



McLean Area Branch
AAUW of Virginia

NewsBits

McLean Area Branch 2016/2017

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We look forward to our always enjoyable evening of sharing your favorite dishes with your AAUW friends; it is sure to be delicious and a good time!

Please plan to join us for dinner, a fun "reader's theatre", and our annual business meeting. Everyone wants to see you there~



What to Bring

If your **last name** begins **A - G**, please bring a **dessert**

If your **last name** begins **H - O**, please bring a **main dish**

If your **last name** begins **P - Z**, please bring a **side dish/salad**

March Branch Meeting

Tuesday, ● March 21
6:00 p.m.

American Legion
1355 Balls Hill Road
McLean, VA 22101

Annual ● Business Meeting and Reader's Theatre | Profiles



Please remember to bring your own serving pieces (marked with your name)

New Member Coffee!

The Board is pleased to host a coffee for new and prospective members

Sunday, March 19, 2-4pm

Home of Sue Christie | 6638 Midhill Place, Falls Church, 22043

We look forward to having a chance to get to know our new friends.

Please RSVP to suechristie@gmail.com.

Celebrate Women's History Month at Our Branch Annual Meeting & Pot Luck March 21, 6:00 p.m.

Please help with our Readers Theater to celebrate Women's History Month! **We still need one or two volunteers to tell the audience about the achievements of a woman in American history.** I have a two-page bio for each woman, so **no research is needed**—just tell us about her for three or four minutes. How about playing **Elizabeth Blackwell** (first American woman physician) or **Chien-Shiung Wu** (nuclear physicist)? This is a fun way to learn about and appreciate important women of whom most of us are not aware.

Email Caroline Pickens at carolineaauw@gmail.com or call 703-448-0415.



Ann Bancroft (polar explorer)
Fannie Farmer (author and cooking teacher)
Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz (poet and scholar)
Ida Wells-Barnett (suffragist and NAACP co-founder)

Ramona Rayle

Member **Ramona Rayle**, passed away peacefully at home on January 25th. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 25th at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church. A link to her obituary is found below |

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?pid=183773260>



Ramona Rayle at her book launch of *Odyssey Shared, A Memoir of Sailing and Friendship*
(see December 2016 NewsBits)

Buy a Book, Send a Girl to College | Save the Date!

AAUW Falls Church Area Branch Book Sale

Falls Church Rec Center

223 Little Falls St, Falls Church, VA 22046

(intersection of Great Falls and Little Falls streets)

Friday, April 7, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Saturday, April 8, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Civics and Civility: A Community Conversation

AAUW Arlington Branch Annual Meeting, Saturday, March 25, 2017

Join the Arlington branch for a panel program *Civics and Civility: A Community Conversation* with Arlington County Board members, **Katie Cristol** and **Christian Dorsey**, and Arlington Public School Board Members, **Reid Goldstein** and **Tannia Talento**.

The panel discussion will focus on issues of civic engagement and civility |

- **What inspired you to serve and represent the community?**
- **Do you see yourself adjusting or refining any of your ideals or values now that you are elected? If so, how?**
- **How do you continue to learn and grow as an elected official?**
- **What are the current issues facing our community?**
- **How can we as a community engage in civil conversations that are open, transparent and productive?**

Arlington Central Library Auditorium
1015 N Quincy St, Arlington, VA 22201

Doors Open 1:45 p.m.

Panel Discussion 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

AAUW Arlington Branch Annual Meeting 3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Conferences and Conventions

It's not too late to apply for financial assistance to attend the state meeting (April 1st) or the National Convention. However, we will need to know very soon as the funds are not unlimited. Please notify Aroona or Betsy if you plan to attend and have not already done so.

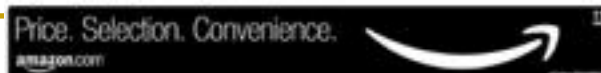
Nota Bene!

The **McLean Community Center** closes for renovations from March until Fall 2018. The **American Legion** is **graciously allowing us to use their hall for our March and April meetings.**

1355 Balls Hill Road
 McLean, VA 22101

If You Shop at Amazon

Next time you make a purchase from Amazon, first go to our branch website, <http://mclean-va.aauw.net>, click on the Amazon link at the bottom of the home page and make your purchase. Amazon will give our branch up to a 10% rebate.





The Political Road Ahead

The song or refrain goes, “**stand together for what you believe.**” AAUW recently published the 12-step program, or principles, for these uncharted political waters, here now and ahead.

Through the current confirmation process, not yet complete as of this writing, personnel decisions are policy decisions. **We should view nominations in light of AAUW’s public policy**

principles and act!

AAUW’s work has always been political but has never been partisan. Political work can be characterized as taking policy positions and working toward a common goal, represented by the member-adopted Public Policy Program. Partisan activities maintain a firm adherence to a party, faction, or person.

A personal belief is that democracy survives only through knowledgeable voters. Thus the basis of sound public policy and change depends on the communication of facts, some based on scientific research.

AAUW stands against bullying, bias and bigotry. Be aware of such groups, as the **Anti-Defamation League** and the **Southern Poverty Law Center** to whom you may report hate speech or incidents. They are also sources for gaining an understanding of current events. We should also continue to support women leaders, especially those who represent our values.

A reminder: this was the first presidential election without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Since the 2013 decision of the Supreme Court, many states have been free to pass damaging voting restrictions in response to claims of voter fraud. Virginia is one of those states.

In the current moments of breaking news, **AAUW provides information and opportunities for individual action** on its website including **Two-Minute Activist**. For **up-to-the-minute information on voting in Congress**, examine the **Washington Post local section on Thursdays**. The listing features the actual votes of our local members of Congress. It’s very informative.

Finally, we in Virginia have the opportunity and the obligation to arm ourselves with knowledge and organize for action **this year. We will be voting for a governor, all of the Virginia delegates, some of the state senators, and Fairfax County chair and supervisor, as well as the Board of Education.** All politics is local, as we have heard through the years.

Just Do It

Fifty Lobby Corps members gathered on Thursday, February 2 to deliver the AAUW message to House members. The following Thursday, the Lobby Corps members were directed in two ways. One was to greet newly elected members of the House and orient them to AAUW. Of course the ‘greeting’ means that the legislative aides or the legislative directors are the focus of our greeting and discussion. For the other members of Congress, Lobby Corps members urged them to cosponsor the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act. This is a **bipartisan attempt** to move toward providing some portion of a person’s salary when he/she is obliged to stay home to care for a newborn or ill family member.

Finally, we make politics local by actually visiting the home office of our members of Congress. The purpose is to inform them about AAUW’s stance on issues and to request them to respond to our specific questions. **Let me know if you’re interested.**

Sources include AAUW Outlook, Lobby Corps briefing materials.

Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair

maryloumelley@gmail.com

January and February 2017 Board Meeting Notes

The following topics were discussed |

1. Amendment to Branch Bylaws (to be presented to membership for a vote)

Passed a motion to present to the membership at the March annual meeting a revision in the way the Branch approves the annual budget. This would include distribution of the proposed budget in May to all members, with time for response and questions, and approval of final budget at the joint Board meeting in June, before the start of the fiscal year, July 1. (This change requires an amendment to the Branch Bylaws.)

2. Membership Growth

Extensive discussions at both January and February meetings to look at ways to expand membership and reach a wider age range of individuals, possibly by offering more varied program and meeting times. Membership V.P.'s drew up a 6-month task plan with assignment of tasks to specific officers, V.P.'s, and creation of a new membership committee.

3. Conferences and Convention Committee Guidelines

Report received from the newly created Conferences and Conventions Committee, setting up guidelines and proposed disposition of funds for officers and members attending national convention (June), state conference (April), and leadership training program (summer).

4. Discussion about archiving Branch records and historical materials.

Betsy Reddaway

Virginia AAUW Stops an Assault On Your Right To Vote!

Want to know how? **Go to page 6 of the latest Virginia Vision** to read how we stopped a proposed AAUW Bylaws amendment in its tracks that would have removed one of your rights to vote. **It landed in your email about February 12.** If you didn't get it, you can read it on the state website |

<https://aauw-va.aauw.net/newsletter/>

And watch for the next AAUW Outlook in April with all the national business that you will be voting on (candidates for AAUW Board, proposed Bylaws amendments, and the 2017-19 Public Policy Priorities). Then be sure to vote!

Proposed Bylaws Amendment

At the March business meeting, the Branch members will be asked to vote on an amendment to the Bylaws. The Board of Directors, at its February meeting, voted to approve and send it to the Branch members for approval.

Background

At its October 7, 2016, meeting, the McLean Area Branch Board of Directors considered concerns from members that the current process of **budget adoption in late September** means that the fiscal year is already almost three months old and monies have already been spent before the operating budget is approved. After one of the co-presidents surveyed other branches' timing and processes for budget adoption, the Board approved a motion at its November 4, 2016, Board meeting, directing the Bylaws Committee to prepare an amendment to the Bylaws stating that the Board will approve the annual budget at the Joint Board meeting in June.

Amendment

Therefore, the Board of Directors is proposing the following amendment in the 10/15/2016 Bylaws:

Strike the words in Article VI, Section 4, Operating Budget a. APPROVAL

“The annual operating budget shall be adopted by the Board of Directors and presented to Affiliate members for their approval no later than September 30.”

Insert the words in Article VI, Section 4, Operating Budget a. APPROVAL

“The proposed operating budget shall be distributed to **Affiliate members** for review and comment following the May Board meeting according to procedures in the policies. Following the comment period, the annual operating budget for the coming fiscal year shall be adopted and approved by the incoming and outgoing Boards of Directors at their joint meeting in June.”

Note: the term 'Affiliate members' means Branch members. The term was imposed on all AAUW bylaws by the recent mandate from AAUW.

Rationale

1. The September 30 date currently mandated for budget approval is too far removed from the beginning of the fiscal year that starts on July 1. Changing to a June date with Board approval puts the McLean Area Branch process in line with that of many other AAUW branches. A joint meeting of the incoming and outgoing Board members insures a large and representative group will reflect and protect the branch members' interests.
2. The proposed amendment provides that the operating budget will be available to all affiliate members for review and comment prior to approval at the joint Board meeting.
3. The Bylaws Committee notes that the current Bylaws provision in Article VI, Section 5, Increases in Spending, requires that any spending increase that exceeds the budget by more than \$150 shall be approved by the branch. This remains in the Bylaws.

Mary Lou Melley

Inspiring Middle School Girls to Pursue STEM Careers

In partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools & NOVA Systemic Solutions
Presented by AAUW: Fairfax City, McLean Area, Springfield-Annandale & Vienna Area Branches



STEMtastics 2017

Saturday, March 11, 2017
NOVA – Annandale
8:15 AM – 12:00 PM

Please consider volunteering to help at **STEMtastics 2017** – a career day event designed to inspire middle school girls (6th through 8th grade) in Fairfax County to pursue careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields.

What: For the 4th year in a row, we are partnering with Fairfax City, Vienna Area, and Springfield-Annandale branches, as well as FCPS and Systemic Solutions at NOVA, to sponsor STEMtastics. This year's event is scheduled for **Saturday morning, March 11, 2017, at NOVA – Annandale**. We expect about 500 students and parents to attend.

Volunteers: Last year we had 70 volunteers on the day of the event, and we will be looking for that many or more for this year. We will be using SignUp Genius to describe almost 20 different assignments for which we need volunteers at the event. These include |

- Checking in students at registration
- Checking in presenters
- Greeting students and parents
- Serving as a student workshop assistant
- Helping with morning refreshments
- Serving as a theater usher
- And much more.

Assignments can last all morning or be for only 1-2 hours. At this point, please **SAVE THE DATE OF MARCH 11** and **Contact Judy Page** (judypage@gmail.com) to let me know if you are willing to help in some capacity. **If you have already notified me of your willingness to help, you don't need to respond again.** **Marlene Chivavibul**, our volunteer coordinator, will be in touch with all the volunteers with more details. Please consider helping out!

Connections

Current Events

Do you think you'd enjoy sharing information, opinions, and laughs with Branch members? Bring some news that you find interesting to Current Events.

First Tuesday Mornings | March 7

Star Nut Gourmet, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean at **9 a.m.** Everyone is invited, but RSVP to **Mary Lou Melley** (maryloumelley@gmail.com)

Last Tuesday Mornings | March 28

Eat breakfast together at the McLean Family Restaurant at **9 a.m.** Everyone is invited, but RSVP to **Suzanne Watts** (scwatts1cox.net)

STEMtastics Volunteers

March 11 | NOVA - Annandale, from **8:15-Noon**. Contact **Judy Page** (judypage@gmail.com).

Bridge Group

March 13 | The bridge group will meet at **10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** at Marge Degnon's home. Contact **Barbara Carr**, barbaralcarr@msn.com. Telephone | 703.356.3127.

New Member Coffee

March 19 | Board-hosted event for new & prospective members from **2 - 4 p.m.** at Sue Christie's home, 6638 Midhill Place, Falls Church, 22043. RSVP **Sue Christie** (suechristie@gmail.com).

Great Decisions

March 21 | The new session began February 21, continuing for seven more months, meeting the 3rd Tuesday of the month at **9:30 a.m.** This month's topic | Trade, Jobs & Politics. Meeting place is TBA. Contact **Angela Ehemann** with questions (acehemann@verizon.net) | 703.893.3578.

March Annual Branch Meeting & Pot Luck

March 21 | Reader's Theatre: Profiles of Women Past and Present. American Legion Building, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean at **6 p.m.** Contact **Caroline Pickens**, carolineaauw@gmail.com | 703.448.0415.

AAUW Falls Church Area Branch Book Sale — Save the Date!

Falls Church Rec Center, 223 Little Falls St, Falls Church (intersection of Great Falls & Little Falls)

Friday, April 7 | 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Saturday, April 8 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

March Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------|--------|------------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | 5 | 6 | 7 Current Events | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| | | | | | | 11 STEMtastics |
| 12 | 13 Bridge Group | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 New Member Coffee | 20 | 21 Great Decisions Annual Branch Meeting & Pot Luck | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Civics & Civility |
| 26 | 27 | 28 Current Events Breakfast | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

| Date | Time | Event | Location |
|----------|---------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Tues, 7 | 9 a.m. | Current Events | Star Nut Gourmet |
| Sat, 11 | 8:15 a.m. - Noon | STEMtastics Volunteers | NOVA - Annandale |
| Mon, 13 | 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Bridge Group | Marge Degnon's home |
| Sun, 19 | 2-4 p.m. | New Member Coffee | Sue Christie's home |
| Tues, 21 | 9:30 a.m. | Great Decisions Trade, Jobs & Politics | TBD |
| Tues, 21 | 6 p.m. | Annual Branch Meeting & Pot Luck | American Legion Building |
| Sat, 25 | 2-3:30 p.m. | Civics & Civility A Community Conversation | Arlington Central Library |
| Tues, 28 | 9 a.m. | Current Events Breakfast | McLean Family Restaurant |