

President's Letter: AAUW and Miss Representation, Fighting the Same Fights

I and other branch members recently watched "Miss Representation", a film that shows how mainstream media contribute to the under-representation of women in positions of power and influence in America. As the film showed the many ways media presents disparaging portrayals of women and girls, I constantly said to myself, 'AAUW is working that issue'. When the film states that "35 women have served as US governors compared to 2,319 men", I think of AAUW's Elect Her program and the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). When it talks about the media's collective message that a

woman's value and power lie in her youth, beauty, and sexuality, I think of our tremendous Success Conference and the strong, diverse, determined members in our branch, state and nation that say and show it's OK for females to be smart, confident, and in charge. When it states that 1 in 6 women are survivors of rape or attempted rape, I think of the AAUW effort to pass the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2011 and support of the sexual assault cases against DoD.

There are many wrongs being done to women and

girls. But I am proud of the work you and the 170,000 AAUW members and supporters are doing every day to fight and correct these wrongs.

Thanks to **Ali Cohen** for opening her house so we could watch the film and **Karen Wolf** for finding such a powerful documentary. I highly recommend you watch it.

Sandy Lawrence, President
slawrence4@juno.com
703-569-1588

Nominating Committee

Members are needed for the Nominating Committee. The committee consists of three members, two will be elected at the February branch meeting and one elected by the board of directors at their February meeting. The offices up for election are Secretary, Vice President for Programs and Vice President for Finance. Remember these can be co-positions. Please consider volunteering for the committee (Or volunteering to run for an office).

Membership

Yes! Spring is right around the corner! With that being said, I am really looking forward to our annual Spring Membership Luncheon at Madigan's on February 15th. In keeping with the theme "Keys to the Future: A Member-Get-a-Member Campaign", please consider bringing a friend, family, or colleague to this special luncheon.

The Prince William County Regional Science Fair will be coming up next month on March 15 followed by the Girls + Math + Science = Success Conference on March 22. These are always well-attended events and need our support.

We hope to see you at the AAUW of Virginia Conference at Smith Mountain Lake from April 4-6. This is a great opportunity to meet with old friends, find new ones, share ideas, and just have

a good time at Smith Mountain Lake. The theme will be "Charting Our Future-Full Speed Ahead!" Each branch that sends members to the conference will receive \$50 to help defray registration/gas costs. We will also be presenting a Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation for Susan Fairey.

Look for the "Member in the Spotlight" to return in 2014. It could be you!

If you know of any family, friends, or co-workers who need information about AAUW, please forward their names to me and I will get information to them as soon as possible.

Carol Campbell
Vice President, Membership

Volunteer Opportunities



Volunteers are still needed to host "Dinner Out". It can be a lunch, dinner, or brunch. It is wonderful for branch members to get together for great food and fun.

February Program

Our February luncheon will be Saturday, February 15, at noon. It will be held at our usual place, Madigan's, at 201 Mill St, Occoquan. Please reserve your seat with Jeanne by February 9. The email address is jfelmore2@verizon.net and phone number is 703-490-5526. Hope the weather cooperates so we can have a great turnout!

Jeanne Elmore
Co-VP Programs



January Review

On January 25 members gathered at Ali Cohen's home to view *Miss Representation*, the 2011 documentary about mainstream media's limited and often disparaging portrayal of women. Condoleezza Rice, Nancy Pelosi, Katie Couric, Gloria Steinem and many other well-known women plus unknown outspoken teenage girls share personal stories and historical perspectives. Example after example supports the movie's premise that young women and men are presented with flawed images of the value of women therefore the struggle to attain equality and leadership is compromised. All members who viewed the movie found it excellent. The PWC library system owns several DVD copies of the movie so members who missed the meeting can see the film at home. It is especially valuable for the younger generations to see. Thank you Ali for sharing your home!

Quote of the Month

"The question isn't who is going to let me; it's who is going to stop me."

– **Ayn Rand**

AAUW Funds

Many thanks to everyone for the very successful Holiday fundraiser. Please start thinking about baskets for our silent auction at the May Salad Luncheon. If you would like to donate a craft item that you created or a service, that would be terrific.



Barbara Blindauer
Fundraising Chair

Member Spotlight



Congratulations to Sandy Lawrence who will be recognized at the State Convention. She will be welcomed into the Legacy Circle. Sandy has demonstrated her commitment to AAUW not only with her time and energy but with a planned gift.

Barbara Blindauer

What are you looking forward to in 2014?

I am looking forward to meeting my new granddaughter in April and a healthy and happy 2014.

-Barbara Blindauer



Out and About in Woodbridge

2014 Water Art Invitational-

The Water Art Invitational (WAI) is an annual art contest hosted by the Service Authority that is open to all high school students enrolled in public or private schools located in Prince William County. The WAI challenges students to articulate themes related to safe, reliable drinking water as an indispensable and convenient resource that millions of people rely on every day through the artistic mediums of painting/drawing, photography, and computer graphics.

WAI is: **Thursday, February 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**

Service Authority Main Lobby

Raymond Spittle Building

4 County Complex Court

Woodbridge, VA 22192.

Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an in-person classroom visit from a Service Authority representative, please contact Marlo Watson, Community Relations Coordinator, at mwatson@pwcsa.org or (703) 335-8944.

Third Annual Wine & Food Pairing,

presented by the Prince William Library Foundation

On Saturday, February 22, 2014 at Madigan's Waterfront, Kevin Bevins, certified sommelier will guide guests through the food and wine selection.

Schedule of event:

6:30-7:30: Cash bar, passed appetizers and wine tasting.

7:30-9:30 pm: 3- course dinner and presentation.

\$75 per person or \$525 for table of eight

Please RSVP by February 15 as seating is limited.

Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.pwcgov.org/libraryFoundationEvent> or mail check to:

Prince William Library Foundation
13083 Chinn Park Dr., Woodbridge, VA
22192

For more information contact Bryanna Altmann @ 571-283-1983 or LibraryFoundation@pwcgov.org

AAUW of Virginia 2014 Voting and Elections Announcement: Paper Ballots vs. Online Voting

It is already time to begin thinking about AAUW of Virginia's annual one-member-one-vote election, which will take place between April 29 and May 29. Because paper ballots raise the cost considerably, all members are encouraged to vote online. Last year 787 paper ballots were mailed to members at a cost of \$811.73, over 40% of the total cost. Only 98 of these ballots were cast. On the recommendation of the Voting and Elections committee, the Board voted for an opt-in rather than an opt-out process for receiving a paper ballot.

Branches can encourage online voting by bringing laptops or tablets to the May branch meeting to allow members to vote there.

Those who will need a paper ballot can request one between January 22 and April 6 by calling

Mary K Johnson at 703 913 9490, emailing her at johnsons7703@verizon.net, or writing to her at 7703 Griffin Pond Court, Springfield, VA 22153. She will need each member's AAUW ID number, branch, and address.

All members who have joined by March 31, 2014, are eligible to vote. The quorum for the election is 7% of all members of AAUW of Virginia. For more details, see the winter/spring edition of the *Vision*.

AAUW of Virginia
Voting and Elections Committee
December 2013

Science Fair Judges Needed!

The Prince William Regional Science Fair is scheduled for Saturday morning, March 15th at the Kelly Educational Building off of Prince William Parkway. Each year, our Woodbridge Branch gets a team together to judge this event. As organizational judges, we seek out all of the projects entered by females in grades 7 and 8. Each team member chooses to judge categories in which they have expertise or interest from the eleven- including Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics, Microbiology, and more!

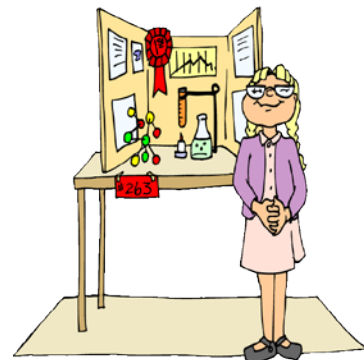
Each team member looks for the top 2-3 projects in their categories to present to the team, by interviewing the students present. The team narrows the group for consideration down to about 10-15 and we review and ask questions of the presenter.

Our awards are for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and honorable mention with special prizes selected for the students' Science and Math classes. The young ladies and their parents are invited to our May luncheon to share their projects.

This year our previous winners and SUCCESS Conference young presenters have been given an exciting opportunity to take part in AAUW's "Science State of the Union" program at the White House on January 29th! AAUW's STEM office "heard" of our programs and contacted us to submit 1-2 names of young ladies involved in our Science Fair judging and the SUCCESS Conference. We sent five (even that was hard to narrow down!) and ALL five were invited!

Contact Suzanne H or Susan B to be part of this year's Science Fair judging.

Harvey.suzannel@gmail.com or
SMB4STEAM@gmail.com



2014 Girls + Math + Science = SUCCESS! Conference

The 24th annual “Girls + Math + Science = SUCCESS!” Conference will be held on Saturday, March 22nd, at Marsteller Middle School in Bristow. The Woodbridge Branch has supported this conference since 1995. We usually schedule it during Women’s History Month after the Prince William Regional Science Fair.

The title is from a 1990 program on the West Coast and for us, has evolved from only non-traditional careers in Math and Science being presented to Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics (S.T.E.A.M.) careers, women’s history, gender neutral education, and workshops for adults, too.

Our major corporate sponsors are working with us again; SPARK- the Prince William County Education Foundation- is our co-presenter; and presenters are being invited as the newsletter goes to press. We have been awarded a \$100 VA AAUW impact aid grant toward materials for participants, too!

Almost every color in the t-shirt spectrum has been used so when I was visiting Susan F. I noticed that of her four star balloons- one was a new color: kelly green. Using Susan’s special yellow from 2009 for the lettering will work well.


We will have a display table for AAUW as usual with membership materials and all of our presenters will receive membership packets. Our recent scrapbooks will be displayed, too. Our expectation is to provide awareness of all of the excellent studies and programs AAUW has that support the goals of the conference.

Check out the conference’s website: www.successconference.net.

How can branch members support the conference?



- * Forward suggestions for sponsors- both financial and for items- to Susan B.
- * Forward suggestions for presenters with an e-mail/phone contact to Susan B.
- * Volunteer to present your STEAM career!
- * Mark your calendar for helping set-up Marsteller’s cafeteria with posters and refreshments on Friday night, March 21st - let Susan know ASAP so she can plan.
- * Mark your calendar for the day of the conference:
 - 7:30-9:30 am** for help with passing out packets and getting conference underway
 - 9:30- 11:30 am** to help refresh the refreshments and get the cafeteria ready for the evaluation collection and t-shirt distribution.
 - 11:30-1 pm** to collect, distribute, and gather up materials for 2015.



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AAUW of Virginia
Voting and Elections Committee
December 2013

Time for Lawmakers to Act

On December 15, 2023, an editorial concerning the gen-der pay gap was published in the Virginian-Pilot (Tidewater area newspaper) The editorial cited AAUW several times. Here is the link:

<http://news.vocus.com/ct?haid=ae29b627c6cd363013871717720427b5a94c0a73440e>

Caroline Pickens, AAUW of Virginia President (McLean Branch), responded to the editorial and her letter was published December 20. Here is what she said: "I applaud The Pilot for calling attention to the crucial issue of eliminating the pay gap for women. As the editorial rightly points out, equal pay is about more than fairness — it's an economic and quality-of-life issue."

A record number of women are in the workforce, and two-thirds of women are functioning as the primary or co-breadwinners for their families.

Woodbridge Homepage: <http://woodbridge-va.aauw.net/>

AAUW Homepage: <http://www.aauw.org>

VA AAUW Homepage <http://aauw-va.aauw.net>

