



# Woodbridge Wisdom

Since 1972

Volume 42 Number 4 Woodbridge, VA Branch Newsletter December 2014/January 2015

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Second Wednesday Book Club Uno Panera's At The Glen 7:30 pm**  
**In Shopping Center at intersection of Old Bridge Road & Pr. Wm. Parkway**
- Dec 10 Holiday Dinner Occoquan Inn, 301 Mill Street 7:00 pm**  
**Occoquan, VA 22125 (703) 491-1888**
- Jan 24 Meeting/Movie at Ali's-"Girls on a Journey"**
- Feb 4 State Lobby Day, Richmond, VA**
- Feb 21 Spring Luncheon-Madigan's Waterfront, Occoquan**
- Mar 14 Regional Science Fair**
- Mar 21 "Girls + Math + Science = SUCCESS!" Conference**

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

WOW it's already December. It just seemed like yesterday we had our kick off Pot luck Dinner. We have had wonderful programs and many excellent ones planned for next year. We have them on different days and times to enable everyone to attend at least one. And if you need a ride to a program, let me or one of the board members know, we can work on finding you a car pool partner.

We also need candidates for our named honorees, who will be honored at the state conference this April. For every \$500 the branch or its members donate to AAUW, they are allowed one named honoree. Last year's honoree with Susan Fairey, in memorial. We almost have enough funds for 4 honorees, so send me your ideas.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season,

**Sandy Lawrence**  
**President**  
SandyAAUW@juno.com

## **PROGRAMS**

As the holiday season approaches, I wish you and your loved ones a very happy holiday season! Thank you so much for your support of membership and programs this past year. It was deeply appreciated. Susan Fairey would be very happy with the number of new members recruited!

Many thanks to Ms. Susan W. Farmer, Ed.S, Physical Science Teacher and Science Department Chair, Parkside Middle School, Manassas, VA, for her very informative and interesting presentation on STEM activities at the middle school level. Susan addressed how they are preparing students to meet the challenges of high school STEM and correlated this information with the AAUW mission.



Our annual Holiday Dinner is on Wednesday, December 10, 2014, 7:00 pm at the Occoquan Inn in Occoquan. This is usually a relaxing evening for all as we take a break from getting ready for the holidays and enjoy each other's company.

Once again we will have the gift raffle. This is an important fundraiser for our Branch and members may bring a gift (\$10-\$15) to exchange. Many look forward to the excitement of opening a gift. Tickets may be purchased for \$1 each or 6 for \$5.



**Pictures from Last Year's Dinner**

As always, we encourage members to bring a friend, colleague or family member to our programs. This dinner is a great time to introduce them to our wonderful branch.

We look forward to the New Year as the first quarter is a very busy one for us! We will have our January meeting and program at Ali's house. Ali is a very wonderful hostess and we appreciate it very much. The movie "Girls on a Journey" will be featured and it ties in directly with Derrick Riggin's presentation at our October program on human trafficking.

The delightful Spring luncheon at Madigan's in Occoquan will be held on February 21 at 12:00 pm. This is one of my favorite events.

And of course March is the most exciting month for us with judging of the Science Fair and the SUCCESS Conference.

Again, best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and prosperous New Year!

**Carol Campbell**  
**V.P., Programs**

## **WANTED: NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

We need three volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee to identify candidates to run for president and secretary. Two of committee members will be elected at the February meeting. The third will be elected by the board of directors at the February meeting.

Or, better yet, please consider running for one of these offices for a two-year term. Elections take place at our May General Meeting.

### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS in 2015**

- Saturday, January 24 Meeting/Movie at Ali's—"Girls on a Journey"
- Saturday, February 21 Spring Luncheon-Madigan's Waterfront, Occoquan
- Saturday, March 14 Regional Science Fair
- Saturday, March 21 25<sup>th</sup> Annual "Girls + Math + Science = SUCCESS!" Conference
- Saturday, April 11 Tour of the Manassas Marie Corps Museum (Highlight women in the Marine Corps)
- Saturday, May 16 Spring Salad/Desert Luncheon

### **SIGN THE PETITION: STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING NOW**

Human trafficking is an international disgrace. It forces an estimated 27 million people worldwide into prostitution or involuntary labor. The Polaris Project, which tracks federal and state laws on human trafficking, recommends that Virginia pass laws to provide assistance to human trafficking survivors, including creating "safe harbors" for sexually exploited minors. We want to make sure our Virginia lawmakers in Richmond know this-- and do something about it.

We have embarked on a petition drive and need the support of all our branches to ensure success. Although our goal is to collect 1000 signatures, we should be able to collect many more signatures through our collective "woman power." After all, we have until January 30, 2015, to collect signatures.

#### **The petition reads:**

We the Undersigned join with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in urging you to support legislation improving assistance for human trafficking survivors in Virginia. Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery that forces an estimated 27 million people worldwide – including people in the United States- into prostitution or involuntary labor.

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center reports that it received 742 phone calls from individuals seeking help in Virginia in 2013 — the sixth highest number of calls among all states and Washington, D.C. that year.

The link for our petition is <http://bit.ly/1F56cLG> "Sign" it online and then email the link to your friends, family and other organizations to "sign" and pass on. Let's make it go viral!

Please just sign it once! The petitions will be taken to our state legislators on Lobby Day in Richmond, February 4. Hope you can join us there!

## NORTHERN DISTRICT NEWS

Remember our goal is to collect 1000 signatures on the Human Trafficking petition. All signatures must be collected by the end of Jan 2015, and the petition can be found on: <http://bit.ly/1F56cLG>.

Heads up: We plan to have our district **Presidents, VP of Programs, and Membership Chair meeting** Saturday, **Jan 17, at Kings Park Library** in Fairfax County (directions forthcoming) **from 1:00-3:00**. Please let us know what you would like to have on the agenda, as this is your meeting.

State Lobby Day is February 4, 2015, in Richmond. We had a great time last year!

The State conference with WVA will be April 18-19 in Charlottesville. Our theme this year is "Celebrating Our Past: Creating Our Future". Save this weekend for lots of fun!

**Jeanne Elmore and Caroline Pickens**  
Co-Northern District Reps



**SAVE THE DATE !!**



### DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb 4 State Lobby Day, Richmond, VA

Mar 14 Prince William Regional Science Fair

Mar 21 "Girls + Math + Science = SUCCESS!" Conference

Apr 18 - 19 AAUW of VA State Conference, Charlottesville, VA

Jun 18-21 AAUW National Convention, San Diego, CA

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

**AAUW of VA homepage:** <http://aauw-va.aauw.net>