

## Important Dates to Remember:

- March 11, Board meeting  
Tuesday, 7:30 PM Wegman's
- March 15, PWC Science Fair Judging
- March 19, Program at Potomac Place, 7 pm
- March 21, Final day to RSVP for VA Equal Pay @ the Capital.
- March 22, Success Conference 7:30 am – 1 pm
- April 4-6, State Conference, Smith Mountain Lake
- Apr 8, Equal Pay Day
- April 9, Deadline to request paper ballots for AAUW of VA OMOV
- April 29, OMOV Online voting opens
- May 8, Federal Lobby Day, Washington, D.C.

## President's Letter: A Rough Winter But Spring's Coming

With winter never seeming to end, we looked forward to the winter luncheon with its good food and companionship. Instead we learned that Susan Fairey had passed away that morning and it seemed like the gloom of winter would continue.

I and many branch members joined the members of Congregation Ner Shalom to participate in a memorial service for Susan. It was great to see so many members and to look through Susan's scrap books and see how young we once were. There were many stories, many laughs and a few tears. But was a healing time and reminded all of us that spring is just around the corner.

And spring brings some of Susan's favorite activities; Science Fair judging, the

Success Conference and the State Conference. I hope you can participate in one or more events. You don't need a science background to judge, just the ability to listen to the students explain their projects. The Success Conference can always use your help, both at the event and the night before. See articles in this newsletter for more information.

The State Conference is April 4-6 at Smith Mountain Lake. Besides dynamic activities, informative workshops and fascinating participants; a Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation in Susan's name will be presented. It would be great to have a large Woodbridge contingency as Susan's

many contributions to AAUW are remembered. And there is \$50 for each branch sending members to the conference to help defray the cost for attendees.

It has been a rough winter, but the daffodils are poking their heads out, the birds are returning and we looked forward to a well-deserved spring. Hope to see you at our programs and events!

Sandy Lawrence  
President

## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee met at the home of Committee Chair Sara B. Anderson on February 28, 2014. The other members of this committee are Carol Campbell and Martha Langer. We will submit a slate of officers to be elected which this year is Vice-President of Finance and Vice-President of Programs. The slate will be presented at the March meeting and the election will be at the annual meeting in May. Nominations may be made from the floor at the March and April meetings with the consent of the nominee.

Sara B. Anderson

## Membership

On March 1st, many AAUW Woodbridge Branch members attended a very inspiring memorial service for Susan Fairey. Thank you to John Fairey, Laurie Lester, Rabbi Jennifer Weiner, and the Congregation Ner Shalom for allowing us to share our warm memories and gratitude for Susan's many years of loyal and dedicated service to AAUW Woodbridge. She will be greatly missed but never forgotten!

Susan's favorite month of the AAUW year in our Branch was March. It is Women's History Month, middle school girls projects at the PWC Regional Science Fair are judged, and our own Girls+Math+Science= Success Conference, produced by Susan Bardenhagen, is usually held. We ask you to come out and help support these events.

The Smith Mountain Branch invites us all to attend the AAUW of Virginia Conference

“Charting Our Future—Full Speed A1 4–6 at the W.E. Skelton 4H Educational Conference Center. An enjoyable and informative destination weekend is planned! Conference details and the registration form are located at the state website at <http://aauw-va.aauw.net/> and the Smith Mountain website at <http://smithmountain-va.aauw.net>. Register now: the registration rate goes up after March 15. A Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation for Susan Fairey will also be presented.

Many thanks to Suzanne Harvey for compiling the Membership Directory 2013-2014. A job well-done and greatly appreciated.

If you know of any individuals in joining our Branch, please let me know!

Carol Campbell  
VP Membership  
Breeze053@aol.com



## 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.

## March Program

Historian Irma Clifton will portray woman's rights leader Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Stanton was author of some of the most influential books and speeches of the women's rights movement both in this country and in Europe. She began her formal activism with the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 asserting that women had certain rights, among which was the right to vote. She was an activist until her death in 1902, in many cases championing rights for

women beyond what others in the women's movement considered appropriate. Irma is president of the Lorton Heritage Society and is Museum Collections Manager at the Workhouse Prison Museum in Lorton. She will be in period costume for us. Bring a friend or family member to help us honor Women's History Month.

Karen Wolf  
Co-VP Programs

## Winter Luncheon



---

### Quote of the Month

*"It is better to ask forgiveness than permission."*

*– RADM Grace Hopper, USN*

## AAUW Funds



There are only two months before the Salad Luncheon. We will again have our raffle and Silent Auction. Start thinking of baskets or gift cards that you can contribute to the Silent Auction. Have a service (baking cookies each month, delivering a casserole, etc.) that you would like to provide, please let me know so I can have an idea of how many items we will have in the Silent Auction. Unfortunately, my time is limited and I cannot put your basket together for you as I have done in previous years, so please start thinking of creative ways that you can assemble your auction items. Several of

you may want to go in on a "basket" or a gift card tree. The raffle item should be wrapped or in a bag. Our annual Salad Luncheon Raffle and Silent Auction have been very profitable for our Branch and it is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Please support this event by not only purchasing tickets but by bringing a raffle item or a basket for the Silent auction. It is not too early to let me know. If you would like suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

Barbara Blindauer  
703-4900517

## Castaways Repertory Theatre Fundraiser

Please mark your calendar and set aside Sunday, May 4, 2013, 1:00PM, Ferlazzo Auditorium 22191, for Castaways Repertory Theatre's production of South Pacific, directed by Zina Bleck. Help our branch raise scholarship funds by attending. Members participating send in \$20 to our treasurer, Barbara Ondo; with 10 attendees a group rate of \$12 (musical rate) per person is received with the balance of \$8 going to the scholarship fund. Let Barbara Ondo know, if you plan to attend. She can be reached at [barbaraondo@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraondo@gmail.com) or by mailing a check to her in advance to 5033 Softwood Lane, Woodbridge, VA 22192. More information will follow in April newsletter. Should you have any questions, please contact Eileen Thrall at [wthrall@verizon.net](mailto:wthrall@verizon.net).



## Northern District News

### Northern District Representative(s) Needed

When asked to be the Northern District Representative (ND Rep), some members have told me that I'm a tough act to follow. But I think ND Rep is not an act, but an improvisation; an original performance that depends on its main character to bring it to life. Like any performer, my time as ND Rep is winding down and will soon close. But there is another AAUW performer, waiting for her time on the stage. The stage time has particular requirements, like attending state board meetings, but many of the actions and activities are based on what the performer thinks is important and needed. There is no set script on what a District Rep does. An opportunity to do it "your way" is waiting.

So be that next ND Rep and **send your biography to me by March 20**. The elections will be held at the district meeting at the State conference.

### Lobby Days

State Lobby day was an awesome experience and it was great to see so many ND members, even with the bad weather. (Check out the pictures at <http://aauw-va.aauw.net/>) **May 8 is Federal Lobby Day** and it would be great to have an even bigger turn out of ND members. You team up with Lobby Corp members and the AAUW staff does an outstanding job to prepare lobbyists to hit the halls of Congress. We also need members to open their home to members coming in from other parts of the state. Be on the lookout for more information to come.

Sandy Lawrence  
Northern District Representative  
slawrence4@juno.com  
703/569 1588

## AAUW of Virginia State Lobby Day

Ali, Jeanne, and Sandy lobbied with other AAUW of VA members in Richmond on February 5.

The day started with attending the LWV Women's Legislative Roundtable. From there, members met with the Speaker of the House Speaker William Howell and Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam to drop off the Equal Pay Petition with all the signatures collected and discuss other legislative interests of AAUW. Caroline Pickens (AAUW of VA president) and Sandy met with Secretary of Education Holt on to discuss AAUW report "Women in Community Colleges" and how AAUW VA can support her office.



## 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](mailto: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

## Member Recognition

The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program seeks to be the "voice" for the voiceless and insure that residents' rights are upheld and that care standards are high. They make certain that our local skilled nursing and assisted living residents know that Prince William County cares about them.

These dedicated volunteers visit local skilled nursing and assisted living residents each and every week and get to know the residents and the staff. They make sure that proper care is being given and that any concerns are addressed. They mediate on behalf of residents and their families and attend resident council meetings as an outside representative to listen without bias.

These devoted volunteers feel so strongly about their mission of helping skilled nursing and assisted living residents that, in the first quarter of 2013, they handled 154 complaints and 176 issues in their respective facilities. There are five skilled nursing and nine assisted living facilities with almost 700 beds in Prince William County and all of the residents need to be visited and concerns/complaints need to be addressed.

Although the new budget year brought this program "in-house" to the Prince William Area Agency on Aging, we did not know if the volunteers would be willing to continue with the program since they were used to working elsewhere. They said, "YES!" They have served Prince William County for several years but they did so through the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging as part of the Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. They could have declined to volunteer in Prince William and been assigned to facilities in another county or they could have quit, but instead these Prince William County residents stayed to serve! These five have commitment!

Thank you for your continued service and congratulations!



Congratulations Barbara Ondo!

## 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](http://www.successconference.net).

## AAUW Lobby Corps

Ali Cohen and Sandy Lawrence were among the AAUW members who attend Lobby Corps training. Besides training, we heard stories about lobbying experiences, learned what acts and bills we may be lobbying on and met many new Lobby Corps members. Branch members, here is what Lobby Corp did in 2013:

- 1,528 visit to congressional offices
- Lobbied on 14 bills or issues
- Successfully added over 500 cosponsors to bills
- 3 bills passed
- Visited every state and territory office
- Made one visit to 84% of the Representatives
- Visited 100% of the Senators

Here is an article on Equal Pay Proclamation:

Governor McAuliffe will be signing an Equal Pay Day Proclamation on April 8, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. in Richmond, and we can have representation at the signing event.

If you are interests in attending the event, Let Leslie Tourigny know by March 21 at [itsles@cox.net](mailto:itsles@cox.net)

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

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