, Laura, and Katie for the refreshments! Next month's program will be at the John Rolfe YMCA and will be a unique experience for us! See you Saturday, February 10!!



It is never too soon to begin planning to attend the 2018
AAAUW of Virginia Conference!

Changing Climate for Women and Girls

April 20-22, 2018

Portsmouth Renaissance Hotel

Hotel Reservations 855-214-4563

Group Rate \$129 \$5 per night parking 100% Waterview rooms

Indoor pool, whirlpool, sundeck and complimentary exercise facilities

Watch for more information and conference registration form in the *VISION*.

Nominations Committee

Georgiana Ball, Chair, DeAnn Lineberry, and Marian Seigla have been selected to serve as our Nominations Committee for 2018. Nominations must be reported to the membership by March 3rd and we will vote on our candidates at our Annual Business Meeting Sat. March 10th at St. Mathias Episcopal Church at 10:30 in the morning.

The following elected positions must be filled: President, VP of Program, and Secretary. The VP of Membership has a one year term remaining to be filled, since Tracie Mooneyham, had to resign due to career changes. **The other positions that need volunteers** are Newsletter Editor, Public Policy Chair, Wine Tasting Fund Raiser Chair, Scholarship Chair, and STEAM conference planning team needs new members. All those who are willing to serve in any of these capacities should contact one of the members of the Nominations Committee, or if you have suggestions about who would be a good person to ask to serve, please contact a member of the committee. **We look forward to your involvement. We are only as good as our leadership! GRAAUW NEEDS YOU!**

Membership News!

GRAAUW is now 59 members strong! Not only have we increased by 11 members, we really gained 18 members as we lost 7 members this last year, two to death, two to moves out of state, and 3 non-renewals. Hortense Liberti - Mitchell and Connie Sorrell are leading in the recruitment of new members with 2 each: Jackie Johnston and Adah Parashar and Diane Reale and Dulce Lawrence respectively. We have 3 new male members, Ed Mazur, Ibrahim Kurtulus, and Peter Conrad. Gina Turner brought us Joslyn Shipman. Vijay Reddy brought us Star Marie Anderson. Trish Wallace, Liz Holland, Heather Jennings, Christine Macri, Becki Lawson, Diane Agricola, Jennifer Moore, Karen Rosenblum, and Kristen Johnson, have actually come from finding us on the internet! Thank you all, but especially Suzanne Conrad, our webmaster, for making our website reflect all of the wonderful energy that makes up GRAAUW! Kathy Kelley deserves Kudos for keeping our Facebook Page current, relevant, and fun! Now until March 15th, dues are half price! Anyone joining after March 15th will be able to join for all of 2018 and the first 6 months of 2019.

Lunch Bunch

GRAAUW's Lunch Bunch began a few years ago as a way for members to meet for informal socializing and occasional brief educational presentations related to the restaurant where we're meeting or some particular issue related to our AAUW mission of education for women and girls. For information about the group, phone DeAnn Lineberry at 233-5352 or email deann.lineberry@yahoo.com.

Lunch Bunch gathers on the second Thursday each month at 1:30 p.m. in restaurants around town.

On **February 8**, we'll meet at **Brio Tuscan Grille** in the **Stony Point Fashion Park**, off Chippenham Parkway just South of the James. Join us if you can for interesting Italian food and good fellowship.

On **March 8**, we'll do lunch at the **Tavern at Triangle Park**, Patterson Avenue at Three Chopt Road in the West End. Pleasant atmosphere with nice choices of sandwiches and salads.

Book Groups

Continuing a nearly 40-year tradition, our Book Group 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 read the same books, enabling members to attend whichever time is more convenient month-to-month. *All GRAAUW members and their guests are welcome.* Join us any time our book interests you OR come every month. For more information, please contact DeAnn Lineberry:

deann.lineberry@yahoo.com
804-233-5352.

February & March Reading:

February 15 – Black History Month

Evening Group will meet at Carol Stephens' home (NOTE: not handicapped accessible)

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

BOOK: *Tomlinson Hill: The Remarkable Story of Two Families Who Share the Tomlinson Name - One White, One Black*, by Chris Tomlinson

March 15 – Women's History Month

Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World, by Linda Hirshman. This book has been recommended by AAUW's Adelante Book Club)

https://www.amazon.com/Sisters-Law-OConnor-Ginsburg-Supreme/dp/0062238469/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr

FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Feb. 1 - GRAAUW Board mtg. 7:00 pm

Feb. 6 - AAUW - VA Lobby Day at Capitol - all day

Feb. 8 - Lunch Bunch - Brio Tuscan Grille 1:30

Feb. 10 - GRAAUW Program - Gentle Yoga 11:00 a.m.

Feb. 15 - Book Groups day and evening

Feb. 22 - Cocktails and Convos - Travinia's at Willow Lawn 6:00 pm

Feb. 24 - SE District Meeting - TBA

Mar. 8 - Lunch Bunch - Tavern at Triangle Park 1:30 pm

Mar. 10 - Annual Business Mtg. 10:30 am St. Mathias Episcopal Church

Mar. 15 - Book Groups Day and Evening

Mar. 21 - Cocktails and Convos

April 10 - GRAAUW Program - 7:30 pm St. Mathias Episcopal Church

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

May 9 - Annual Spring Banquet - 6:00 pm Meadowbrook Country Club

A Note from Kathy Kelley

Your kindness after the death of Steven meant more than you know. Although his journey was long, it was still unexpected and the food, hugs, notes, donations and visits really helped me get through this hard time. Thanks also for your patience during Book Group, Gourmet and meetings when I had to bring him. I am sure he enjoyed them and you as much as I did. You are such a special group.

-- Kathy Kelley, kathy7288@gmail.com