



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

President's Remarks

I feel like I have been in a cave for the last 2 months! I am sorry that I have not been in better touch with you and unable to attend our Annual Meeting. This has been an unusual winter for me and I am very ready for Spring! I missed the Yoga event at the YMCA and book group and lunch bunch. I feel very "out of touch" with you! However, our wonderful GRAAUW board has continued to keep things perking right along. Thank you, Lesin and the Scholarship Committee, for getting our scholarship application posted online and contacting the various colleges. I understand that we have some very good candidates to choose from. Our winners will be announced at our Spring Banquet! Thank you, Georgiana and the Nominations Committee for all of your very thorough and hard work in finding a wonderful slate of candidates for office for 2018-2020. Thank you, Laura, Lesin, and Connie for organizing for our STEAM conference and getting the call for presenters sent out. Thank you, Georgiana, for your excellent preparation of our Annual Meeting and stepping in last minute to cover for me! We also had an excellent turnout for AAUW -VA Lobby Day from Richmond. Thank you to Kathy and Laura for hosting a wonderful dinner for our out of town guests. I missed that too! Thank you to so many of you, but especially Kathy, Jane, Trish, and Dulce for representing us so well in our ERA efforts at the Capitol. The opposition might be winning the battles, but we will win the war!

Well, now I am back and "ready to rumble"! I did attend the March for Life in Richmond on Saturday and it was heart warming to see so many young people engaged in "this is what democracy looks like"! I predict many of these young ladies will be members of AAUW

in the future. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the AAUW VA Spring Conference in Portsmouth, VA. If you have not registered yet, make sure you do so! The link to register is at the end of the newsletter. Also, make sure that you bring your checkbook to the April meeting to purchase your tickets to the May banquet. We are very honored to have one of the several freshman delegates to the VA House, Delegate Debra Rodman, speak to us about her experiences this year as our banquet speaker! You won't want to miss "getting the skinny on the inside"!

See you April 10th at our next program meeting! Details later in this newsletter.
Carol Stephens, GRAAUW President

GRAAUW has the most new members and the highest percentage of new members of all 26 branches in VA!

Yes, that is correct! We received notice from the AAUW VA Membership VP that we beat all the other branches. Not that there was a contest, but we are awarded some money and a certificate, so I hope you will be there to show our strength! You are a wonderful group and have made all feel welcome and the many activities and involvement that we support and the vitality of our website has contributed to our success! Thank you!

SPRING BANQUET - MAY 9TH 6:00 PM DEL. DEBRA RODMAN TO SPEAK - TICKETS \$35 - RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY MAY 1ST! Tickets may be purchased through Eventbrite.

New Officers for 2018-2019!

At our Annual Meeting March 10 we elected our new Co Presidents, Dulce Lawrence and Jackie Johnston, as well as our new Vice President for Programs, Deneise Melenbrink. A huge thank you for being willing to serve! I know you will bring fresh new ideas and energy to us! Our officers will be installed at our May Banquet. Be sure to come!

Upcoming Branch Programs

April Branch meeting –

Tuesday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.

Topic: “Art for Everyone: Engaging the Community in the Creative Process” speaker Stefanie Fedor, Executive Director of the Visual Arts Center.

Place: St. Matthias Episcopal Church
11300 West Huguenot Rd, Midlothian

Annual Branch Banquet

Wednesday, May 9, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Speaker: Virginia General Assembly Delegate Dr. Debra Rodman

Tickets: \$32 – available through members or online through Eventbrite or GRAAUW website. *Tickets should be purchased by Tuesday, May 1.*

Place: Meadowbrook Country Club
3700 Cogbill Road, Chesterfield

Public Policy Report

by Kathy Kelley

Several GRAAUW members were very busy going to the General Assembly during the 2018 Legislative session. It was interesting to listen to the legislators and other committee members' opinions at the League of Women Voters Round-

table every Wednesday during the session.

The State Public Policy Chair Leslie Tourigney and the State Co-Presidents held an informative AAUW Lobby Day in February. Some members visited their legislators and gave them AAUW information. We then walked in the drizzling rain to meet with Lt. Governor Justin Fairfax who enthusiastically listened to our public policy issues. Then we visited Governor Ralph Northam. Since this is our fifth visit with him, he was very familiar with our issues so he gave us some encouraging news, especially concerning education. Our day ended with a joint lunch with members of the League of Women Voters.

February 9 was a sad day at the House Privileges and Elections Committee and the Senate Rules Committee. Although both rooms were packed with Virginians wanting the Equal Rights Amendment to be put up for a vote, it was not heard in either house. Chairmen of both committees refused to bring up several bills to move Virginia along the way to becoming one of the last two states needed to ratify this important amendment, standing in the way of equal rights under the law for all Virginia women. Both houses stated that the time had passed for us to pass the ERA according to the US National Archives; however, this objection is not actually based on fact.

A radio show moderated by our own Patricia Wallace February 14 discussed the ERA's fate at the General Assembly. Pat Fishback, Eileen Davis, and Katie Hornung discussed the events with her.

Equal Pay Day 2018 will be observed on **April 10**– the date indicating how far into this year a woman must work to earn as much as a man earned in 2017.



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

Changing the 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% Water view rooms

Indoor pool, whirlpool, sundeck, and complimentary exercise facilities

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

Your AAUW \$ Funds at Work

by Louise Brierre

GRAAUW will announce the recipients of our two \$1,000 scholarships to women continuing in STEAM related degree tracks at the Spring Banquet. We will see and hear first-hand from a Virginia recipient of AAUW's Legal Assistance Fund (LAF) at the State Conference in Portsmouth.

You/we can be proud of our accomplishments, but it seems rather like a gerbil wheel to me. Among all the static and mis-information one hears about the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) I think the most pernicious is "We don't need it. Virginia already has an "ERA" in its constitution and there are more than enough protections for women existing in the various Federal Civil Rights Acts and other Federal Laws and Regulations." It is far more factual to say that "We wouldn't need AAUW if we had the ERA."

GRAAUW is collecting and compiling the greatest bunch of stuff that any *STRONG WOMAN* could want into our basket for the LAF Basket Fundraiser Raffle at the Spring Conference in Portsmouth. *We need to raise a LOT of money to fight for the rights of all of us.*

So far, we have tee shirts, a ball cap, two very appropriate books, and a few gizmos. In addition, we could use contributions of good wine, good chocolates, Starbucks gift cards, an automatic foot massager, a book for journaling, and whatever else you believe a strong woman could use. *Contributions are needed by April 12* to Louise Brierre. Call at 804-291-9134 for questions or pick-up. Items may also be donated at April 10 Branch meeting. Basket raffle is always a fun feature of AAUW State Conferences. Baskets from all state branches offer amazing collections of items. **Note: Basket Raffle Tickets are: \$2 for 1 ticket, \$10 for 6 tickets or \$20 for 14.**

AAUW National Dues Increase

As you are probably aware, the AAUW Board of Directors voted in June 2017 to raise national dues for the first time in a decade. *Effective March 16, 2018, national dues will now be \$59.*

As Julia Brown, AAUW Board Chair, said recently on a video emailed to all members, by not having an increase in 10 years, our dues have not even kept up with inflation. **The website explains:** *“Annual dues currently account for 13 percent of AAUW’s annual budget. They help to sustain and grow AAUW’s programs and work that advances equity for women and girls. A combination of dues, donations, and corporate and foundation funding is critical to support...AAUW’s salary negotiation workshops, groundbreaking research, advocacy efforts, campus leadership programs, and so much more.”*

AAUW wants to keep its focus, maintain relevance, and increase its impact. We all know there is great value in doing so. Julia Brown emphasizes that if we want to realize the impact that women and girls deserve, we must ensure we have the resources necessary to make real change happen. As AAUW members we want to participate in realizing the impact that women and girls deserve through our actions...AND by putting our money where our mouth is by proudly renewing your AAUW membership this spring. We must ensure that AAUW has what it needs to change the climate for women and girls.

What else is new?

- Half-year dues from January – March is being eliminated.
- *Paid Life Membership* remains at \$980 until March 16, when it goes to

\$1,180. If a Paid Life Membership makes sense for you, please get it done now before the increase! Also, Paid Life Membership is fully tax deductible.

- Going forward it is useful to know that new members who join at a branch program that is open to the public will receive 50 percent off the national dues. And for every two members gained this way, branches will receive a free membership to give to a person of their choice.
- *Give a Grad a Gift* (at no cost to you or them!) is still available within two years of a student’s graduation. Just fill out the form! <https://www.aauw.org/?s=Give+a+grad>

Women and girls need AAUW more than ever! AAUW needs you more than ever! Stand up and be counted in something bigger than yourself! Renew your AAUW membership early!

More Public Policy News

Trish Wallace, a new GRAAUW member, has been actively working with Jane Newell, Maggie King, and Dulce Lawrence on getting the ERA passed, along with a coalition of other women’s organizations. Trish has been asked to speak on a panel to explore and discuss the historic and contemporary value, conflict, and work of feminism, inter-sectional, and the Equal Rights Amendment as both theory and movement locally and nationally. This panel is part of the VSU Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice’s Sixth Annual Conference on Social Injustice.

Trish was also the ghost writer of a few editorials on the General Assembly’s failure to pass the ERA printed recently in the *Richmond Times Dispatch*.

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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 April 12 we'll gather at a very appropriately named place ... **Lunch** in Scott's Addition, a trendy intimate little space in a trendy part of RVA !! Join us if you can for interesting Italian food and good fellowship.

Lunch Bunch will not meet in May since we'll have Branch banquet.

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.

April and May Reading:

Thursday, April 19

Evening Group will meet at Cathy Learnard's Ginter Place condo, 1350 Westwood Avenue

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

BOOK: *The Good Lord Bird*, by James McBride, 2013 National Book Award winner

Thursday, May 17

Evening Group will meet at Carol Stephens' 2nd floor condo, 4050 Forest Hill Avenue

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

BOOK: *The Children Act*, by Ian McEwan

Cocktails & Convo's Social Events

These monthly social/networking gatherings are held in the early evening, allowing members and guests to gather for just cocktails or to linger longer for dinner in restaurants around RVA. For information, contact Georgiana Ball, balloeg@gmail.com or phone 232-7549

Wednesday, April 25 – 6:30 to 8:30 at Southern Railway Taphouse, 100 S 14th St. -- downtown near Canal and 14th St.

Wednesday, May 23– 6:30 to 8:30 at Travinia Italian Kitchen, in Willow Lawn complex at 1601 Willow Lawn Drive.

Membership News

By Carol Stephens

I am so very proud of all our members for making our branch be the best in the state for increase in membership! Thank you, all!

You might be saying, but I did not do anything to bring in a new member. But I would answer that if you helped this year in any way on any of our projects, served on the board, attended meetings in the community representing AAUW, contributed articles to the newsletter, participated on our Facebook page, or made sure the website was up to date with the latest information, invited a guest to the Wine Tasting Fund Raiser, or just welcomed a new guest or member at one of our meetings or events, then you helped. Membership is everyone's business!

Doing AAUW business out in our community brings in members. It allows folks to see what our mission is and how we go about promoting it. Congratulations on a job well done! Be sure to check out the article from our Treasurer on how to go about renewing your membership for 2018-2019. Our fiscal and membership year runs from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. We encour-

age you to renew by July 1, but you will continue to receive communication from us into the fall. All dues should be received by October.

Take a minute to read through our updated Membership Directory. You just might find someone from your alma mater or someone who has your same birthday! I would like to extend a warm welcome to our most recent members, Randi Edwards and Adah Parashar.

Another huge benefit of bringing in new members is the contribution of a surge of energy, fresh ideas, and willing hands to share the work. This cannot be more true than this year! Our newly elected Co Presidents are new members who just joined this year! Another new member, Karen Johnson, has volunteered to serve as Co Vice President of Membership. Once appointed by the Board at its April meeting, she will also be installed at the May banquet.

Named AAUW Honorees!

We are proud to name Georgiana Ball, Suzanne Conrad, Tracie Mooneyham, Marian Seigla, Carol Stephens, and Laura Wimmer as our named honorees for the money contributed to AAUW Funds by our branch and its members.

This is the first time that we have been allowed six honorees! In the past we have qualified for only three or four honorees. The increase is due to the increase in the amount of money contributed by us. Thank you, all!

STEAM ON CONFERENCE POSTPONED!

Due to low number of responses to our Call for Presenters we are postponing. Stay tuned for new date. We are surveying our past presenters to learn more about what works best for them. Hoping to do something in the fall!

Membership Renewal Time

It's that time of year again! Time to recommit to AAUW's mission and the Greater Richmond branch's action.

Renewing your membership involves paying your fiscal year 2018-2019 dues. For just one payment of \$95, you are renewing membership in the Greater Richmond Branch, AAUW National, and AAUW of Virginia. The National dues increased this year by \$10 for the first increase since 2008. Dues are:

AAUW National	\$59
AAUW of Virginia	\$15
GRAAUW	\$21
Total	\$95

You can deduct \$56 of the National portion from your taxes as a charitable contribution. Paid Life members pay only the state and branch portion for a total of \$36. Honorary Life (50-year) members pay nothing!

How to pay?

1. You can pay online in the AAUW Member Services Database (MSD) using a credit card.
2. You can click the link in the email sent to you to pay online.
3. You can send a check to GRAAUW Finance Officer Jane Newell at 509 S. Cherry Street, Richmond, Virginia 23220.
4. You can bring a check to a meeting and save the stamp.

We will hold a drawing at the May Banquet of those who have already renewed. The winner will get the GRAAUW portion of the dues refunded.

*Because of you, AAUW stands
170,000 strong!*



Bylaws Amendment Vote

The AAUW Board of Directors has put three proposals for bylaws amendments before the membership to be voted on this spring. Members will receive their voter PINs via email in April and with the spring *AAUW Outlook* magazine, which will be mailed to members without registered email addresses and to those that have requested to receive *Outlook* in the mail. The comment period closes March 22 at 11:59 p.m. ET, and voting opens April 25th.

AAUW VA VOTER GUIDE

Online voting for AAUW of Virginia's One Member /One Vote initiative will **begin April 23**. We hope that all of you will be casting your online vote by the **deadline of May 14**. It is very important that members participate as we need a quorum of seven (7) percent of the membership for the election. Without seven (7) percent of the membership voting, the new state officers cannot take office. Please take the time to vote as a responsible AAUW of Virginia member.

It is especially important that GRAAUW votes, because our own President, Carol Stephens is running for Co President of AAUW VA. We need to make sure the 7% happens! Can we get 25 of us to vote?

Save the Date! AAUW VA is planning its Summer Leadership Meeting on July 27-28 in Harrisonburg, VA at the new Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center. It is still in the construction phase!

We will be utilizing some of the resources at JMU as well. It is a wonderful opportunity for our emerging leaders.

Calendar of Events

- April 5** - 7:00 pm - GRAAUW BD. MTG.
- April 10 - EQUAL PAY DAY** for white females
- April 10** - 7:30 pm - **GRAAUW Program** - St. Mathias Episcopal Church
- April 12** - 1:30 pm - Lunch Bunch
- April 19** - 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm - Book Group - *The Good Lord Bird*
- April 20-22 - STATE CONFERENCE** - Portsmouth, VA at Renaissance Hotel
- April 23** - voting opens for AAUW VA
- April 24** - voting begins for AAUW bylaw changes
- April 25** - Cocktails and Convos - 6:30 - 8:30 - Southern Railway Taphouse
- April 27** - 7:00 pm Sip N Dip - Carol's condo
- May 3** - 7:00 pm GRAAUW BD MTG
- May 9 - 6:00 - 8:30 pm - ANNUAL SPRING BANQUET** - Meadowbrook Country Club
- May 14 - LAST DAY to VOTE AAUW VA**
- May 17** - 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm - Book Group - *The Children Act*
- May 18-** 7:00 pm - Sip N Dip at Louise Brierre's condo
- May 23** - 6:30-8:30 - Cocktails & Convos at Travinia Italian Kitchen

EQUAL PAY DAY PLANS

Plans are being made for Equal Pay Day observations.

We will be airing a spot on WRIR radio 97.3 on April 10th. Stay tuned for exact time.

We are in communication with Mayor Stoney's Senior Policy Advisor in hopes of having an opportunity to discuss implementing Work Smart with Richmond City female employees. Stay tuned for more on that!

AAUW Members,
There are 7 tables available for vendors to sell items during the conference.

Branches that would like a table shall pay NO FEE. (Money earned goes to the branch.) An individual branch member who has something to sell shall pay \$20 for this opportunity.

Non-members shall pay \$35. **The tables will be manned during break times, not during sessions or speakers.**

Contact Marilyn Riddle mriddle@cox.net to reserve a table. Email a brief description of what you plan to sell.

Mail your check (made to AAUW-VA) by April 16, to

Marilyn Riddle
2505 Goodrich Durfey,
Williamsburg, VA
23185-8031