

News



Our 2015 "Experimental" Book Sale Needs All Able Bodied Hands on Deck

Last spring, after meeting with three remarkably successful Stone Ridge School (Maryland) book sale co-chairs, our branch leadership decided to experiment with a new approach to selling our used books. Though individual discretion still reigns, sorters have tried to select for

sale books that are less than five years old, trade paperbacks rather than mass market paperbacks, and books that are pristine. We have

discarded many more books than usual, with Discover Books paying us and taking care of the recycling. Our goals are to offer an improved inventory, to refresh our displays from storage rather than from stacks on the floor, and to facilitate clean-up.

Actually, we have just one goal, and that is
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And More!

September Branch Meeting Hear the Book Sale Scoop and Meet Our Scholarship Recipients

Our first branch meeting this fall will be at the McLean Community Center on Sept. 27 at 2:30 p.m. Several important topics will be covered. First there will be a report on the success of our popular book sale. Next *Caroline Pickens* will speak to us about the history of the AAUW fellowships and grants programs. Then the women students who have received scholarships for

the 2015-2016 academic year at Trinity Washington University, at George Mason University, and at Marymount University will be introduced.

Students from McLean, Langley, and Marshall High Schools who have received awards in science and mathematics will also be introduced.

Refreshments will be served and guests are welcome.

Diane Alden Co-VP Program

How Will This Story End? Come Find Out on October 3

WHO: All Northern District Branch Members

WHAT: Annual Fall District Meeting

WHERE: 2 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Rd.

WHY: Learn, Energize, Act

Once upon a time (1972 to be exact) Congress wisely adopted Title IX. What progress has been made in these 43 years? Many look to women's sports and the incredible changes in that arena. But Title IX is much broader than sports and covers many activities that are civil rights issues. The U.S. Department of Education has just released new guidelines and resources for public schools. That is where we AAUW members come into the picture.

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**September 2015
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McLean Area Branch

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We are gearing up for a new year of the McLean Area Branch of AAUW, beginning with the book sale (Sept. 18, 19, and 20) and a branch gathering to celebrate scholarship winners, STEM awardees, and new members (Sept. 27).

President's Corner

In the 1990s I was invited to join the McLean Branch of AAUW by a good friend, Martha Poteat. She told me that I would meet a dynamic group of intelligent women who were interested in continuing to learn and participate in public policy and to promote educational opportunities for women and girls. She was right and she gave me a gift. I found the branch meetings stimulating and the new friendships to be long lasting. I served one year as co-chair of the book sale, one year as vice president for programs, two years in Lobby Corps, and two years as branch co-president. I also led the Morning Lit group for three years. In recent years I have served on the vestry of my church, served as president of the Episcopal Women of the Church of Holy Comforter and chaired the Pennywise thrift shop operation for my church.

Bob Alden; the two of us understand that our purpose is to provide support and keep the activities going in an already vital organization filled with talented people. When I served as president in the 1990s I was eager to promote women's advancement. I could not imagine that women would still be fighting for pay equity and reproductive rights. So, our goals must remain clear and we must remain organized and vigilant to promote the value of women in all aspects of society.

I am grateful to my friend, Martha Poteat, for introducing me to the McLean Area AAUW Branch many years ago. I would encourage each of you to find a good friend to invite to join our activities and become members of an organization that stimulates our minds and helps us contribute to other women who walk with us or follow in our paths.

Jane

I welcome the opportunity to serve as co-president of the branch with my friend

"District Meeting"

(Continued from page 1)

Our invited speaker is Catherine Lhamon, assistant secretary for civil rights in the Department of Education. Those who attended AAUW National Convention this year were captivated by this young woman and her very informative talk. Come hear how equal educational opportunities still lag

behind, and how AAUW members can be incredible partners in connecting with our school Title IX coordinators and the new guidelines for schools. Join us Oct. 3 for the rest of this story.

Jeanne Elmore and Caroline Pickens
Northern District Co-Representatives
jfelmore1@gmail.com; carolineaauw@gmail.com

From the Editor

The McLean Area Branch News is published September, November, February, April, and June. A two-page update, NewsBits, is published in October, December, January, March, and May. Articles are due the 20th of the month preceding each issue. Articles should be in final form and identified as being for the newsletter. Guidelines for your arti-

cles are welcome as are suggestions for the newsletter.

Please send your **articles for the October newsletter by September 20.**

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AAUW National Convention June 2015

And the Winners Are ...

Here are the results of the 2015 national AAUW balloting:

Patricia Fae Ho (MA) was reelected president and Alicia Hetman (CT) was elected vice president. At-large board members elected were Susan Barley (MO/FL), Malinda Gaul (TX), Eileen Hartmann (NY), Ellie Hill (MT), Traci Jensen (TX), Melissa Johnson (CO), Dot McLane (PA), Rebecca Norlander (WA), Glenda Price (MI), and Pam Thiel (WI).

All of the proposed Bylaws amendments were adopted except the one to eliminate the degree requirement, which failed with 56.51 percent No votes to 40.91 percent Yes votes (3.58 percent didn't vote on that amendment). About 3 percent of those voting voted only on that amendment and no others. The amendment to change the title of the president to board chair and the executive director to CEO (chief executive officer) was one of the amendments adopted.

All of the proposed wording to the AAUW Public Policy Program was adopted by anywhere from 84 percent to 91 percent with the exception of #7, which was adopted by 69.64 percent. That proposal deleted from the current Public Policy Program the sentence "AAUW values and is committed to the arts and humanities, which develop and enhance our pluralistic cultural heritage." The rationale was "Although support for the arts and humanities may be part of AAUW's overall mission, it does not fall under the purview of our public policy work."

Full results of the balloting can be found on the AAUW website www.aauw.org.

Caroline Pickens

Fast Forward

What is the future of our mission and movement? One of the plenary sessions at the national convention dealt with three AAUW priorities for the future: public policy, leadership development, and philanthropy.

Lisa Maatz, vice president government relations, said AAUW will continue working on Capitol Hill, in the White House, and in coalitions with other organizations. In addition, an added emphasis will be on state and local governments by developing statewide networks to track action. State policies on equal pay, sexual assault, and human

trafficking will be analyzed.

Kate C. Farrar, former AAUW vice president campus leadership programs, emphasized nationwide college women's leadership programs, college/university relationships, and science, technology, engineering, and math programs for girls. She encouraged branches to become involved with the association program \$tart \$mart and present workshops on salary negotiation. These are a real and effective way to deal with the gender pay gap.

The third area of emphasis will be philanthropy. A new two-year campaign, Charting the Course, aims to raise \$1 million in unrestricted funds to ensure that AAUW is well prepared to meet the issues facing us today and in the future. These unrestricted funds will be used wherever the need is greatest, empowering women in our communities, schools, workplaces, and positions of leadership. We cannot know what tomorrow's most urgent challenges for women will be. Having unrestricted funds available will allow AAUW to react to the needs on a timely basis.

With these three priorities, branches can focus on the current needs of women in our communities and take an active role in addressing the formidable challenges still facing women in their everyday lives.

Peggy Stotz

New Members, Where Are They? EVERYWHERE!!!

The membership workshop I attended at the national convention made it very clear, **POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS ARE EVERYWHERE**. The most effective way to get a new member is to ask someone to join. We all have friends and acquaintances who don't belong to AAUW but do support our mission. Have you asked one of them to come to a monthly event or special interest group lately? Sometimes this feels awkward and like we are putting someone on the spot by asking. Focus on what her interests are so that membership can be meaningful for her. Think about different motivations and speak about how joining our branch will be a good match for the potential member. Here are a few reasons someone would want to get involved with our branch:

Belief in mission: equality for women and girls, fair pay, STEM projects;

Desire to give back to the community: make a difference in a tangible way (local scholarships), advancement of girls through educational opportunities (STEMtastics);

Social interaction: new to the community, recently retired.

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BRANCH MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Meet Some of Our New Members

NAZ BASIT

Naz hails from Pakistan where she received her medical degree from Fatima Jinnah Medical University. Since coming to the U.S. she has earned a RDMS certification in ultrasound. She shares her life with her husband, also a physician, and her three children. Daughter, Ayesha, is our 2015 branch STEM Excellence Award winner. Naz likes to read, travel, and spend time with her family.

MARIE BRIONES-JONES

Marie is the founding vice president of the Institute for Alternative Futures' Culture of Health Equity Network initiative. She also serves as their senior health program director and co-director of the Kaiser Permanente Burch Minority Leadership Development Program. She has conducted research and published in the field of racial/ethnic diversity in health sciences. She enjoys reading, dancing, walking, and sharing her busy life with her husband and three children.

SUE CHRISTIE

Sue grew up in Washington Grove, Maryland. After finishing graduate school and working for three governors, she landed in Virginia 30 years ago. Sue is happily retired from running and consulting with state human resources agencies on performance improvement. She now spends her time doing volunteer work, traveling, reading, and taking delight in her three-year-old granddaughter.

LESLIE DAILEY

Leslie is originally from the Philadelphia area, but has lived in McLean for 20 years with her husband and daughter. She was a medical technologist in hospital blood banks during her working career. Over the years she has been a Girl Scout leader and volunteered at her daughter's schools. She was also a long ago member of AAUW in Maryland. Leslie enjoys reading, bridge, theater, and travel.

MARY LUDDEN

Mary has lived many places – Boston, San Francisco, Iceland, Turkey, Germany, and England before settling in this area in 1973. She is a retired nurse, but volunteers at the Arlington Free Clinic. Mary was widowed in 2001 and has three daughters and two grand dogs. Two of her interests are travel including a medical mission to the Philippines and learning to oil paint. Craziest adventure – skydiving!!

Betsy Schroeder Co-VP Membership

New/Prospective Member Coffee

A coffee for new and prospective members will be held on Sunday, October 18th from 2-4 pm at *Betsy Schroeder's* home. Please let Juanita or me know, if you know someone who might be interested. Invite them to a meeting or one of your interest groups.

AAUW Funds

As we begin the 2015-16 AAUW McLean Area (VA) branch program year, we find ourselves in the beginning of another used book sale. We find ourselves gearing up for the **46th annual used book sale.**

In the beginning seems to be a reflection on where we are every year at this time. But it is just that term, "in the beginning," that describes our "get up and go" for a new program year with new goals, re-energized for action on our mission. What makes you, an AAUW member, want to belong to the American Association of University Women? Yes, members will say we like to read and discuss books, derive great pleasure in commiserating about current events or great decisions, play bridge, and attend Arena Stage and other special events. What makes being an AAUW member stand out from the madding crowd is that we may talk the talk but we sure can walk the walk.

In the beginning of this branch and every year thereafter,

the Mclean Area branch has set the bar a little higher. We raised a net profit of \$28,900 in 2014 from the used book sale. This allowed the branch to allocate monies to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, Legal Advocacy Fund, Leadership and Training Institute Leaders Conference scholarships, Elect Her, and Public Policy Fund. In addition, scholarships were awarded to returning female students at George Mason University, Trinity of Washington University, and Marymount University. We also awarded and recognized two female students at Langley, Marshall, and Mclean High Schools for their achievements in STEM.

In the beginning, the branch corralled all the energies of its members and successfully channeled that energy to achieve the branch's goals. As we exhaust all of our energies on accomplishing our mission, we find that we are ready to refuel as we socialize with each other over coffee, tea, or even a glass of wine. And we are ready to begin.

Elaine Lailas, Peggy Stotz
AAUW Funds Co-Chairs, 2015-16



A Look Back An Anniversary A Supreme Court Decision

'It's My Vote – I Will Be Heard' is the one on the AAUW sticker that encourages members to vote.

Constitutional amendments 15 and 19 state 'the right of citizens of the U.S. to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the U.S. or by any State on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude – and on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.'

2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. In 1965 President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act that would do more to protect the right to vote for all Americans including those who have historically suffered from discrimination at the polls.

Between 1965 and 2003 the Justice Department and federal courts had blocked more than 3,000 discriminatory voting changes. But that process, preclearance, was **invalidated** by the Roberts court. In summary, in June 2013 the Supreme Court struck down one of the Voting Rights Act's most powerful provisions, a requirement that states with records of discrimination must submit proposed changes in electoral procedure to the Justice Department for review, i.e. preclearance. The five to four decision reasoned that the criteria for 'review' was outdated and inferred that Congress should produce more current criteria. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote that 'throwing out preclearance is like throwing away your umbrella in a rain-storm because you are not getting wet'.

The AAUW Lobby Corps visited offices in Congress, urging and reminding officials to produce updated legislation

and criteria. **Congress failed to do so** and you may have noticed that some states began enforcing their discriminatory voting laws immediately.

Ballot restrictions continue to grow in the North as well as the South. In Texas its recent law had restricted the voting pool to those who present, only one of seven forms of photo ID in order to vote, e.g. a handgun permit is allowed, a student ID is not. Those least likely to have the documentation are the state's poor and minority residents. Some 600,000 registered Texas voters became disenfranchised under Texas law and unable to vote. Recently, however, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals largely upheld a lower court ruling that struck down the Texas law, stating that its effect if not its intent was to discriminate.

The Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015 introduced in Congress in June, would compel states with a recent history of voting discrimination to once again clear election changes with the federal government and would require approval for specific measures that often target minority voters. But the bill hasn't gone anywhere. On this 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, Congress has not scheduled even a hearing.

Would you like to help? Think about joining the AAUW Volunteer Lobby Corps and bring our message to Congress.

Sources include wording from *The Economist* – 8/9, *The Washington Post* - 8/10, *The New York Times* Op-Ed 8/6, VA Department of Elections.

Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair

Branch Program for October Fairfax County – Citizens Alert

Oct. 14, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the McLean Community Center – our branch and the League of Women Voters (LWV) will be presenting a candidates forum, or "meet and greet," for candidates for Fairfax County supervisor and school

board member from the Dranesville District.

Ann Kanter, LWV and branch member, will moderate. Candidates will answer written questions from the audience and provide opening and closing statements. This is your chance to become informed.

Let me know if you will attend and can help with a few chores at the forum, for instance setup, greeting, passing out and collecting the cards for the written questions. Email me at maryloumelley@gmail.com

The LWV, our branch, and a few other organizations provide this opportunity to citizens in the Dranesville District.

And More Forums ...

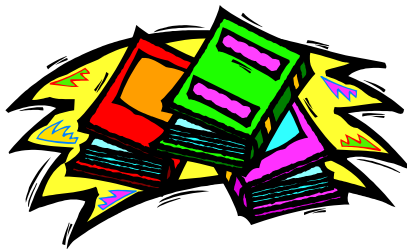
What about the Virginia State Senate and House of Delegate candidates? You are invited to attend the Fairfax Public Access Television and Radio forum broadcast at their stations located near the Mosaic area in Merrifield. Time is Aug. 31, 7 to 10 p.m. At-home viewers can email or phone in questions during the broadcast.

Fairfax County has countywide positions up for election. Candidates for the clerk of the court, the Commonwealth's attorney, sheriff, and the directors of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District will be responding to questions at another televised candidates forum on Sept. 28, 7 to 9 p.m.

We're not finished! You also will have on your ballot in November the opportunity to vote for the chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and also the at-large school board members. Candidates for those positions will be available for questions on Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7 to 9 p.m. at James Madison High School in Vienna.

An aside: Did you know that one of our branch members, *Margie Broderick*, successfully ran for an at-large school board position previously in another state?

Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair



“Book Sale”

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to make more money. Either we will or we won't.

Alas, our improved inventory will not

help us unless all able members, including any willing family members, volunteer for one or more job shifts during our sale weekend, Sept. 18-20. Please contact *Mary Ellen Weber* at one of the following contacts:

the.webers@verizon.net,

mrllen918@gmail.com,

(703/790-5550)

to offer your time. Note that we're asking for your time, not muscle. In addition to cashiers and hall monitors, we need people to supervise a large number of student helpers. This year we will be asking students to crush empty boxes, straighten and refresh our table displays, and take on any heavy lifting during cleanup. Students are strong and energetic, but their lack of experience and occasional distraction mean they need our guidance. Please volunteer for floor monitoring or clean-up and help guide our stu-

dent helpers. Thank you.

AAUW McLean Area Branch's 2015 Used Book Sale is our 46th. Wow! The changes have been dramatic ... from the halls of Tyson's Corner Center to the National Wildlife Federation building to the McLean Community Center, each year earning well deserved recognition for our contribution to AAUW Funds and to local college scholarships for women. If you are able and have not done so already, or if you have time for still another shift, please volunteer to be a part of and witness to our latest grand "experiment!"

AAUW McLean Area Branch thanks book donors, Capital Rentals, Discover Books, EnviroSolutions, McLean Community Center, New Haven Moving Equipment, Office Movers, Sun Trust Bank, Stone Ridge School book sale co-chairs, students and volunteers for working with us to support education and equity for women and girls.

Betsy, Ginger, Marge, Nancy
2015 Used Book Sale Co-Chairs

“National Convention”

(Continued from page 3)

There are four steps for gaining new members. **Ask** someone to join you at an event. **Inform** her of branch activities that focus on her specific interests and motivations. **Involve** her in something she is interested in. **Thank** her for attending an event or if she says “no” thank her for listening to you. Repeat if necessary!

Going to convention was a great opportunity for me to learn more about what AAUW is doing and to be energized by attending sessions with 1000 other AAUW members. Enthusiasm is contagious and if we share our enthusiasm with others, they can't help wanting to join McLean Area AAUW.

Peggy Stotz

Why YOU Are Important to New Members

We know that all of us should recruit new members. But did you know that we also have a part in keeping that new member? One of the excellent workshops I attended at the AAUW national convention was on membership retention. If new members stay for two years, they then tend to stay with the branch. So we should focus on those first two years.

Why do new members leave? They didn't feel welcomed into the group; they didn't get engaged; they didn't feel valued; the branch didn't turn out to be what they thought AAUW would be. Every time we go to a branch event or meeting, we can all help keep our new members by actively welcoming them. That friendly face is important. We can introduce ourselves, we can ask them to sit with us, we can ask them about themselves and what interests them about AAUW. We can connect them to an interest group they would like. We can ask if they'd like to help on a branch project or event.

Our branch's programs and projects should reflect that education and equity for women and girls is what we are about. That's a big reason why a new person joins AAUW, and they need to see that in the branch. But the social part of a branch is also important—fun with a purpose. When we personally and purposefully include new members so they get to know us and feel a part of the branch, it's a major step toward keeping that new member. We can all do that.

Attending the AAUW national convention is one of the most inspirational, energizing, fun things ever. In June 2017 the convention will be in Washington, so I hope lots of you will attend and experience the power of AAUW.

Caroline Pickens

CURRENT EVENTS

Serious, funny, controversial, informative are adjectives that describe the topics for discussion at a monthly meeting. All members are invited to bring your own topic in the news to share and enjoy a discussion with other members and their topics. We meet the first Tuesday of every month, 9 a.m. at Star Nut Gourmet, 1445 Laughlin Avenue McLean, next to the fire station. You must RSVP for the Sept. 1 gathering to *Mary Lou Melley* (maryloumelley@gmail.com) and for Oct. 6 to *Dawn Schulz* (Portia11@verizon.net).

And Breakfast

All members are invited to breakfast at the McLean Family Restaurant at 9 a.m. the last Tuesday of the month (Sept. 29 and Oct. 27). Just come and order coffee. Please RSVP to *Suzanne Watts* (scwatts1cox.net).

Mary Lou Melley

MORNING LIT

The Morning Lit group will meet on Friday, Sept. 11, at 9:30 a.m., in the conference room at the McLean House, 6800 Fleetwood Drive, McLean. Please note that our regular meeting place (the McLean Community Center) is not available on this date.

We will discuss *Lawrence in Arabia*, by Scott Anderson.

All are welcome to attend.

Reed Isbell

GREAT DECISIONS

This interest group has continued to meet during the summer. Some sessions of the Thursday group were postponed and will start up again in October beginning with Chapter 6.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of *Suzanne Watts*. We will discuss chapter 7, *Human Trafficking*. As always, please contact your host early.

The staggered meeting dates gives you a chance to make up chapters that you might have missed. There is an opportunity for new members to attend a meeting for a sampling.

I will be ordering books for the 2016 session

in early October.

Please let me know if you want to be included. If you miss the deadline, you can always order direct from the Foreign Policy Association.

Angela Ehemann

ARENA STAGERS

Attend Arena Stage. Please take a moment to review the list below to see if you would like to join the AAUW McLean Area branch Arena Stagers this coming season. We do our best to facilitate carpooling. You may wish to choose from 4, 6, or 8 plays plus the exclusive plays.

The first play, *Destiny of Desire*, is being promoted by a consortium of theatres in the area to highlight female playwrights. If you wish to go to just this one play in support of this effort, just let me know.

ARENA STAGE 2015/16 SEASON

Destiny of Desire: World-premiere Telenovela Comedy, Sept. 11–Oct. 18, 2015

Oliver! Gold-Standard Musical, Oct. 30, 2015–Jan. 3, 2016

Akeelah and the Bee: Children's Theatre Co World Premiere, Nov. 13–Dec. 27, 2015

Sweat: Oregon Shakespeare Festival's World Premiere, Jan. 15–Feb. 21, 2016

The City of Conversation: Off-Broadway Smash, Jan. 29–March 6, 2016

The Lion: A Personal Musical Journey, Feb. 26–April 3, 2016

All the Way: Tony-Winning Drama, April 1–May 8, 2016

Disgraced: Pulitzer-Winning Drama, April 22–May 29, 2016

Plus Exclusives:

DEAR EVAN HANSEN: World-Premiere Original Musical—July 10–Aug. 23, 2015

ERMA BOMBECK: AT WIT'S END: World-Premiere Play—Oct. 16–Nov. 8.

If you have any questions and/or would like to be included, please call or text *Elaine Lailas* at 703/779-8679, 305/281-5787 or email, Elailas@aol.com.

Elaine Lailas

Connections

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Arena Stagers

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Elailas@aol.com.

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Bridge

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Great Decisions

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Morning Literature

Reed Isbell
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reedisbell@gmail.com

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

For membership information call
 Juanita Cullen
 703/759-5112
 Or
 Betsy Schroeder
 703/356-4352

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Tues, 1	9 a.m.	Current Events Meeting at the Star Nut Café in McLean *
	1 p.m.	Board Meeting at the Community Room at McLean House, 6800 Fleetwood Road
Fri, 11	9:30 a.m.	Morning Lit Meeting at the Community Room at McLean House *
Tues, 15	9:30 a.m.	Great Decisions Discussion Group at Suzanne Watt's home *
Fri. 18	9 a.m.–7 p.m.	The Book Sale 
Sat. 19	10 a.m.–6 p.m.	
Sun. 20	Noon– 4 p.m.	
Sun, 20		Deadline for the October NewsBits
Sun, 27	2:30 p.m.	Branch Meeting and Book Sale Celebration at the McLean Community Center
Tues. 29	9 a.m.	Current Events Breakfast at the McLean Family Restaurant
AND IN EARLY OCTOBER		
Sat, 3	2 p.m.	Northern District Fall Meeting at Kings Park Library *
Tues, 6	9 a.m.	Current Events Meeting at the Star Nut Café in McLean *
	1 p.m.	Board Meeting at the Community Room at McLean House, 6800 Fleetwood Road