

*Important
Dates to
Remember:*

- May 8, Federal Lobby Day, Washington, D.C.
- May 17, Spring Luncheon
- May 29, Deadline to vote online

President's Letter: What a Year!

As we head into May and our final branch events, I look back on the year and just say "WOW". Here's what we done:

- We started off with a bang by teaming with PWC League of Women Voters to do a voter registration/education and branch membership drive at the Dale City July 4 Family Fun Day.
- Branch members are Lobby Corp members and regularly walk the halls of Congress advocating for issues important to women and girls. Members also participated in Federal Lobby day.
- We signed Equal Paycheck petitions and participated in State Lobby day, where we met with the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House of Delegates.
- Members attended the Lilly Ledbetter Reception and had an opportunity to meet and talk with this courageous, dynamic woman.
- One member told her story on pay discrimination and went to the White House to see the President sign two executive orders on Equal Pay Day.
- We had two members on this year's state board and have two members on the incoming board.
- We had great programs in a variety of venues and times.
- Our "Girls+Science+Math=Success" conference was recognized by AAUW as one of the longest running and was awarded one of ten AAUW VA Impact Grants. We hope to see our winners from the Science Fair at the Spring Luncheon.

Please join me in welcoming new members **Regina Groff, Katy Kelly, and Julie Kelly**. And also join me in thanking outgoing officers, **Barbara Ondo and Jeanne Elmore** for all their hard work. And thank you to **Karen Wolf, Susan B. and Carol Campbell** who have taken positions on the 2014-15 board.

Sandy Lawrence
President

Membership

Well it looks like Spring has finally arrived and I bet that everyone is happy! Hope all had a wonderful Easter.

Congratulations to Sara Anderson who was at the White House on April 8 to see President Obama sign two executive orders regarding Equal Pay as part of the AAUW contingent. As Sara's pay discrimination story was one in a series that AAUW presented last year, we THANK YOU for having the courage to share your story. Way to go!

Thanks to Jenny Mischel, Prince William County Director for "Bully Police Virginia", who spoke at our April Program. She discussed her organization, bullying today, and strategies and techniques for dealing with this issue. This is a very important subject in view of all the incidents that we are hearing through the media. Also, thanks to all members who attended. It was a good turnout!

Congratulations to Martha Langer and her family on the birth of her grandson, Charles Riis Edwards, son of her daughter, Julie. He was born April 19, and weighed 7 pounds 3 ounces. Martha reports that he is healthy and well-behaved for a baby. Could this be the reason Martha missed our April meeting?

Congratulations also to Barbara and Elizabeth Blindauer and their family on the birth of their first granddaughter/niece, Alexa Erin Crane, daughter of her daughter, Wendy. She was born on April 17, and weighed 8 pounds 3 ounces. Barbara says that she is

doing great and enjoyed her time in Texas with her. Will this be a future AAUW member?

Get-well wishes for a speedy recovery are sent out to Suzanne Harvey as she recuperates from foot surgery.

I am really looking forward to AAUW of VA Federal Lobby Day in Washington, DC on May 8. We have certainly made our mark in Richmond this year so it is time to move our advocacy to the U.S. Congress.

Our Spring Membership Salad Luncheon will be held on May 17. Guests are certainly welcomed so bring your favorite salad/dessert along with serving utensils. Invited are our Science Fair winners and their moms. We'll take a few moments to vote to accept our Board members. We'll also have our silent auction/raffle. It should be a lovely luncheon, a great gathering until we begin again in September.

AAUW of Virginia's annual one-member one-vote election, will take place between April 29 and May 29. Watch for your voting instructions in early May. Do not ignore emails and mailings in May. The instructions provided to you at that time will include the deadlines for voting. New members who have joined by April 1 are eligible to vote in the 2014 elections.

As another AAUW quickly comes to a close, I would like to recognize Woodbridge members in the June newsletter who have received any accolades or volunteered for other causes during the past year. Please forward your information to me by May 20, 2014. Now is the time to toot your horn!

Carol Campbell

VP Membership



May Program

The luncheon will be at Joyce Eagle's house. Her address is 1414 Eiderdown Ct., Woodbridge, 22191, Phone: 703-878-5012. From the North (from Occoquan or Lorton) come down Route 1 and turn left on Rippon Boulevard. Coming from the South, turn right on Rippon Boulevard. From Dale City, take Dale Boulevard and cross Rte. 1 to Rippon Boulevard. Continue on Rippon across Blackburn Road (4-way STOP) and take the 4th left on to Marsh Overlook Drive. Take the 2nd right on to Eiderdown Court. 1414 is the third house on the left. There is plenty of room to park along the road or in the cul-de-sac.

Just for confusion, sometimes people miss the first Marsh Overlook. If after the 4-way at Blackburn Road, one comes to a second 4-way Stop, also Marsh Overlook, turn left and take the second left on Eiderdown.

At our May Salad Luncheon we will have two fund raisers. First, we will have a Silent Auction. We need donations of theme baskets or gift cards to have a gift card tree. Our second fundraiser is our wrapped gift raffle. Just bring a wrapped gift and money to buy raffle tickets. Please support these fundraisers. If you are planning to do something for the Silent Auction such as a service, theme basket, or gift cards, please contact Barbara Blindauer at 703-490-0517.

Karen Wolf
CO-VP Programs

Membership Dues

This is our last get together before this Fiscal Year ends June 30. Please pay your \$76 ASAP (Remember \$46 is tax exempt). You can turn in your dues at the luncheon and make out your check to AAUW-Woodbridge Branch. If you prefer, you may also mail it to Treasurer Barbara Ondo at: 5033 Softwood Lane, Woodbridge, VA 22192. You can also pay online. By paying before July 1, you needn't worry about any lapse in membership and, besides, it will save us a lot of calling during the summer.

Quote of the Month

"If you work hard, and you earn your money, you should get equal pay for equal work."

– Lilly Ledbetter

AAUW Funds



I have only heard from one member who plans to donate an item for the Silent Auction, please let me know by May 10th if you can donate to the Silent Auction. We may have to cancel if we do not get more items. We will do the wrapped gift raffle so please remember to bring a wrapped gift.

Also, I should have the Macys shopping certificates for sale. For \$5.00 you get several discount certificates to use at Macys on a Saturday in May. Please support our Fundraisers.

Barbara Blindauer

703-4900517

AAUW Northern District News



Northern District (ND) Meeting

The following items were presented at the ND meeting held at the State conference:

- The Summer Leaders Session will be held on July 26 at the English Inn, 2000 Morton Dr, Charlottesville in the Queen Ann room. More details to follow, but I hope every branch sends one or two leaders/members.
- The 2016 State Conference will be hosted by ND branches.
- Voting for State officers, bylaws and public policy continues. Paper ballots must be postmarked by May 24 and on-line voting closes May 29 at midnight. Vote and make a suffragist smile.
- ND Co-Representatives were elected. Congratulations to **Jeanne Elmore** (Woodbridge) and **Caroline Pickens** (McLean). I have worked with them on branch and state boards and I know they will do an outstanding job as your representatives. Please congratulate them when you see them.

Thank You

Thank you for your support these past four years. I've enjoyed meeting so many members and seeing/hearing about the great things ND branches are doing. You are a member of a powerful, awesome, tremendous group and it has been an honor to serve you.

Sandy Lawrence
Northern District Representative
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AAUW State Conference

The conference was energizing and several interesting presentations were given, as usual. My favorite workshop, titled "Synergy of Programming & Membership", resulted in many new possibilities for our branch. One idea expressed was to assign a 'mentor' to new branch members to ensure she/he feels welcomed beyond the first meeting. What a great idea!

For programs/activities, some ideas included having a classic book, international study, travel, museum, movie, or any other interest group. I know our Woodbridge "gourmet out" group used to be fun. We just need someone to lead it. Another thought that struck me during this workshop was how fortunate we are to live in northern VA, where these possible activities are endless. What ideas do you have? I think some new activities that connect members in small groups might help energize our branch.

Jeanne Elmore

Civil Right Act (CRA) of 1964 Panel

The CRA panel looked at how the CRA happened, its effect in Virginia and its effect on women. The CRA, which is 50 years old this year, was originally designed to bar discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin. Howard Smith, a Virginia Democrat who chaired the House Rules Committee and who strongly opposed the CRA, added the prohibition of discrimination based on sex to it. Panelist Milton Rowan said Smith called it "ladies day in the house" and that Smith hoped adding sex would defeat the bill because northern Democrats who opposed civil rights for women would vote against the bill.

Carla Whitfield started her presentation by singing a slave song for freedom. She talked about her experience as one of the first African American to go to a previous "Whites only" elementary school in Virginia. She said her Kindergarten teacher was a positive force, but many people, especially adults, opposed integration. Many VA laws and acts, such as the "Freedom of Choice Plan" did nothing to integrate schools.

Sandy Lawrence



AAUW at the White House

How did I get that invitation to attend the White House Equal Pay Day event on April 8? It all started with a program at one of our meetings a year or so ago when staff from AAUW asked attendees for personal stories of pay discrimination. I volunteered my story and was interviewed by Liz Owens. That story was on the AAUW website last year and in it I told about my first job after college graduation as a third grade teacher. When I was told my salary, there was an indication that “head of the household” was given \$500 more. Apparently, “head of the household” meant “male” because I did not qualify even though my husband was still in college and I was the sole breadwinner!

Liz Owens called me last week and asked if I would like to attend the White House event on Equal Pay Day and I was thrilled to say yes. My first thought was how would I get there? Driving in Washington is not something I am willing to do. Luckily, I have a great friend, Jim O’Connor, chair of the Coles Magisterial District Democratic Committee, who volunteered to get me there and home again. I met the two AAUW staff people, Liz Owens and Deborah Swerdlow, at the visitors’ gate on 15th and Hamilton at 10 am. From that point, the White House cannot be seen. The gate was opened and we started our journey which would end up in the East Room of the White House. We had to show our ID at several checkpoints and purses had to go through a conveyer belt x-ray similar to security at airports. Once we were inside all White House staff seemed very friendly and each one said “Welcome to the White House.” We arrived at the area right outside the East Room which was so beautiful with gorgeous chandeliers and walls lined with portraits of former presidents. We waited there until about 11 am at which time the doors were opened and we filed into the East Room which was lined with chairs for all, TV cameras lined up against the far wall and the podium in the front. Once again, the beautiful chandeliers and the friezes and molding on the walls made this such an impressive setting. The first six rows were reserved for dignitaries who eventually came in and that was exciting to recognize people who are frequently seen on TV. Our seats were about 3 rows behind the dignitaries so we could see the podium clearly. And then came the announcement: “Ladies and Gentlemen, the President of the United States”! We all stood and clapped and I had a hard time believing I was actually there. Lily Ledbetter told her story and then introduced the President. President Obama’s remarks have been in the news frequently but what I remember the most is his statement that some people call the gender pay gap a myth. President Obama said, “It is not a myth. It is math.” Women earn 77 cents for every dollar earned by men and I thought about the button I had in my purse that said 59 cents. I have had that button since the 1970’s when I first began to work for equal pay. Women have made gains in the past 40 years but we do not receive equal pay yet.

After the event, I had my picture taken with Linda Hallman, AAUW CEO, and with Lily Ledbetter. It was an historic day for me and it gave me a new appreciation for all the work for women done by AAUW.

Sara B. Anderson



Sara and Linda Hallman (CEO of AAUW)



Lilly Ledbetter, Sara and Lisa Maatz (VP, Gov. Relations)

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!!!**AAUW of Virginia 2014 Voting Announcement**

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 lap-tops 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 2014 Winter/Spring edition of the Vision.

AAUW of Virginia
Voting and Elections Committee
December 2013

Woodbridge Homepage: <http://woodbridge-va.aauw.net/> **AAUW Homepage:** <http://www.aauw.org>

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